

## **BRIDGE COLLECTIVE MEMBERSHIP STATEMENT**

### **Our Mission Statement**

To be a company whose members are creating:

A democratic community where people who have experiences, beliefs, and feelings that have sometimes been labelled as mental illness are welcomed and can talk about these experiences freely, safely and without judgement;

a place to participate in friendship, support, learning, teaching, discussion, being active, and making a valid contribution both within the collective and the wider community.

### **What does Bridge Collective membership mean?**

The Bridge is a Community Interest Company, meaning that its aim is to benefit the community and not to make a profit for private individuals. Members of the company are people who have chosen to take part in supporting and furthering this aim. As a member, you are part of the company, and the company is made up of its members acting together. Membership is about belonging to the company and commitment to its aims. Legally, the members are the owners of the company.

Members pay an annual subscription fixed in the Directors' Meeting. Their names and addresses are kept on a list held securely at the Bridge. As a member, you undertake to pay £1 towards any debts the company may have should it be wound up. You have no other financial liabilities.

Members elect directors annually at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Responsibility for the running of the company is delegated to the Directors, but members are invited to attend directors meetings, and can vote on any decisions made there. Decisions are made by consensus as far as possible. If a vote is held, the majority vote will be accepted except that the Directors have to veto any decision that would be illegal or against the interests of the company.

All directors are members of the Bridge, any member can nominate themselves for directorship, and second another nomination for directorship. Information about how to do this is sent to all members in advance of the AGM.

At any time any member can call for a general meeting of members, or call directors to account. The procedures for doing this are set out in the Articles of Association available from the Bridge office and on the Website.

Certain roles and positions within the Bridge are only open to members. These include Director and Complaints Team Member.

### **What can members expect from the Bridge Collective?**

You will receive a newsletter 4 times a year (you can opt to read this on the internet or to get it by post).

You will get an invitation to an AGM once a year, where you will be entitled to vote.

Your contact details will be held confidentially and not passed on.

You will receive a Bridge Information Pack: who we are, what we do, how we do it, groups, activities and contacts.

### **What is expected of a member?**

To support the Bridge mission as set out in our mission statement.

To support our collective approach.

To help to maintain a respectful and safe environment at the Bridge.

To attend the AGM if possible.

Note:

To keep up to date with what's happening at the Bridge please read the newsletter.