

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

OF

YOUR VOICE IN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

(as adopted by a written resolution passed on 22nd October 2013)

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THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

OF

YOUR VOICE IN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

1. Name of Charity and Meaning of Words

1.1 The name of the Charity is **YOUR VOICE IN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE**, called in this document "the Charity".

1.2 In these Articles the words in the first column of the table below will have the meanings shown opposite them in the second column, as long as this meaning is consistent with the subject or context:-

| 1.3 Words | Meanings |
|--------------------|--|
| Act | the Companies Acts 1985, 1989 and 2006 (to the extent in force) including any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof from time to time; |
| Articles | these Articles of Association; |
| Board | the Board of Trustees of the Charity, the members of which are the directors of the Charity and are charity trustees; |
| Chair | the Chair of the Board of Trustees or any person discharging the functions of the Chair; |
| Charities Act | the Charities Acts 1992, 2006 and 2011 (to the extent in force) including any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof from time to time; |
| Charity | the company regulated by these Articles; |
| Charity Commission | the Charity Commission of England and Wales; |
| Citizenship | the relationship, responsibilities and rights of any inhabitant of a community, neighbourhood or town with the state, local authority, NHS or other providers of public services, and the need for such citizens to understand the political and economic processes, |

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| | institutions, laws, rights and responsibilities of our democratic system; |
| Clear Days | in relation to a period of notice, the period excluding the day on which notice is given or deemed to be given and the date of the event to which the notice relates; |
| Member | a member appointed by the Board of the Charity with rights to attend and vote at the AGM or General Meetings of the Charity; |
| Community Development | a way of working which changes the relationships between ordinary people and people in positions of power so that everyone can take part in the issues that affect their lives; and thereby knits society together at the grass roots through a shared set of values and practices, which enhances democracy and builds communities based on justice, equality and mutual respect; |
| Local Committee | a local committee established in order to fulfil a contractual obligation of the Charity, pursuant to Article 33; |
| Month | calendar month; |
| Objects | the Objects of the Charity as defined in Article 3; |
| Office | the registered office of the Charity; |
| Regulations | any rules, standing orders or regulations made in accordance with these Articles; |
| Social Inclusion | ensuring that no person is excluded from society or parts of society, as a result of one of more of the following factors: unemployment; financial hardship; gender; youth or old age; ill health (physical or mental); substance abuse or dependency including alcohol and drugs; discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, disability, ethnic origin, religion, belief, creed, sexual orientation or gender re-assignment; poor educational or skills attainment; relationship and family breakdown; poor housing that does not meet basic habitable standards; or crime (either as a victim of crime or as an offender rehabilitating into society); |
| Signed | shall include faxes of signatures and other forms of authentication that are permitted by law; |
| Taxable Trading | carrying on a trade or business for the principal purpose of raising funds and not for the purpose |

of actually carrying out the Objects, the profits of which are subject to corporation tax;

Trustees

the directors of the Charity;

United Kingdom

Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and

in Writing

written, printed or lithographed or partly one and partly another, and other ways of showing and reproducing words in a visible form including by e-mail, or fax (to the extent legally permissible).

- 1.4 Words in the singular form include the plural and vice versa.
- 1.5 The words “person” or “people” include corporations and unincorporated associations, and the words “he”, “his” and “him” shall include the female equivalent.
- 1.6 Apart from the words defined above, any words or expression defined in the Act will have the same meanings in these Articles, provided they are consistent with the subject or context.
- 1.7 Headings are not part of the Articles.
- 1.8 These Articles exclude any model Articles created under the Companies Acts, including under section 19 of the Companies Act 2006.

2. Registered Office

- 2.1 The registered office of the Charity will be in England and Wales.

3. Objects of the Charity

- 3.1 The objects of the Charity (the “Objects”) are:-
- 3.1.1 the advancement of health and the relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability or financial hardship by:
- (a) providing information and advice to the general public about local health and social care services;
 - (b) making the views and experiences of members of the general public known to health and social care providers;
 - (c) enabling local people to have a voice in the development, delivery and equality of access to local health and care services and facilities and;
 - (d) providing training and the development of skills for volunteers and the wider community in understanding, scrutinizing, reviewing and monitoring local health and care services and facilities;
- 3.1.2 to promote citizenship, community development, and social inclusion for the public good and the improvement of health and social care and other relevant related public services; and

- 3.1.3 to further such other exclusively charitable purposes according to the law of England and Wales as the Trustees in their absolute discretion from time to time determine.

4. Powers of the Charity

4.1 The Charity has the following powers which may be used only to promote the Objects:-

- 4.1.1 to promote and support the involvement of people in the decision making process around commissioning and provision of local health and social care services;
- 4.1.2 to monitor, review and evaluate, using appropriate engagement techniques, the health and social care provided for initially for people in Greater London, and to report their findings to health and social care or their relevant related services management, with recommendations where appropriate;
- 4.1.3 to build local capacity enabling citizens and communities to contribute to commissioning / provision of decisions about relieving sickness, improving service access and quality, and preserving the health and wellbeing of their people in local areas;
- 4.1.4 to monitor the use of public funds by statutory and non-statutory health and social care bodies (commissioners and providers) in particular by (i) building strategic partnerships and strong working relationships with key groups and individuals who will influence the success and outcomes of the Charity (ii) being the central point for, particularly for people in Greater London to express their views on both health and social care and other relevant related public services (iii) creating awareness of the Charity and its work throughout the local community (iv) ensuring easy and effective means of access and communication for all those wishing to become involved with the Charity (v) providing regular updates and progress reports to key groups and the wider community;
- 4.1.5 to ask commissioners and providers for information about services;
- 4.1.6 to make recommendations and expect a response from commissioners and providers within the statutory time frame;
- 4.1.7 to buy, take on lease, share, hire or otherwise acquire property of any sort;
- 4.1.8 to sell, lease or otherwise dispose of all or any part of the property belonging to the Charity in exercise of this power but the Charity must comply as appropriate with Sections 117 to 123 of the Charities Act 2011;
- 4.1.9 to borrow money and to charge the whole or any part of the property belonging to the Charity as security for the repayment of money borrowed, grant given or any other obligation but the Charity must comply as appropriate with Sections 124 to 126 of the Charities Act 2011 if it wishes to mortgage land;
- 4.1.10 to construct, alter, provide, manage, maintain, furnish and fit with all the necessary furniture and other equipment any buildings and any other premises or structures or land;

