



Conflict of Interest Policy and Procedure

Policy & procedure for Trustee Board and staff

Members of the Age UK Merton (AUKM) Trustee Board want to prevent any conflict of interest that may arise between their role as Trustees of AUKM and their private or family interests or their association with other voluntary or community organisations, public authorities, commercial organisations or other bodies. Similarly, members of the Trustee Board want to avoid any conflicts of interest that may arise for AUKM staff, given that staff are or may have been associated in a personal capacity with specific voluntary or community organisations, public authorities, commercial organisations or other bodies.

Conflicts of interest could include, but are not limited to:

- unfair access to information, influence, services or resources
- being a party to both sides of a contract or other agreement

Principles

- Board members are elected, co-opted or appointed to the Board to serve the interests of AUKM.
- Members of the AUKM Trustee Board should act in the charity's interests only and without regard to their own private interests and should not derive any personal benefit or gain from the charity.
- Organisations or bodies with which Trustees are associated should not benefit from their membership of the Board, other than the benefits that all, or significant groups of voluntary and community organisations can receive from AUKM and its work.
- Staff are employed to serve the interests AUKM.
- Organisations and bodies with which staff members are associated in a personal capacity should not benefit from this employment, other than the benefits that all, or significant groups of voluntary and community organisations can receive from AUKM and its work.

Register of Interests

- All Trustees and staff on election, co-option or appointment are required to list in a Register all relevant interests which might influence their judgement, or which could be perceived (by a reasonable member of the public) to do so.
- The Chair of Trustees will ask all Trustees and staff to update their Register entry annually, but it is the responsibility of all Trustees and staff to notify the Chair of Trustees of all updates as and when they arise. The Register of Interests shall be open to reasonable public inspection on application to the Chair of Trustees.

Declarations of interest at AUKM Board meetings

- All Trustees and staff present at a Board meeting (or sub-committee or working group) should make an oral declaration of any relevant interest if it relates specifically to a particular issue under consideration (and does not relate to all, or a significant group of, voluntary and community organisations). Oral declarations should be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
- If the outcome of any discussion at a Board meeting (or sub-committee or working group) could have a direct financial effect on a Trustee or on a voluntary or community

organisation or other body in which the Trustee has a relevant interest (other than an interest which relates to all, or a significant group of, voluntary and community organisations), the Trustee should not participate in the discussion or determination of matters and should withdraw from the meeting. Withdrawals shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

- If the outcome of any discussion at a Board meeting (or sub-committee or working group of the Board) could have a direct financial effect on a staff member or on a voluntary or community organisation or other body in which the staff member has a relevant interest (other than an interest which relates to all, or a significant group of, voluntary and community organisations), the staff member should not participate in the discussion and should withdraw from the meeting. Withdrawals shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
- If a Trustee has any other interest which does not create a real danger of bias, but which might reasonably cause others to think it could influence their decision, they should declare the nature of the interest, but may remain in the room, participate in the discussion, and vote if they wish.
This paragraph does not apply to disciplinary, grievance or similar procedures as separate arrangements apply.
- The Chair of Trustees should include in their report for each Trustees' meeting details of any contracts/agreements to be entered into prior to the next meeting of the Trustees and any potential conflicts identified from a check of the Register.

Representation

- Trustees and staff attending meetings and conferences on behalf of AUKM should at all times act and speak in the best interests of AUKM following the agreed policy of AUKM
- Trustees and staff attending meetings and conferences in a personal capacity, or on behalf of a voluntary or community organisation or other body, may at times be able to usefully support the best interests of AUKM. In such circumstances they should make it clear in which capacity they are acting or speaking.
- Trustees and staff who may be placed in any conflict of interest while attending meetings and conferences should discuss their concerns at the earliest possible opportunity with the Chair or the CEO.

Staff Conflict of Interest

- Staff will not be concerned or interested in any other business or activity in Merton of a similar nature to or competitive with that carried on by AUKM.
- Staff must avoid activities, investments or associations which might interfere with their independent exercise of judgement in AUKM's best interest.
- Staff must not hold formal Trustee Board/Management Committee/Company Director positions with Merton voluntary organisations, unless agreed by the CEO.
- Staff may not accept, directly or through a member of their immediate family, any gratuitous payment, loan at other than at fair market rate, service or gift, accommodation of value from any other party doing or seeking to do business with AUKM.
- All offers of gifts will be politely decline unless this is likely to cause offence. In any event, all offers of gifts, even if trivial, will be reported to the line manager.
- Acceptance of entertainment, travel or gift of a character which reasonably might be deemed to others to affect the judgement or actions of staff members would also violate this policy.
- Staff must devote the whole of their time attention and abilities during their hours of work to their AUKM duties. Staff must not undertake, directly or indirectly, any other duties during their hours of work unless they have the previous written authority of the CEO.

Any exceptions, or potential exceptions, to this policy must be discussed at an appropriate meeting of the Board of Trustees of AUKM.

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the following policies and documents:

- Confidentiality
- Code of Conduct for Trustees

Review date:

Date Implemented:	Future Review Dates					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Date reviewed				√		
Date approved By Trustees	√					