Shareholders' agreements are important contracts between the shareholders of a company. They govern the relationship between the shareholders, including their rights, obligations, and duties. A shareholders' agreement is a private contract that sets out how the company will be run and what happens if difficulties arise. It is separate from the company's articles of association and can be used to override any provisions in the articles.

Shareholders' agreements are often used in startups and early-stage companies where shareholders may have a significant impact on the company's decision-making processes. They can provide clarity on key matters such as the transfer of shares, the appointment of directors, and the distribution of profits. A shareholders' agreement can be particularly important in situations where there are disputes between shareholders, as it can provide a framework for resolving conflicts.

In the context of the document, the focus is on the importance of shareholders' agreements in the context of startup entrepreneurs. The text highlights the need for clear documentation and the provision of expert guidance to ensure that the agreements are effective and comply with relevant legal requirements. The document also touches on the role of solicitors in drafting shareholders' agreements and the availability of templates and guidance to assist those setting up businesses.

Overall, shareholders' agreements are an essential tool for ensuring that all shareholders are aligned on how the company will be run and that conflicts can be resolved in a structured and efficient manner.