- 4.1.11 to employ and pay any employees, officers, servants and professional or other advisers;
- 4.1.12 subject to any restrictions in the Charities Act, to borrow money, invite and receive contributions or grants, enter into contracts, seek subscriptions or raise money in any way including carrying on trade but not by means of Taxable Trading;
- 4.1.13 to give or receive guarantees or indemnities;
- 4.1.14 to promote or undertake study or research and disseminate the results of such research;
- 4.1.15 to produce, print and publish anything in any media;
- 4.1.16 to provide or procure the provision of services, education, training, consultancy, advice, support, counselling, guidance, grants, scholarships, awards or materials in kind;
- 4.1.17 to make social investments in pursuance of the Objects by any means;
- 4.1.18 to promote and advertise the Charity's activities and to seek to influence public opinion and policy and regulation implemented or proposed to be implemented by government, local authorities or other public bodies by undertaking campaigning and, to the extent permitted by law, political activities;
- 4.1.19 to invest any money in any investments, securities or properties; and to accumulate and set aside funds for special purposes or as reserves; and to accumulate expendable endowment;
- 4.1.20 to undertake any charitable trust;
- 4.1.21 to make provision for the payment of pensions and other benefits to or on behalf of employees and their dependants;
- 4.1.22 to establish, promote and otherwise assist any limited company or companies or other bodies for the purpose of acquiring any property or of furthering in any way the Objects or to undertake trading and to establish the same either as wholly owned subsidiaries of the Charity or jointly with other persons, companies, government departments or local authorities and to finance such limited company or companies or other body by way of loan or share subscription or other means;
- 4.1.23 to transfer or dispose of, with or without valuable consideration, any part of the property or funds of the Charity not required for the purpose of the Charity in furtherance of the Charity's Objects;
- 4.1.24 to establish, support, federate with or join or amalgamate with any companies, institutions, trusts, societies or associations;
- 4.1.25 to transfer to or to purchase or otherwise acquire from any charities, institutions, societies or associations any property, assets or liabilities, and to perform any of their engagements;

- 4.1.26 to open and operate bank accounts and other banking facilities including by using internet banking or other electronic authentication methods;
- 4.1.27 to accept any property upon or on any special trusts, or for any institutions or purposes either specified or to be specified by some person other than the Trustees;
- 4.1.28 to co-operate and enter into any arrangements with any governments, authorities or any person, company or association;
- 4.1.29 to insure any risks arising from the Charity's activities;
- 4.1.30
- (a) To purchase indemnity insurance out of the funds of the Charity to indemnify any of the Trustees against any personal liability in respect of:
 - (i) any breach of trust or breach of duty committed by them in their capacity as charity trustees or trustees for the Charity;
 - (ii) any negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust committed by them in their capacity as directors or officers of the Charity or of any body corporate carrying on any activities on behalf of the Charity; and
 - (iii) any liability to make contributions to the assets of the Charity in accordance with section 214 of the Insolvency Act 1986.
 - (b) Subject to clause 4.1.30(d) below, any insurance in the case of 4.1.30(a)(i) or 4.1.30(a)(ii) must be so framed as to exclude the provision of an indemnity for a person in respect of:
 - (i) any liability incurred by a Trustee to pay a fine imposed in criminal proceedings or a sum payable to a regulatory authority by way of a penalty in respect of non-compliance with any requirement of a regulatory nature (however arising);
 - (ii) any liability incurred by a Trustee in defending any criminal proceedings in which he is convicted of an offence arising out of any fraud or dishonesty, or wilful or reckless misconduct, by him; and
 - (iii) any liability incurred by a Trustee to the Charity that arises out of any conduct which he knew (or must reasonably be assumed to have known) was not in the interests of the Charity or in the case of which he did not care whether it was in the best interests of the Charity or not.
 - (c) Subject to clause 4.1.30(d) below any insurance in the case of 4.1.30(a)(iii) shall not extend to any liability to make such a contribution where the basis of the Trustee's liability is his knowledge prior to the insolvent liquidation of the Charity (or reckless failure to acquire that knowledge) that there was no reasonable prospect that the Charity would avoid going into insolvent liquidation; and

- (d) To purchase out of the funds of the Charity any additional indemnity insurance cover for the benefit of the Trustees that is permitted by law from time to time.

