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David is an independent consultant working with charities, companies and the government on the funding and governance of charities and social enterprises and on the promotion of personal philanthropy. His clients have included the UK Treasury, the first Venture Philanthropy 'pooled' fund in the UK, the European Foundation Centre and many endowed and corporate foundations. He has a governance training joint venture ('On Board') with the UK's leading charity law firm. David also works as a 'mentor/adviser' for senior staff of several charities. His many lectures have included several that are relevant to venture philanthropy (see 'Articles and Talks' section of his website).

He is a member of the Supervisory Board of Triodos Bank NV.

He has been Chief Executive of three foundations including The Baring Foundation (1992-8).

He is a founder director of the Trust that publishes the journal Alliance, has chaired Allavida and engage (the association of people working in gallery education), and has been a Trustee of the National Foundation for Youth Music and the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain. He is also a member of the Social Investment Task Force and the Commission on Unclaimed Assets. He chairs the editorial group of the Philanthropy UK e-newsletter.