



## **PALS Society TRUSTEE CODE OF CONDUCT**

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As a trustee of PALS Society I promise to abide by the fundamental values that underpin all activities of this organisation. These are as follows.

### **Our values**

#### Accountability

Everything PALS Society does will be able to stand the test of scrutiny by the public, the media, the Charity Commission, members, stakeholders, funders, Parliament and the courts. PALS Society operates under the Charities Act and we need to respect the legal obligations that this entails.

#### Integrity and honesty

These will be the hallmarks of all conduct when dealing with colleagues within PALS Society and equally when dealing with individuals and institutions outside it.

#### Transparency

PALS Society strives to maintain an atmosphere of openness throughout the organisation to promote confidence of the public, stakeholders, staff, charity regulators and parliament.

#### PALS focus

Our beneficiaries are amazing young people. Our board needs to operate in a way that is accessible to these people and not to feel detached. We should work in ways that are: Creative, Focussed, Caring and with an element of Fun.

As a member of PALS Society board of trustees, I agree to the following points.

### **Law, mission, policies**

I will act within the governing document of PALS Society and abide by the policies and procedures of the organisation.

I will not break the law or go against charity regulations in any aspect of my role of trustee.

I will support the objects and mission of PALS Society and act as their guardian and champion.

I will develop and maintain an up-to-date knowledge of PALS Society and its environment

### **Conflicts of interest**

I will always strive to act in the best interests of the organisation as a whole and not as a representative of any group, considering what is best for PALS Society and its beneficiaries - young people aged 16 to 25 with alternative learning styles.

I will declare any conflict of interest, or any circumstance that might be viewed by others as a conflict of interest, as soon as it arises.

I will submit to the judgment of the board and do as it requires regarding potential conflicts of interest.

### **Person to person**

I will not break the law, go against charity regulations or act in disregard of organisational policies in my relationships with fellow trustees, staff, volunteers, members, service recipients, contractors or anyone I come into contact with in my role as trustee.

I will strive to establish respectful, collegial and courteous relationships.

Where I also volunteer with the organisation I will maintain the separation of my role as a trustee and as a volunteer.

### **Protecting the organisation's reputation**

I will not make public comments about the organisation unless authorised to do so.

Any public comments I make about PALS Society will be considered and in line with organisational policy, whether I make them as an individual or as a trustee.

When I am speaking as a trustee of this organisation, my comments will reflect current organisational policy even when these do not agree with my personal views.

When speaking as a private citizen I will strive to uphold the reputation of the organisation and those who work in it.

I will respect organisational, board and individual confidentiality.

### Personal gain

I will not personally gain materially or financially from my role as trustee, unless specifically authorised to do so, nor will I permit others to do so as a result of my actions or negligence.

I will use organisational resources responsibly. I will document expenses and seek reimbursement according to procedure.

I will not accept gifts or hospitality without the prior consent of the chair.

### In the boardroom

I will strive to embody the principles of leadership in all my actions and live up to the trust placed in me by PALS Society.

I accept my responsibility to ensure that PALS Society is well run and will raise issues and questions in an appropriate and sensitive way to ensure that this is the case.

I will abide by board governance procedures and practices.

I will strive to attend all board meetings, giving apologies ahead of time to the chair if unable to attend.

I will study the agenda and other information sent me in good time prior to the meeting and be prepared to debate and vote on agenda items during the meeting.

I will honour the authority of the chair and respect his or her role as meeting leader.

I will engage in debate and voting in meetings according to procedure, maintaining a respectful attitude toward the opinions of others while making my voice heard.

I will accept a majority board vote on an issue as decisive and final.

I will maintain confidentiality about what goes on in the boardroom unless authorised by the chair or board to speak of it.

## Leaving the board

I understand that substantial breach of any part of this code may result in my removal from the trustee board.

Should procedures be put in motion that may result in my being asked to resign from the board, 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 and resign at the earliest opportunity.

Should I resign from the board I will inform the chair in advance in writing, stating my reasons for resigning. Additionally, I will participate in an exit interview.

Signed:

Name:

Date: