

## **Conflict of Interest Policy**

### **What do we mean by Board Members Conflict of Interest and Register of interest.**

As Trustees of the Charity, Deafblind Scotland Board of Directors members have general control and management of the organisation. They are required to put the interests of Deafblind Scotland before their own interests. In meeting this requirement, members of the Board of Directors of Deafblind Scotland may, on occasion, encounter circumstances where the interests of Deafblind Scotland may conflict with an individual Board members own interests, or those of another organisation with which they are affiliated. A Register of Interests is an up to date inventory of each Board members relevant interests (commercial, charitable, personal or other).

### **Policy Statement**

Deafblind Scotland recognises that members of its Board of Directors have many interests in charity and commercial environments that may, on occasion, lead to a conflict of interest. Individuals operating as Directors of Deafblind Scotland will:

- Avoid circumstances where there is a conflict between their personal interests and those of the charity. The Director, in these circumstances will make known to other Directors of their conflicting interests and take no part in discussion, or decision-making on the matter.
- Ensure that, where a Director of Deafblind Scotland is faced with a conflict of interest between the interests of the charity and those of a person, or organisation, responsible for their appointment as a Director, the interests of Deafblind Scotland should take precedence. If this potential conflict of interest is irreconcilable, the Director will make this conflict of interest known to the other directors and not take any part in the discussion or decision-making on the matter.
- Where there is the possibility of a conflict of interest between the concerns of two different charities to which a Director is affiliated, the Director will declare the conflict of interest to the other Deafblind Scotland Directors and refrain from discussion or decision-making on the subject in question.

It is not solely the responsibility of individual Directors of Deafblind Scotland to act only in the interests of Deafblind Scotland, but also the duty of their fellow Directors to take reasonable steps to ensure that they do. To this end Deafblind Scotland Directors are required to register relevant interests and to update this register as necessary.

In addition Directors of Deafblind Scotland will review its Memorandum and Articles of Association to ensure the Board of Directors have the power to remove co-Directors who are in serious, or persistent, breach of Section 66 of the Charities and Trustees Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 where the general duties of the Charity Trustees are stated.