

The Oasis Centre – Cornwall Conflict of Interests Policy

The Trustees have adopted this policy so as to provide clear guidance for Trustees and potential Trustees of the Charity about the interests that they have or may acquire, which could conflict with the interests of the Charity or with their duties as Trustees of the Charity.

Conflicting Interests

The first point to note is that clause 4 of the Charity's constitution (restricting the application of the income and property of the Charity) restricts any form of personal benefit, financial or otherwise, that a Trustee might derive from the Charity. This is the first area in which the interests of a Trustee are capable of conflicting with the interests of the Charity.

Clause 4 of the Charity's constitution does not however extend to other interests that do not involve personal benefit but might nevertheless give rise to possible conflict. This policy has all such interests as its focus. It is not possible to create a comprehensive list of potentially conflicting interests. It is however possible to provide illustrations of interests that might cause conflict. Examples are: -

- A personal connection with an individual (who need not necessarily be vulnerable or disadvantaged) who is in receipt of advice or other form of assistance from the Charity;
- A link with another body or individual, who is working with or has a relationship or potential relationship (contractual or otherwise) with the Charity;
- An involvement with another cause (which need not necessarily be a charitable one) that is competing with the Charity for grant funding or any other form of support from the same source; or
- Loyalty to another cause having objectives, relationships or activities that clash with any aspect of the objectives, relationships or activities of the Charity.

Personal Assessment

If a possible conflict of interests arises, the first essential step is to make a personal assessment by questioning whether the circumstances could inhibit free and open discussion between the Charity's Trustees or affect or be affected by any decision made by the Charity's Trustees. It will also help to consider the view of the circumstances that might be formed by a complete outsider who is made aware of all the relevant facts. In this context, the Trustees have as their concern the need to be seen (and for the Charity to be seen) as being above reproach.

Possible Conflict

If there is any doubt concerning a possible conflict of interests, the fact must be reported to the Hon. Secretary and Chair of the Trustees who have a duty to ensure that the other Trustees are able to make an informed decision about it. The procedure under clause 4(5) of the constitution will be adopted as necessary to resolve the matter in the best interests of the Charity.

An opportunity to declare any conflicting interest arises at all Trustees' meetings and the register of all interests declared is maintained by the Hon. Secretary and made available for inspection by all Trustees.

Adopted by the Trustees on 29th January 2018 and to be reviewed annually in January.