

### 1.13 Full Membership

Criteria:

- (a) This can be through a group membership or an individual membership.
- (b) There will be **2 places as full members for every User-led group and User –led Self Help Group within the defined boundary area**. The representatives will be decided by each group through a democratic process, with evidence of this being provided to the IMHN branch committee, or its nominee upon request. It is the responsibility of these representatives to feedback between their group and IMHN/a branch of IMHN.
- (c) People who meet the criteria in sub-clause (e) **(who are not representing a group) can, if they wish, apply to become full members**.
- (d) Application to be decided by a majority vote of the committee for individuals in line with the agreed process for becoming a member. For an application from a group, this will be decided by a majority vote at a general meeting of a branch of IMHN and after a minimum of two attendances at the monthly meeting.
- (e) Criteria for individual membership are:
  - (i) The individual will usually be living in; or registered with a GP practice in; or accessing Mental Health services in the defined boundary area that the branch has been formed in; and
  - (ii) Are over the age of eighteen; and
  - (iii) An individual who has ever used Mental Health services; or
  - (iv) An individual who is currently using Mental Health services; or
  - (v) An individual currently trying to access Mental Health services; or
  - (vi) An individual who self-defines as having had or currently having Mental Health issues.
- (f) Staff of Mental Health services may apply to become full members if they meet the criteria outlined in **sub-clause (e)**; but must be attending meetings in the capacity as outlined in the aforementioned section.
- (g) **Full membership** will allow speaking rights and a vote at meetings, including Annual General Meetings, and the potential to stand for election as officers.

### 1.14 Associate Membership

Criteria:

- (a) This can be through an individual membership only.
- (b) People who do not meet the criteria to become full members can apply to become associate members. Application to be decided by a majority vote of the committee for individuals.
- (c) Associate members will also not be allowed to stand for election as officers or vote for those standing for election as Officers.
- (d) Associate membership will allow a vote on general matters at meetings; however this will not include any changes to the constitution, role descriptions of officers, or the policies and procedures of IMHN.
- (e) Associate membership will allow for speaking rights at meetings.

### **1.15 Expectations of Membership**

- (a) All attendees and members are expected to contribute to information and debate about mental health services.
- (b) All full members and associate members are expected to adhere to the policies and procedures as laid out in the IMHN Policies and Procedures document.
- (c) People who do not meet the criteria to be full members of a branch, including carers and mental health staff, can be invited to attend part or all of a meeting, but will not be able to vote.

### **2. Cancellation of Membership**

- (a) A member may cancel their membership from IMHN by writing to the branch Secretary.
- (b) A member shall have been deemed to have cancelled their membership with immediate effect should they withdraw their consent for IMHN or one of its branches to process their personal data in line with applicable laws.
- (c) **IMHN** shall have the power to end or suspend membership in the event of direct contravention of its Aims and Objectives or its policies.
  - (i) There shall be an offer of a right of appeal before membership is ended, in accordance with the constitution.
  - (ii) The group will have policies and procedures to deal fairly and transparently with this which will include the option of independent mediation.

### **3. Equal Opportunities Statement**

- (a) When considering membership applications and in line with the Equality Act 2010, IMHN will not discriminate on grounds of: gender, race, colour, ethnic or national origin, sexuality, disability, religious or political belief, marital status or age (in line with the rest of the provisions as outlined in Bye Law 1).

### **4. Conditions of Membership**

- (a) The above benefits of all members are conditional on the proper conduct of members and such benefits may be suspended or withdrawn in accordance with IMHN policies and procedures.