
CONSTITUTION OF TALKING SENSE

NAME

The name of the organisation shall be Talking Sense

AIMS

The aims of the Group shall be to

- Provide peer-led support for individuals over 18 with lived experience of Voices & Visions
- Provide a confidential, safe and voluntarily attended community space
- Respect attendees' own understandings of their experiences
- Reduce stigma and isolation
- Encourage exploration and understanding of the individuals lived experience
- Provide education and awareness of voices and visions to those who do not have lived experience

POWERS

To further these aims the committee shall have power to:

- Obtain, collect and receive money or funds by way of contributions, donations, grants and any other lawful method towards the aims of the Group
- Open bank accounts in the name of the Group
- Organise and attend courses, workshops and events towards the aims of the Group
- Associate with local authorities, other organisations and the residents of Tower Hamlets in a common effort to carry out the aims of the Group
- Do all such lawful things as will further the aims of the Group

MEMBERSHIP

- (a) Voting membership shall be open to anyone over the age of 18 who supports the aims of the group
- (b) Membership shall be available to anyone without regard to gender, race, nationality, disability, sexual preference, religion or belief
- (c) Every individual member and each organisation shall have one vote at General Meetings
- (d) The membership of any member may be terminated for good reason by the Management Committee but the member has a right to be heard by the Management Committee before a final decision is made

MANAGEMENT

- (a) A Management Committee elected annually at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall manage the Group
- (b) The Officers of the Management Committee shall be: the Chairperson, the Treasurer and the Secretary
- (c) The Management Committee shall meet at least once a year
- (d) The Chairperson shall Chair all meetings of the Group.
- (e) Voting at Management Committee meetings shall be by show of hands. If there is a tied vote then the Chairperson shall have a second vote
- (f) The Management Committee may by a two-thirds majority vote and for a good and proper reason remove any Committee member, provided that person has the right to be heard before a final decision is made
- (g) The Management Committee may appoint another member of the Group as a Committee member to fill a vacancy provided the maximum number is not exceeded
- (h) At least 3 committee members must be present at a committee meeting to be able to make decisions
- (i) A proper record of all transactions and meetings shall be kept

DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

(a) The duties of the Chairperson are to:

- chair meetings of the Committee and the Group
- represent the Group at functions/meetings that the Group has been invited to
- act as spokesperson for the Group when necessary

(b) The duties of the Secretary are to:

- take and keep minutes of meetings
- prepare the agenda for meetings of the Committee and the Group in consultation with the Chairperson
- maintain the membership list
- deal with correspondence
- collect and circulate any relevant information within the Group

(c) The duties of the Treasurer are to:

- supervise the financial affairs of the Group
- keep proper accounts that show all monies collected and paid out by the Group

GENERAL MEETINGS

(a) An Annual General Meeting shall be held within 12 months of the date of the adoption of this constitution and each year thereafter.

(b) Notices of the AGM shall be published three weeks beforehand and a report on the Group's financial position for the previous year will be made available at the same time.

(c) A Special General Meeting may be called at any time at the request of the committee, or not less than one quarter of the membership. A notice explaining the place, date, time and reason shall be sent to all members three weeks beforehand.

(d) One third of membership or four members being present, whichever is the greater, shall enable a General Meeting to take place.

(e) Proposals to change the constitution must be given in writing to the secretary at least 28 days before a general meeting and approved by a two thirds majority of those present and voting.

ACCOUNTS

(a) The funds of the group including all donations, contributions and bequests, shall be paid into an account operated by the management committee. All cheques drawn on the account must be signed by at least two members of the Management Committee

(b) The funds belonging to the group shall be applied only to further the aims of the group

(c) A current record of all income, funding and expenditure will be kept

ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Any changes to this Constitution must be agreed by at least two-thirds of those members present and voting at any General Meeting

DISSOLUTION

The Group may be wound up at any time if agreed by two-thirds of those members present and voting at any General Meeting. In the event of winding up, any assets remaining after all debts have been paid shall be given to another Group with similar aims.

Signed by Co-Chair: Lauren McCormack

Date: 20th February 2019

Signed by Co-Chair: Ella Finch

Date: 20th February 2019

Signed by Secretary: Jane Faulkner

Date: 20th February 2019

Signed by Treasurer: Matt Griffin

Date: 20th February 2019