4.1.31 to pay all the expenses and costs of establishing the Charity;

4.1.32 to delegate upon such terms and at such reasonable remuneration as the Charity may think fit to professional investment managers ("the Managers") the exercise of all or any of its powers of investment (an "investment" is an asset which is capable of producing income and may also increase in capital value);

Provided always that:-

- (a) the Managers are properly authorised to carry on investment business;
- (b) the delegated powers shall be exercisable only within clear policy guidelines drawn up by the Charity;
- (c) the Managers are under a duty to report promptly to the Charity any exercise of the delegated powers and in particular to report every transaction carried out by the Managers and report regularly on the performance of investments managed by them for the Charity;
- (d) the Charity is entitled at any time to review, alter or terminate the delegation or the terms thereof; and
- (e) the Charity reviews the arrangements for delegation at intervals but so that any failure by the Charity to undertake such reviews shall not invalidate the delegation;

4.1.33 to arrange for investments or other property of the Charity to be held in the name of a nominee company (being a corporate body registered or having an established place of business in England and Wales) acting under the control of the Trustees or of a financial expert acting under their instructions, and to pay any reasonable fee required; and

4.1.34 to do anything else within the law which helps promote the Objects.

5. Use of income and property

5.1 The income and property of the Charity shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the Objects and no part of it shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend bonus or otherwise by way of profit to Members of the Charity or Trustees, and no Trustee may be appointed to any office of the Charity paid by salary or fees or receive any remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth from the Charity except as permitted by law or by the Charity Commission or as permitted below under 'Allowed Payments' and then only after complying with any requirements of the Act and the Charities Act, PROVIDED this shall not prevent a Member of the Charity or a Trustee receiving any benefit as a beneficiary.

6. Allowed Payments

6.1 The Charity may pay:-

- 6.1.1 reasonable and proper payment to any Member, officer, servant, employee, professional or other adviser of the Charity who is not a Trustee for any goods or services supplied to the Charity;

Payments for services and goods connected to those services

- 6.1.2 reasonable and proper remuneration of a Trustee for services actually rendered to the Charity or a subsidiary of the Charity (save for services rendered in his capacity as a Trustee) and for goods that are supplied in connection with the provision of those services, PROVIDED THAT:-
- (a) the number of Trustees so remunerated in any accounting period shall not exceed a minority of the Board of Trustees;
 - (b) no resolution to approve such remuneration to a Trustee shall be effective unless it is passed at a meeting of the Board of Trustees;
 - (c) such Trustee shall not vote on any resolutions relating to his engagement by the Charity or a subsidiary (as defined in the Act) of the Charity;
 - (d) the remuneration or maximum remuneration payable to the Trustee shall be set out either in the resolution approving such remuneration or in a written agreement between the Trustee and the Charity; and
 - (e) the Trustees are satisfied it is in the best interests of the Charity for the services to be provided by that Trustee to the Charity or on behalf of the Charity for the remuneration or maximum remuneration agreed.

Payments for goods not supplied in connection with services

- 6.1.3 reasonable and proper payment for goods supplied by a Trustee that are not supplied in connection with services actually rendered to the Charity or a subsidiary of the Charity PROVIDED THAT:-
- (a) the amount or maximum amount of the payment for the goods is set out in a written agreement between the relevant Trustee and the Charity under which that Trustee is to supply the goods to or on behalf of the Charity;
 - (b) the amount or maximum amount does not exceed what is reasonable in the circumstances for the supply of goods in question;
 - (c) the other Trustees are satisfied it is in the best interests of the Charity to contract with that Trustee rather than with someone else who is not a Trustee. In reaching such a decision the Trustees must balance the advantage of contracting with a Trustee against the disadvantages of doing so;
 - (d) the relevant Trustee is absent from the part of any meeting at which there is discussion of the proposal to enter into such a contract with that Trustee;
 - (e) the relevant Trustee does not vote on any such matter and is not counted in the quorum for that decision; and

- (f) a majority of the Trustees then in office are not in receipt of remuneration or payments authorised in Articles 6.1.2, 6.1.3, 6.1.4, 6.1.7, 6.1.10 or 6.1.11.
- 6.1.4 reasonable interest on the money lent by any Trustee;
- 6.1.5 reasonable out-of-pocket expenses to any Trustee;
- 6.1.6 reasonable and proper payment to a company of which a Member of the Charity or a Trustee holds not more than a hundredth of the capital;
- 6.1.7 reasonable and proper rent of premises demised or let by any Trustee;
- 6.1.8 to the extent permitted by law, reasonable and proper premiums in respect of any Trustee indemnity insurance policy taken out pursuant to Article 4.1.30 above;
- 6.1.9 any payment to a Trustee under the indemnity provisions in the Articles of Association;
- 6.1.10 a Trustee to be employed by, or receive any remuneration from the Charity which is not authorised in this Article 6, provided the remuneration is authorised by court or the Charity Commission;
- 6.1.11 in exceptional cases other payments or benefits but only with the prior written approval of court or the Charity Commission.

PROVIDED THAT no Trustee shall vote on or be present during the discussion of or voting on any decision to borrow money from or pay rent or make a payment or give any remuneration or a benefit to that Trustee other than the approval of any permitted indemnity insurance or the payment of an indemnity where such payment is to be made to a majority of the Trustees.

For the purposes of this Article 6 Trustee shall include any child, parent, grandchild, grandparent, brother, sister, spouse or civil partner of the Trustee or any person living with the Trustee as his partner.

A payment to a Trustee includes the payment to or the engagement of or remuneration of any firm or company in which the Trustee is: (i) a partner; (ii) an employee; (iii) a consultant; (iv) a director; or (v) a shareholder, unless the shares of the company are listed on a recognised stock exchange and the Trustee holds less than 1 per cent. of the issued capital.

7. Alterations to these Articles

7.1 No alterations to these Articles may be made which would cause the Charity to cease to be a charity in law. Other alterations to these Articles may only be made by a special resolution at a general meeting or by a written special resolution. A special resolution will be validly passed at a general meeting if the Charity gives the Members at least 14 Clear Days' notice of the intention to pass a special resolution at the meeting and at least 75 per cent. of those voting at the meeting vote in favour of the resolution. Such a special resolution may be passed on shorter notice if 90 per cent. of the total number of Members having the right to vote agree to such short notice.

