



## **CODE OF CONDUCT FOR TRUSTEES**

Trustees of South Staffordshire Network for Mental Health (SSNMH) have a general duty to act in the best interests of South Staffordshire Network for Mental Health as a whole. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, their friends or the organisation they come from or represent.

*The South Staffordshire Network for Mental Health trustees **in carrying out their role as trustees:***

- © should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence them in the performance of their role;
- © as well as avoiding actual impropriety, should avoid any appearance of improper behaviour;
- © should avoid accepting gifts and hospitality that might reasonably be thought to influence their judgement.

In carrying out their role, including making appointments within the charity (including trustee appointments), awarding contracts, recommending individuals for rewards and benefits or transacting other business, South Staffordshire Network for Mental Health trustees should ensure that decisions are made solely on merit.

*The South Staffordshire Network for Mental Health trustees:*

- © have a duty to comply with the law on all occasions in accordance with the trust placed in them and in such a way as to preserve public confidence in The South Staffordshire Network for Mental Health.
- © are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public, funders and service users. They must submit themselves to what scrutiny is appropriate to their role.

*The South Staffordshire Network for Mental Health trustees:*

- © should ensure that confidential material, including material about individuals, is handled in accordance with due care;
- © should be as open as possible about their decisions and action that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider interest clearly demands.

*The South Staffordshire Network for Mental Health trustees:*

- © have a duty to declare any interests relating to their trustee role and to take steps to resolve any conflicts that may arise. Where private interests of a trustee conflicts with their trustee duties, he/she must resolve this conflict in favour of the trustee role;
- © must make relevant declarations of interest in the different circumstances and roles they play both within and outside The South Staffordshire Network for Mental Health.

*The South Staffordshire Network for Mental Health trustees:*

- © should promote and support the principles of leadership by example;
- © must respect the role of the Business Manager. There will be circumstances under which trustees will be working directly with The South Staffordshire Network for Mental Health staff. Guidelines for such working relationships must be clear to both staff and trustees and, when these occasions arise, the Business Manager/Chair should be informed in advance.

Revised/Updated by Chair of Trustees dated 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017