

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

1. Complaints by or on behalf of service users

- 1.1. A complaint provides Age UK Merton an opportunity to improve our services and to empower service users by giving them the opportunity to have influence over the way services are run. An organisation where service users feel able to complain or comment if things aren't right is a healthy organisation.
- 1.2. Service users do not always feel confident about making complaints. They should be supported to make the complaint in any way that they wish.

2. Complaint procedures

- 2.1. Complaints may be made verbally, in writing, by telephone or by email. A complaint may be made by the complainant themselves or by another person acting on their behalf.
- 2.2. If a complaint is made verbally or by telephone, the staff member receiving the complaint should record this in writing and check the accuracy of this with the complainant.
- 2.3. Any member of staff receiving a complaint, should record this complaint, and note to whom the complaint was passed, and the date received in the Complaints log.

3. Routine complaints

- 3.1. If the complaint is about a routine matter then it should first be passed to the staff member or volunteer concerned to see if the matter can be resolved informally. The staff member or volunteer receiving the complaint should attempt to resolve the problem as quickly as possible.
- 3.2. If the matter is resolved informally, the staff member or volunteer concerned should record the date and how the complaint was resolved in the complaints log.
- 3.3. If the matter is not satisfactorily resolved at this stage, then the process should be continued as under the serious complaints procedure below, and the complaints log noted accordingly. .

4. Serious complaints

- 4.1. Any complaint of a more serious nature or a straightforward complaint that has not been able to be resolved informally should be passed to the Chief Executive for decision on who should take the complaint forward. Details of whom the complaint was passed to will be entered into the complaints log
- 4.2. The complaint will usually be dealt with by the manager responsible for the service in consultation with the Chief Executive, or if the complaint is against that manager, by the Chief Executive. They will acknowledge the complaint in writing and investigate it. A response will normally be given within 10 working days of the investigating manager receiving the complaint.
- 4.3. The manager investigating the complaint should first speak to the complainant and record details of the complainant, a short statement of the complaint and an

indication of any redress which is being sought. They should then speak to all parties concerned, including any witnesses where relevant, and provide a written response to the complainant.

- 4.4. The response letter should include an apology where appropriate and give details of any steps that will be taken to ensure the problem does not recur.
- 4.5. Details of the date and how the complaint was resolved should be entered in the complaints log.
- 4.6. If the complainant is not satisfied with the outcome, or if the complaint is against the Chief Officer, this should be logged and the matter referred to the Chair of Trustees, who will either investigate personally or arrange for another suitable person to deal with the complaint. In either case a response will normally be given to the complainant within 15 working days of it being referred to the Chair of Trustees and details of the outcome and the date resolved logged.

5. Reviewing Complaints

- 5.1. A brief report will be provided to the Board of Trustees for each meeting detailing the number and nature of complaints made and whether resolved within the required timescale.
- 5.2. For any complaint that has been handed to the Chair of Trustees, a report of the complaint, its handling and its outcome will be provided to the Board of Trustees at its next meeting.

March 2013

Date Implemented:	Future Review Dates					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Date reviewed				√		
Date approved By Trustees	√					