7.2 Alterations may only be made to:

7.2.1 the Objects; or

7.2.2 to any clause in these Articles which directs the application of property on dissolution; or

7.2.3 to any clause in these Articles which gives Trustees any benefit,

with the Charity Commission's prior written consent where this is required by law.

7.3 The Charity shall inform the Charity Commission and Companies House of any alterations to the Articles and all future copies of the Articles issued must contain the alterations.

7.4 Alterations may also require the consent of other bodies.

8. Limited Liability

8.1 The liability of the Members is limited.

9. Guarantee by Members of the Charity

9.1 Each Member of the Charity undertakes that, if the Charity is wound up while he is a Member, or within one year after he ceases to be a Member, he will contribute a sum not exceeding £1 to the assets of the Charity for:-

9.1.1 payment of the debts and liabilities of the Charity contracted before he ceases to be a Member;

9.1.2 payment of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up; and

9.1.3 adjustment of the rights of the contributories among themselves.

10. Indemnity of Trustees

10.1 To the extent permitted by law from time to time, but without prejudice to any indemnity to which a Trustee or other officer may otherwise be entitled the Charity may indemnify every Trustee or other officer out of the assets of the Charity against all costs and liabilities incurred by him which relate to anything done or omitted or alleged to have been done or omitted by him as a Trustee or other officer save that no Trustee may be entitled to be indemnified:

10.1.1 for any liability incurred by him to the Charity or any associated company of the Charity (as defined by the Act for these purposes);

10.1.2 for any fine imposed in criminal proceedings;

10.1.3 for any sum payable to a regulatory authority by way of a penalty in respect of non-compliance with any requirement of a regulatory nature howsoever arising;

10.1.4 for any liability which he has incurred in defending any criminal proceedings in which he is convicted and such conviction has become final;

- 10.1.5 for any liability which he has incurred in defending any civil proceedings brought by the Charity or an associated company in which a final judgment has been given against him; and
 - 10.1.6 for any liability which he has incurred in connection with any application under the Act in which the court refuses to grant him relief and such refusal has become final.
- 10.2 To the extent permitted by law from time to time, the Charity may provide funds to every Trustee or other officer to meet expenditure incurred or to be incurred by him in any proceedings (whether civil or criminal) brought by any party which relate to anything done or omitted or alleged to have been done or omitted by him as a Trustee or officer, provided that he will be obliged to repay such amounts no later than:
- 10.2.1 if he is convicted in proceedings, the date when the conviction becomes final; or
 - 10.2.2 if judgment is given against him in proceedings, the date when the judgment becomes final; or
 - 10.2.3 if the court refuses to grant him relief on any application under the Act, the date when refusal becomes final.

11. Conflicts of Interest

- 11.1 To the extent required by law every Trustee shall fully disclose to the Board the circumstances giving rise to any conflict or potential conflict including any direct or indirect interest in a proposed or existing transaction.
- 11.2 Where the duty of a Trustee to avoid a situation in which he has or can have a direct or indirect interest or duty that conflicts or possibly may conflict with the interests of the Charity including a wish or duty to exploit any property, information or opportunity (as specified by section 175(1) of the Companies Act 2006) would otherwise be infringed in relation to a particular situation, transaction or arrangement, the duty is not infringed if the procedure set out below is followed:
- 11.2.1 the matter in relation to which that duty exists has been proposed to the Trustees at a meeting of the Trustees and has been authorised by them; and
 - 11.2.2 any requirement as to the quorum of such meeting is met without counting the Trustee in question, or any other interested Trustee, subject to Articles 11.3 and 11.4; and
 - 11.2.3 the matter was agreed to without any such Trustee voting, or would have been agreed to if the vote of any such Trustee had not been counted, subject to Articles 11.3 and 11.4.
- 11.3 In such a conflict of interest situation (including any authorisation of non-disclosure of information), where there are insufficient unconflicted Trustees present at the meeting to constitute a quorum, the unconflicted Trustees present shall be deemed to constitute a quorum for the purposes of authorising the conflict under Article 11.2 and the manner of dealing with the conflict, provided that:

- 11.3.1 they may only give such authorisation where they are satisfied that the conflicted Trustee or Trustees will not receive any direct or indirect benefit other than one permitted by these Articles; and
- 11.3.2 the total number of Trustees at the meeting (whether conflicted or unconflicted) is equal to or higher than the quorum of the Board.
- 11.4 In the event that all of the Trustees present at the Board meeting are conflicted in respect of a particular conflict of interest situation, the conflicted Trustees present at a meeting may authorise the conflict and the manner of dealing with the conflict and shall constitute a quorum for the purposes of such authorisation, provided that they satisfy the requirements set out in Article 11.3.1 and 11.3.2 above.
- 11.5 The duty to deal with conflicts referred to in Article 11.2 applies in the case of the exploitation of property, information or opportunity even if the Charity is not taking, or could not take, advantage of the opportunity.
- 11.6 The Trustees shall observe the other duties and rules in the Act, and such other rules as the Board adopts, as to the management of conflicts of duty or interest.
- 11.7 The Board may by resolution passed in the manner set out in this Article, authorise a Trustee not to disclose to the Board confidential information relating to a conflict of interest provided that it may not authorise the withholding of information relating to a direct or indirect personal benefit for the Trustee.
- 11.8 Nothing contained in this Article shall authorise a Trustee to receive any benefit not permitted elsewhere in these Articles.

12. Rights of Inspection

- 12.1 A copy of the Articles and any Regulations must be available for inspection by the Members of the Charity at the Office or at a single alternative inspection location if applicable. Any Member who requests a copy of the Articles of Association must be sent a copy.

13. Register of Members

- 13.1 The Charity must keep at the Office a register of Members showing their name, postal address and dates of becoming a Member and ceasing to be a Member.
- 13.2 Subject to any restrictions permitted by the Act, the register is available for inspection by the Members of the Charity without charge and any other person on payment of a fee prescribed by the Charity, subject to any maximum fee imposed by law. Subject to the Act, where a person seeks to inspect the register, the Charity must within five working days either comply with the request or apply to the Court for permission not to comply with the request.
- 13.3 The Board may establish classes of associate membership with such description and with such rights and obligations (including without limitation the obligation to pay a subscription) as the Board thinks fit, and may admit and remove such associate members in accordance with Regulations made by the Board, provided that an associate member shall not be a Member of the Charity for the purposes of the Articles or the Act.
- 13.4 All members must pay the subscriptions (if any) that the Board decides from time to time.

14. Membership

- 14.1 All Trustees shall automatically become Members of the Charity for company law purposes and their names shall be entered into the Charity's register of Members. Membership shall not be open to any person other than the Trustees. A Member stops being a Member of the Charity if he ceases to be a Trustee.

15. No transfer of Membership

- 15.1 None of the rights of any Member of the Charity for company law purposes may be transferred or transmitted to any other person.

16. Annual General Meetings

- 16.1 Subject to Article 16.2, the Charity shall hold an annual general meeting in addition to any other general meeting in every calendar year. The annual general meeting must be specified as such in the notices calling it.

- 16.2 To the extent deemed expedient by the Board, the first annual general meeting must be held within 18 months of the incorporation of the Charity.

17. Other General Meetings

- 17.1 All general meetings except annual general meetings are called general meetings.

18. Calling of Other General Meetings

- 18.1 The Board may call a general meeting whenever they wish. Such a meeting must also be called if not less than five per cent. of the Members of the Charity request it in accordance with the Act.

19. Notice of General Meetings

- 19.1 An annual general meeting or a general meeting must be called by giving at least 14 Clear Days' notice in Writing (for the purposes of this Article "in Writing" includes notice given by website in accordance with Article 59.4). Such notices must specify the place, date, time and the general nature of any business and, in the case of a special resolution the exact wording of the resolution must be set out in the notice. The notice must also include a statement informing the Members of their right to appoint a proxy to exercise their rights to attend, speak and vote at the meeting. Notice of the meeting must be given to everyone entitled by these Articles to receive it and must be given in accordance with these Articles. A meeting may be held on shorter notice if it is agreed by not less than 90 per cent. of the Members entitled to attend and vote at it.

- 19.2 At an annual general meeting the business usually conducted will be the election of Trustees in place of those retiring, the election of Trustees appointed to fill a vacancy since the last annual general meeting, and where necessary the appointment of auditors and the fixing of the remuneration of the auditors.

- 19.3 Where the Charity's auditors are deemed reappointed in accordance with the Act, the Trustees shall fix the auditors' remuneration.

20. Quorum for General Meetings

20.1 Business may be transacted at a general meeting only if a quorum of Members is present when the meeting begins to deal with its business. A quorum is one third of the total number of Members subject to a minimum of three, whether present in person or by proxy.

21. Adjournment if no Quorum

21.1 If the meeting is called by the demand of Members, it must be dissolved if, within half an hour after the appointed starting time, a quorum is not present. If called in any other way, the meeting may be adjourned to another day, time and place as the Board may decide. Articles 23.2 and 23.3 shall apply to such an adjourned meeting.

21.2 If no quorum is present at the adjourned meeting within half an hour of the appointed starting time, the Member or Members present at that time shall constitute the quorum for that meeting.

22. Chairman of a General Meeting

22.1 The Chair (if any) of the Board should normally preside as chairman at every general meeting of the Charity. If there is no Chair, or if he is not present within 15 minutes after the appointed starting time or is unwilling to take the chair, the Board shall select the chairman of the meeting and in default the Members at the meeting shall select a chairman.

23. Adjournment of a General Meeting

23.1 The chairman of the meeting may, with the consent of any meeting at which a quorum is present (and must if so directed by the meeting), adjourn the meeting from time to time and from place to place.

23.2 No business may be transacted at any adjourned meeting except business left unfinished at the meeting from which the adjournment took place.

23.3 When a meeting is adjourned for 30 days or more, notice of the adjourned meeting must be given as for the original meeting. Apart from that, it is not necessary to give any notice of an adjourned meeting nor of the business to be done at it.

24. Voting on Resolutions

24.1 At any general meeting a resolution put to the vote of the meeting is decided by a show of hands by Members unless a poll is demanded (before or after the result of the show of hands is declared). A poll may be demanded by the chairman of the meeting or a Member, save that no poll may be demanded on the election of a chairman of a meeting or on any question of adjournment. Members may vote by proxy.

24.2 Members may appoint a proxy who need not be a Member of the Charity. The proxy may be appointed by the Member to exercise all or any of the Member's rights to attend, speak, vote and demand a poll at a meeting of the Charity.

25. Proxies

25.1 A person holding a proxy may vote on any resolution.

27.1 Polls will be taken whenever the chairman of the meeting says so. Business which is not the subject of a poll may be dealt with before, during or after the poll.

27.2 The chairman of the meeting will decide how a poll will be taken. The result of a poll will be treated as a resolution of the meeting.

28. Voting and Speaking

28.1 Every Member including the chairman of the meeting (if he is a Member) has one vote at general meetings. The chairman of the meeting does not have a casting vote at general meetings.

