



## **CSO Trustee Code of Conduct**

### **GENERAL**

- I will act within the governing document of CSO and the law, and abide by the policies and procedures of the organisation. This includes having a knowledge of the contents of the Articles of Association and relevant policies and procedures.
- I will support the objects and mission of CSO, championing it, using any skills or knowledge I have to further that mission and seeking expert advice where appropriate.
- I will be an active trustee, making my skills, experience and knowledge available to CSO and seeking to do what additional work I can outside trustee meetings, including sitting on sub-committees.
- I will respect organisational, board and individual confidentiality, while never using confidentiality as an excuse not to disclose matters that should be transparent and open.
- I will develop and maintain a sound and up-to-date knowledge of CSO and its environment. This will include an understanding of how CSO operates, the social, political and economic environment in which it operates and the nature and extent of its work.
- I will use CSO's resources responsibly, and when claiming expenses will do so in line with CSO procedures.
- I will seek to be accountable for my actions as a trustee of CSO and will submit myself to whatever scrutiny is appropriate.
- I accept my responsibility to ensure that CSO is well run and will raise issues and questions in an appropriate and sensitive way to ensure that this is the case.

### **MANAGING INTERESTS**

- I will not gain materially or financially from my involvement with CSO unless specifically authorised to do so.
- I will act in the best interests of CSO as a whole, and not as a representative of any group – considering what is best for CSO and its present and future beneficiaries and avoiding bringing CSO into disrepute.
- Unless authorised, I will not put myself in a position where my personal interests conflict with my duty to act in the interests of the

organisation. Where there is a conflict of interest I will ensure that this is managed effectively in line with CSO policy. I understand that a failure to declare a conflict of interest may be considered to be a breach of this code and I can be asked to resign as a trustee.

## **Codes of Conduct for Trustees**

### **MEETINGS**

- I will attend all appropriate meetings and other appointments at CSO or give apologies. If I cannot regularly attend meetings I will consider whether there are other ways I can engage with CSO.
- I will prepare fully for all meetings and work for the organisation. This will include reading papers, querying anything I do not understand, thinking through issues before meetings and completing any tasks assigned to me in the agreed time.
- I will actively engage in discussion, debate and voting in meetings; contributing in a considered and constructive way, listening carefully, challenging sensitively and avoiding conflict.
- I will participate in collective decision making, accept a majority decision of the board and will not act individually unless specifically authorised to do so.

### **GOVERNANCE**

- I will actively contribute towards improving the governance of the trustee board, participating in induction and training and sharing ideas for improvement with the board.
- I will help to identify good candidates for trusteeship at CSO and, with my fellow trustees, will appoint new trustees in accordance with agreed selection criteria.

### **RELATIONS WITH OTHERS**

- I will endeavour to work considerately and respectfully with all those I come into contact with at CSO. I will respect diversity, different roles and boundaries, and avoid giving offence.
- I recognise that the roles of trustees, volunteers and staff of CSO are different, and I will seek to understand and respect the difference between these roles. Where I also volunteer with the organisation I will maintain the separation of my role as a trustee and as a volunteer.
- I am able to understand the distinction between the Roles of Management and the Board (Governance) and the effect on the Organization.

- I will seek to support and encourage all those I come into contact with at CSO. In particular I recognise, my responsibility to support the Chair and the Director.
- I will not make public comments about the organisation unless authorised to do so. Any public comments I make about CSO will be considered and in line with organisational policy, aims and objective, whether I make them as an individual or as a trustee.

**LEAVING THE BOARD**

- I understand that substantial breach of any part of this code may result in procedures being put in motion that may result in my being asked to resign from the trustee board.
- Should this happen I will be given the opportunity to be heard. In the event that I am asked to resign from the board I will accept the majority decision of the board in this matter and resign at the earliest opportunity.
- If I wish to cease being a trustee of CSO at any time, I will inform the chair in advance in writing, stating my reasons for leaving.

Signed .....

Name .....

Date .....