

Southern Derbyshire Voluntary Sector Mental Health Forum (SDVSMHF)

Policy title	Membership Policy
Version number and Issue date	05 August 2014
Audience	Member organisations and potential member organisations; Staff and trustees of SDVSMHF
Definitions	<p>Membership: is taken by SDVSMHF to mean the formal process of applying and being accepted as a member of the organisation. This entails signing up to further the aims and objectives of SDVSMHF and abiding by its rules, policies and procedures.</p> <p>Voluntary Organisation: A formal group, association or company which is set up voluntarily to provide services to a defined group of people. It will have wholly charitable objectives, operate on a not-for-profit basis and, if of sufficient size, will be a registered charity.</p> <p>Social Enterprise: A business with primarily social objectives, whose surpluses are principally re-invested for that purpose into the business or community, rather than the need to maximise profit for shareholders or owners.</p> <p>Community Interest Company (CIC): a limited company, with special additional features, created for use by people who want to conduct a business or other activity for community benefit and not purely for private advantage.</p>
Policy statement	<p>Southern Derbyshire Voluntary Sector Mental Health Forum is a membership organisation whose aim is</p> <p>the advancement of education of voluntary organisations working in the mental health field by the provision of training, information, and consultation, representation and liaison with other bodies on relevant policies and programmes affecting the mental health voluntary sector.</p> <p>(Constitution, July 2007)</p> <p>MEMBERSHIP OF THE FORUM</p> <p>Membership of the Forum is open to any voluntary or community organisation, social enterprise¹ or Community Interest Company² working on a not-for-profit basis that supports and agrees to further the objectives of the Forum as outlined above and agrees to pay any annual subscription as laid down by the Executive Committee of SDVSMHF.</p> <p>Members may attend SDVSMHF meetings, presentations and</p>

	<p>other events and join in discussions about the issues raised.</p> <p>Members will have voting rights and will be eligible to attend and vote at General meetings of SDVSMHF.</p> <p>Members will be able to nominate a representative of their organisation for election to the Executive Committee of SDVSMHF.</p> <p>Members will be eligible to receive other services provided by SDVSMHF as available.</p> <p>Membership of the Forum is subject to formal application and approval by the Executive Committee. Any potential members who are not approved will have the right to appeal the decision in writing.</p> <p>Membership of the Forum may be terminated by the Executive Committee for good and sufficient reason providing that the organisation has had the opportunity to be heard by the Executive Committee before a decision is made to terminate membership.</p>
Related policies and standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership Procedure • Membership Application Form • SDVSMHF Roles and Responsibilities • Equality and Diversity Policy • Complaints Procedure • Expenses Policy for Forum Representatives
Financial issues	Availability of funds to pay SDVSMHF representatives
Policy owner	Manager
Original issue date	October 2003
Next review date & comments	August 2017

¹ Social enterprises are eligible for membership of SDVSMHF only where they are affiliated to or are part of an established mental health voluntary organisation/charity and all profits are covenanted back into that organisation.

² Community Interest Companies (CICs) are eligible for membership of SDVSMHF if they are listed on the Community Interest Company register and can provide at least one “Annual Community Interest Report” (which must be their most recent) in support of their membership application.