28.2 The auditor or reporting accountant has the right to attend general meetings and to speak at general meetings on any part of the business of the meeting which concerns him as auditor or reporting accountant.

28.3 A Trustee shall have the same rights as Members to attend and speak at general meetings but shall not be entitled to vote at general meetings, save in his capacity as a Member.

28.4 The Board may invite the Local Committees to attend and speak at meetings including any general meetings but such Local Committees will not be entitled to vote or count towards the quorum.

29. Written Agreement to Resolution

29.1 Except in the case of a resolution to remove a Trustee or the auditors before the expiry of their term, Members may pass a valid resolution without a meeting being held. But for the resolution to be valid:

29.1.1 it must be in Writing;

29.1.2 in the case of a special resolution it must be stated on the resolution that it is a special resolution, and it must be Signed by at least 75 per cent. of all those Members (or their duly authorised representatives) entitled to receive notice of and to attend general meetings;

29.1.3 in the case of an ordinary resolution it must be Signed by a majority of all those Members (or their duly authorised representatives) entitled to receive notice of and to attend general meetings;

29.1.4 it may consist of two or more documents in identical form Signed by Members; and

29.1.5 the passing of the resolution must comply with any other requirements of the law from time to time.

29.2 A written resolution is passed when the required majority of eligible Members have signified their agreement to it.

29.3 A written resolution passed in accordance with this Article 29 has effect as if passed by the Charity in general meeting.

30. Management by the Board

30.1 The business of the Charity is managed by the Board. They may pay all the expenses of promoting and registering the Charity. They may use all powers of the Charity which are not, by the Act or by these Articles, required to be used by a general meeting of the Charity.

31. The Keeping of Minutes

31.1 The Board must have a record of minutes:-

31.1.1 of all appointments of officers by the Board;

31.1.2 of the names of the Trustees present at each of its meetings and of any committee of the Board; and

31.1.3 of all resolutions and proceedings at all meetings of:

(a) The Members;

(b) The Board; and

(c) Committees of the Board.

32. The Make-up of the Board

32.1 The first Board consists of those people authenticated electronically when the Charity is formed or as subsequently appointed by them. They hold office until the first annual general meeting at which they may be elected. After that, the Board consists of:-

32.1.1 not fewer than three and no more than six persons elected by the trustees; and

32.1.2 not more than three additional individuals co-opted at any time by the Board in accordance with Article 39.2.

32.2 No person under the age of 18 may be appointed as a Trustee.

32.3 Where there are no more candidates than vacant posts the candidates shall be declared elected at the annual general meeting without the necessity of a ballot provided that a majority of the Board has approved the appointment of any such candidate.

34.4 The Board or a relevant committee of the Board shall determine the eligibility criteria and skills required for nomination to the Board in order to ensure that the Board shall perform effectively. The Board or the relevant committee is not obliged to admit any person satisfying such criteria as a proposed nominee and may decline in their absolute discretion any person's application and need not give reasons for such decision.

33. Local Committees

33.1 A Local Committee may be established by the Board, if so required in accordance with contracts with third parties or as otherwise considered appropriate. Local Committees will operate under the direction of the Board.

- 33.2 The Board, or a relevant committee of the Board, shall appoint the Local Committee.
- 33.3 The Local Committee shall comprise of not less than 6, and no more than 12, members, who may be individuals or organisations. .
- 33.4 The Board or a relevant committee of the Board shall have the right to elect a Chair, Vice Chair and other officers of the Local Committee.
- 33.5 The Board or relevant committee of the Board shall in its sole discretion determine the eligibility criteria and skills required for nomination to the Local Committee and officers of the Local Committee, in order to ensure that the Local Committee shall perform effectively.
- 33.6 Individuals and organisations will cease to be part of a Local Committee if:
- 33.6.1 The individual or organisation resigns from the Local Committee by giving notice in writing to the Board; or
- 33.6.2 any subscription fee due to the Local Committee remains unpaid six months after it is due and the Board resolves to end that member's membership; or
- 33.6.3 the individual or organisation fails to respond in Writing within 60 days of being sent a notice in Writing requesting confirmation that they wish to remain a member of the Local Committee and the Board resolves to end membership. The notice must contain a warning that membership may be ended; or
- 33.6.4 the individual dies or, in the case of an organisation, if the organisation ceases to function or is wound up; or
- 33.6.5 the Board terminates membership of the Local Committee by giving notice in writing.

Retirement of Trustees

- 33.7 At the third annual general meeting after his last election or appointment a Trustee (other than any co-opted Trustee), shall retire. He shall be eligible for re-election or re-appointment provided that no Trustee may continue to serve after six years in office without a period of at least a year out of office. Unless on the recommendation of the Board the Trustee is elected for one further consecutive term of a maximum of three years.

For the purposes of this Article 35 a “year” shall mean a complete period of service between two annual general meetings.

34. Change in composition of the Board

- 34.1 The make-up and number of the Board may be varied by amendment to these Articles but at no time may the number of the Board be reduced to below three.

35. Notification of change of members of the Board to the Registrar of Companies

- 35.1 All appointments, retirements or removals of Trustees and the Company Secretary (if appointed) must be notified to the Registrar of Companies.

36. Filling vacancies in the Board and Co-option

- 36.1 The Board can appoint anyone as a Trustee to fill a vacancy in the membership of the Board. They will hold office until the next annual general meeting where they may be elected by the Members. For the purposes of this Article the Board shall decide how many vacancies there are, subject to the maximum and minimum numbers given in Article 32.1.1.
- 36.2 The Board may also co-opt up to three additional persons onto the Board at any time in excess of the maximum number of Trustees set out in Article 32.1.1 who shall hold office until the next annual general meeting unless they cease to be a Trustee prior to that by virtue of Article 39 or 40. A co-opted Trustee may be removed by the Board at any time and may not be co-opted more than six times.
- 36.3 Such appointees or co-optees may vote at meetings of the Board.

