**The Family & Community Group**

**Conflict of Interest Policy**

**Introduction**

All staff, volunteers, and Trustees of The Family & Community Group will strive to avoid any conflict of interest between the interests of The Family & Community Group on the one hand, and personal, professional, and business interests on the other. This includes avoiding actual conflicts of interest as well as the perception of conflicts of interest.

The purpose of this policy is to protect the integrity of The Family & Community Group decision-making process, to enable stakeholders to have confidence in the integrity of The Family & Community Group, and to protect the integrity and reputation of volunteers, staff and Trustees.

**What is a Conflict of Interest?**

*“A conflict of interest is any situation in which a Trustee’s personal interests, or interests which they owe to another body, and those of the charity arise simultaneously or appear to clash. The issue is not the integrity of the person concerned, but the management of any potential to profit from a person’s position within* The Family & Community Group*, or for a person to be influenced by conflicting loyalties. Even the appearance of a conflict of interest can damage the charity’s reputation, so conflicts need to be managed carefully.”*[1](#page2)

**Types of Interest which May Give Rise to Conflict**

***A. Financial Benefits or Interests***

**Direct** financial benefits or interests include, for example, employment of the Trustees as employee, consultant or advisor, or the situation where a company of which the Trustees is a director or shareholder, may be considered for a contract by the Charity. Other matters of financial interest include the sale of land or the use of a Trustee’s property by the charity, or granting of loans by the Trustees to the charity. Conflicts of interest in such cases are particularly serious and any financial benefit requires authorisation, usually by the Commission.

**Indirect** financial interests may arise where such potential financial benefits accrue to a close member of the Trustee’s family, or even a friend, business partner or colleague.

Not all benefits enjoyed by Trustees need to be authorised by the governing document, the Commission or the Courts. It is perfectly acceptable to repay

reasonable out of pocket expenses to Trustees. Any costs that are necessary to allow a Trustee to carry out his or her duties as a Trustee can be classed as expenses and recovered from the charity or met directly by the charity.

Benefits that are available to all, or that are of inconsequential or little measurable value, will not normally need to be authorised.

While the law states that Trustees cannot receive any benefit from their charity in return for any service they provide to the charity unless they have

express legal authority to do so, some payments to Trustees are expressly allowed under the provisions of The Family & Community Group Constitution



reasonable and proper remuneration can be made to a Trustee for services actually rendered to the Organisation.

**B. Non-financial Benefits or Interests**

These would include a situation where a Trustee directly or indirectly benefits from The Family & Community Group services. An example relevant to The Family & Community Group might be where it is proposed that a Trustee’s business might sponsor a The Family & Community Group event: the Trustee’s business would potentially derive a non-financial benefit from the sponsorship (in the nature of public relations exposure) and a conflict of interest would therefore arise between the Trustee’s business interests and his/her role as a Trustee. Such a conflict would need to be identified and managed in accordance with the procedures described below.

**C. Conflicts of Loyalties**

This is when another appointment or employment or association (of the Trustee or of a relative or friend) may potentially influence the decisions of the Trustee in directions which may not be in the best interest of The Family & Community Group. It is expected that other charity roles, particularly as Trustee or employee, should be declared. Any association or relationship with a body or organisation which is or might become an applicant for funds from The Family & Community Group must be declared.

Ultimately, it is not possible to define all the circumstances which may lead to a potential conflict of interest. It is the responsibility of each individual Trustee to declare any matters which he or she feels may present actual or potential conflicts, or the perception of such conflicts. If in doubt, it is better to make a declaration.

**Disclosure**

Upon appointment each Trustee will make a full, written disclosure of interests (see appendix 1), such as relationships, and posts held, that could potentially result in a conflict of interest. This written disclosure will be kept on file and will be updated annually or as appropriate.

**Handling a Conflict of Interest**

In the course of meetings or activities, Trustees will disclose any interests in a transaction or decision where there may be a conflict between the organisations’ best interests and the Trustee’s best interests or a conflict between the best interests of two organisations that the Trustee is involved with. If in doubt, the potential conflict must be declared anyway and clarification sought.

In the case of a conflict of interest arising for a Trustee because of a duty of loyalty owed to another organisation or person and the conflict is not authorised by virtue of any other provision in the memorandum or the articles, the “unconflicted” Trustees may authorise such a conflict of interests where the following conditions apply:

1. The Charity Commission’s permission is sought before a benefit for a Trustee may be authorised that isn’t otherwise authorised in the Memorandum of Articles or already authorised in writing from the Commission;
2. The Trustee who has declared the conflict of interest withdraws from the part of the meeting at which there is discussion of any arrangement or transaction affecting that other organisation or person;
3. The Trustee who has the conflict of interest does not vote on any such matter and is not to be counted when considering whether a quorum of Trustees is present at the meeting;
4. The other Trustees who have no conflict of interest in this matter consider it is in the interests of the charity to authorise the conflict of interest in the circumstances applying.

Any such disclosure and the subsequent actions taken will be noted in the minutes.

For all other potential conflicts of interest the advice of the Charity Commission will be sought and the advice recorded in the minutes. All steps taken to follow the advice will be recorded.

This policy is meant to supplement good judgment, and staff, volunteers and Trustees should respect its spirit as well as its wording.

Date Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Appendix 1: Declaration of Relevant Interests Form**

I as committee member/employee/trustee\* *(\*delete as appropriate)* of the The Family & Community Group have set out below my relevant interests in accordance with Torfaen Family Play & Opportunities Declaration of Interests Policy.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Category** | ***Please give details of the relevant*** |
|  | ***interest and whether it applies to*** |
|  | ***yourself or, where appropriate, a*** |
|  | ***member of your immediate family*** |
|  | ***or some other close personal*** |
|  | ***connection*** |



Current employment and any previous

employment in which you continue to

have a financial interest.

Appointments (voluntary or otherwise)

e.g., trusteeships, directorships etc.

Membership of any professional bodies,

special interest groups or mutual support

organisations.

Investments in unlisted companies,

partnerships and other forms of

business, major shareholdings of more

than 1% of issued capital and beneficial

interests.

Gifts or hospitality offered to you by

external bodies and whether this was

declined or accepted in the last twelve

months.

Any contractual relationship with Torfaen

 Family Play & Opportunities Group

 Any other conflicts that are not covered

by the above.

To the best of my knowledge, the above information is complete and correct. I undertake to update as necessary the information provided, and to review the accuracy of the information on an annual basis. I give my consent for it to be used for the purposes described in the Declaration of Interests Policy.

Signed:

Position:

Date: