

North Kent Mind

Ethical Fundraising and Investment Policy

1. Introduction

The purpose of this policy is to:

- To guide the organisation in the extent to which it might accept donations and other forms of support.
- To guide the way fundraising initiatives the organisation might engage with
- To ensure that any investments are in keeping with the ethics of the organisation.

By adhering to this policy, we are striving to maintain our independence and minimise any risk of bringing the charity into disrepute as a result of collaborations with external partnerships or investment portfolios. As such, this policy is designed as a due diligence tool to ensure the needs of the organisation are balanced against its organisational principles.

2. Acceptance of donations or other forms of support

When accepting any particular donation, in currency or in kind, the CEO and trustees have a duty to demonstrate to the Charity Commission that they have acted in the best interest of the charity, and that association with any particular donor does not compromise our ethical position, harm the charity's reputation or put future funding at risk.

2.1 Acceptance Criteria

We accept voluntary donations, from individuals, companies and other organisations on the following conditions:

- There are strong grounds for believing it will result in benefit to people with mental health issues.
- If a gift is offered for as a restricted fund for a specific purpose then this must be a charitable purpose that is within North Kent Mind's objects.
- It is feasible to apply the donation in a way that is consistent with donors' wishes, given the operational constraints and strategic priorities of North Kent Mind.
- Any obligations attached to the donation are reasonable.

2.2 Avoidance criteria

We will not accept voluntary donations as money or gifts in kind where any of the following criteria apply:

- The support is known to be or suspected of being derived from the proceeds of crime or an activity otherwise conflicting with our objectives or work.
- Acceptance is likely to deter actual or potential supporters from future support.
- Acceptance would involve onerous obligations, which might outweigh the benefit.
- Support is offered in an attempt to procure privileged access to our services, or otherwise would be in contravention of the Bribery Act 2010.
- Acceptance would compromise our relationship with other Local Mind Associations, or with national Mind.

3. Fundraising through the organisations own efforts

North Kent Mind will strive to comply with all relevant legislation and guidance as set out in the Institute of Fundraising Code of Fundraising Practice, and will ensure all such efforts are within the overall policy of the organisation regarding Health and Safety, Confidentiality etc.

4. Ethical investment

North Kent Mind will not invest in:

- Funds whose activities can be shown to be counter to the objectives of the organisation, especially the promotion of good Mental Health.
- Funds where our investment would be likely to deter actual or potential supporters from future support, or might promote adverse publicity for the organisation.
- Funds where the levels of risk are such that involvement would not be seen as prudent use of charity resources.

5. Implementation

Where staff, volunteers or Trustees have concerns about particular current or potential sources of income which might be subject to this policy, they shall raise the issue with the CEO who will arrange for discussion and decision at the next meeting of the Board or Finance and Personnel committee, whichever is soonest.