37. Ending of Board Membership

- 37.1 A Trustee ceases to hold office if he:-
- 37.1.1 becomes bankrupt or makes any arrangement or composition with his creditors generally; or
 - 37.1.2 becomes barred from membership of the Board because of any order made under the Act, the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 (or any regulations made under it) or the Charities Act 2011; or
 - 37.1.3 is considered by the Board to have become incapable whether mentally or physically of managing his own affairs and a majority of the other Trustees resolve that he must cease to hold office; or
 - 37.1.4 resigns the office by notice in writing to the Charity but only if at least three Trustees will remain in office when the resignation takes effect; or
 - 37.1.5 is absent without permission from three consecutive meetings of the Trustees and it is resolved by a majority of the other Trustees to remove him; or
 - 37.1.6 breaches his duties under the Act and in particular the duties for the proper management of conflicts of interest and the Board resolves to remove him by a resolution by 75 per cent. of the other Trustees present and voting at a meeting and that prior to such a meeting the Trustee in question has been given written notice of the intention to propose such a resolution at the meeting; or
 - 37.1.7 is removed from office under Article 40; or
 - 37.1.8 is a co-opted Trustee and is removed by the Board; or
 - 37.1.9 is removed from office by a resolution of at least 75 per cent. of the other Trustees present and voting at a Board meeting at which at least half of the serving Trustees are present provided that prior to such a meeting the Trustee in question has been given written notice of the intention to propose such a resolution at the meeting; or
 - 37.1.10 ceases to be a Member of the Charity; or

37.1.11 dies.

38. Removal of a Trustee by a General Meeting

38.1 5% of the Members may require the Board to call a general meeting by following the procedure set out in the Act. They may propose a resolution to remove a Trustee before the end of his period of office at that meeting, in accordance with the procedure set out in the Act.

39. Meetings of the Board

39.1 The Board may meet, adjourn and run its meetings as it wishes, subject to the rest of these Articles.

39.2 Questions arising at any meeting must be decided by a majority of votes. Every Trustee has one vote including the Chair. If the votes are equal, the Chair has a second or casting vote.

39.3 The Charity, if requested by the Chair or any two Trustees, must summon a meeting of the Board.

39.4 Notice of a Board Meeting need not be given to any Trustee who is out of the United Kingdom.

39.5 Meetings may be held in person, by telephone, or by suitable electronic means agreed by the Board in which all participants may communicate with all other participants.

40. Officers of the Board

40.1 The Board may elect or remove the Chair or any other officers that it wishes. Officers shall be appointed from among the Trustees. For the avoidance of doubt once elected and acting as the Chair such person can no longer be the Chair of a Local Committee.

41. Quorum for the Board

41.1 The quorum necessary for business to be done at a Board meeting is a third of the Trustees subject to a minimum of three and where one third does not produce a whole number the quorum shall be the next higher whole number. A Trustee shall not be counted in the quorum at a meeting in relation to a resolution on which he is not entitled to vote. This is subject to Article 11.

42. Board's Right to Act Despite Vacancies on the Board

42.1 The Board may act despite any vacancy on the Board, but if the number of Trustees falls below the quorum, it may act only to summon a general meeting of the Charity or to appoint further Trustees.

43. A Resolution may be Approved by Signature Without a Meeting

43.1 A resolution in Writing Signed by all of the Trustees or any committee is as valid as if it had been passed at a properly held meeting of the Board or committee. The resolution may consist of several documents in the same form Signed by one or more members of the Board or committee.

44. Validity of Acts Done at Meetings

- 44.1 If it is discovered that there was some defect in the procedure at a meeting or the appointment of a Trustee or that he was disqualified, anything done before the discovery is as valid as if there were no defect or disqualification.

45. Delegation by the Board

- 45.1 The Board may delegate the administration of any of its powers to individual Trustees or committees of Trustees and any such Trustee or committee must conform to any rules that the Board imposes on it.
- 45.2 The Board may co-opt any person or people who are not Trustees to serve on the committee, but any such committee must have at least one Trustee on it at all times.
- 45.3 All acts and proceedings of the committee or Trustees must be reported to the Board as soon as possible.

46. Chair of Committees

- 46.1 A committee may elect a chair of its meetings if the Board does not nominate one.
- 46.2 If at any meeting the committee's chair is not present within 10 minutes after the appointed starting time, the committee members present may choose one of their number to be chairman of the meeting.

47. Meetings of Committees

- 47.1 A committee may meet and adjourn whenever it chooses.
- 47.2 Questions at the meeting must be decided by a majority of votes of the committee members present. In the case of an equality of votes, the chairman of the committee meeting shall have a casting vote.
- 47.3 A committee must have minutes entered in minute books.
- 47.4 If it is discovered that there was some defect in the procedure at a meeting of a committee, or in the appointment of a committee member, anything done before such discovery at any meeting of the committee is as valid as if there were no defect.

48. Appointment and Removal of the Company Secretary

- 48.1 The Board may but, subject to the Act, need not appoint a Company Secretary and may decide his period of office, pay and any conditions of service, and may remove him from office.

49. Honorary Officers

- 49.1 The Board may appoint or remove any person for such terms as they think fit as the President, Vice President or Patron of the Charity. Such posts are honorary only and carry no vote or other rights.

50. Actions of Trustees and Company Secretary

50.1 The Act says that some actions must or may be taken both by a Trustee and by the Company Secretary. If one person is both a Trustee and Company Secretary, that one person may not act in the capacity of both Trustee and Company Secretary for any business that requires the action of both a Trustee and the Company Secretary.

51. Proper Accounts must be Kept

51.1 Accounts shall be prepared in accordance with the Act and the Charities Act.

52. Books must be Kept at the Office

52.1 The accounts must be kept at the Office or at other places decided by the Board. The accounts must always be open to inspection by Trustees.

53. Inspection of Books

53.1 The Trustees must decide whether, how far, when, where and under what rules the accounts may be inspected by members who are not Trustees. A member who is not a Trustee may only inspect the accounts or a document of the Charity if the right is given by law or authorised by the Trustees or a general meeting.

54. Accounts and Returns

54.1 The Board must, for each financial year, send a copy of its annual accounts and reports (or summary financial statements where appropriate) to every person who is entitled to receive notice of general meetings.

54.2 Copies need not be sent to a person for whom the Charity does not have a current address (as defined in Companies Act 2006).

54.3 The deadline for sending out the accounts and reports (or summary financial statements) is as follows:

54.3.1 the deadline for filing the Charity's accounts and reports (or summary financial statements) with Companies House, as prescribed by the Companies Act 2006; or

54.3.2 if earlier, the date on which the Charity actually files the accounts and reports (or summary financial statements) with Companies House.

54.4 To the extent required by law, the Board must file the accounts and reports (or summary financial statements) with Companies House within any deadlines specified by law.

54.5 The Board must file with the Charity Commission the accounts and reports (or summary financial statements) and all annual returns and other documents that are required to be filed, within any deadlines specified by the Charity Commission.

55. Appointment of Reporting Accountants or Auditors

55.1 The Charity must appoint properly qualified reporting accountants or properly qualified auditors if the level of the Charity's income or assets from time to time makes this a legal requirement.

56. Service of Notices

56.1 The Charity may give notices, accounts or other documents to the members i.e. the Members for company law purposes and/or the Local Committees either:

56.1.1 personally; or

56.1.2 by delivering them or sending them by ordinary post to the member's registered address; or

56.1.3 if the member has provided the Charity with a fax number, by sending them by fax to that member. This is subject to the member having consented to receipt of the notice, documents or accounts in this way, where this is a legal requirement; or

56.1.4 if the member has provided the Charity with an e-mail address, by sending them by e-mail to that address. This is subject to the member having consented to receipt of the notice, documents or accounts in this way, where this is a legal requirement; or

56.1.5 in accordance with the provisions for communication by website set out below.

If the member lacks a registered postal address within the United Kingdom, the notice, accounts or documents may be sent to any postal address within the United Kingdom which he has given the Charity for that purpose or in accordance with Article 56.1.1, 56.1.3, 56.1.4 or 56.1.5 above. However, a member without a registered postal address in the United Kingdom who has not provided a postal address in the United Kingdom for that purpose, shall not be entitled to receive any notice, accounts or other documents served by the Charity, irrespective of whether they have consented to receiving notices by email or fax.

If a notice, accounts or other documents are sent by post, they will be treated as having been served by properly addressing, pre-paying and posting a sealed envelope containing them. If sent by fax or email they will be treated as properly sent if the Charity receives no indication that they have not been received.

56.2 If sent by post in accordance with this Article, the notice, accounts or other documents will be treated as having been received 48 hours after the envelope containing them was posted if posted by first class post and 72 hours after posting if posted by second class post. If sent by fax or email, the notice, accounts or other documents will be treated as having been received 24 hours after having been properly sent.

56.3 The Charity may assume that any fax number or e-mail address given to it by a member remains valid unless the member informs the Charity that it is not.

56.4 Where a member has informed the Charity in Writing of his consent, or has given deemed consent in accordance with the Act, to receive notices, accounts or other documents from the Charity by means of a website, such information will be validly given if the Charity sends that member a notification informing him that the documents forming part of the notice, the accounts or other documents, may be viewed on a specified website. The notification must provide the website address, and the place on the website where the information may be accessed and an explanation of how it may be accessed. If the information relates to a general meeting the notification must state that it concerns a notice of a general meeting and give the place, date and time of the meeting. The notice must be available on the website throughout the notice period until the end of the meeting in question.

57. Accidental Omission of Notice

57.1 Sometimes a person entitled to receive a notice of a meeting does not receive it because of accidental omission or some other similar reason. This does not invalidate the proceedings of that meeting.

58. Who is Entitled to Notice of General Meetings

58.1 Notice of every general meeting must be given to:-

58.1.1 every Member (except those Members who lack a registered address within the United Kingdom and have not given the Charity a postal address for notices within the United Kingdom);

58.1.2 the reporting accountants or auditor of the Charity;

58.1.3 all Trustees;

58.1.4 any President or other honorary position.

58.2 No one else is entitled to receive notice of general meetings.

59. Regulations

59.1 The Board may make such regulations, by-laws or standing orders as it sees fit. These must not be inconsistent with the Articles or such that they would otherwise need to be made by a special resolution. No regulation may be made which invalidates any prior act of the Board which would otherwise have been valid.

60. Winding-up of the Charity

60.1 A general meeting may decide at any time to dissolve the Charity. If the Charity is wound up or dissolved, and there remains any property after all debts and liabilities have been met, the property must be given or transferred to some other charitable institution or institutions. This other institution(s) must have objects which are the same as or similar to those of the Charity.

60.2 The institution or institutions will be chosen by the Trustees of the Charity at or before the time when the Charity is wound-up or dissolved.