



Membership Policy: March 2025

Membership of Community People

Community People membership is free, although donations are always welcome as Community People is a charity too. It is open to all not-for-profit organisations working in Sussex. You could be a charity, a social enterprise, a community/voluntary group, faith-based group or another type. To be a member you must:

- Have adopted a set of rules or a constitution
- Be run by a management committee, trustee board or equivalent
- Apply your resources for the benefit of the community
- Not be run for profit (i.e. the financial benefit of owners and members)
- Be located within or offer services in West Sussex
- Currently use or intend to use the services of Community People
- Be voluntary, community or charity based
- Agree to Community People's Membership and Social Media Policy

Community People is also here to help new groups on their journey to become a constituted charity or community group and will support them to fulfil the membership criteria outlined above.

Groups excluded from being able to apply for membership include:

- Those whose primary purpose is party political
- Groups or individuals who do not promote equal opportunities or who practice discrimination
- Groups with closed membership whose aims are to satisfy their members with no regard to enriching the wider community
- Groups or organisations who are for private profit

Benefits of Community People membership

- Support and information for your trustees, staff and volunteers
- Help with finding and applying for funding
- Invitations to a wide range of Community People events
- Help with volunteering role promotion and volunteering best practice
- Help with finding affordable training
- Connecting and networking with other local organisations
- Advertising and promotion of your work and events
- Regular updates about local and national issues which affect the voluntary sector
- Room hire at our Community Hubs at discounted rates



Withdrawal or refusal of membership

The Community People Board has the right to refuse or withdraw membership to any organisation under the following circumstances:

- If an organisation is not acting in the best interests of the charity and its members
- If an organisation brings the name of Community People into disrepute
- If an organisation has been found to be carrying out any unlawful activities

Applicants refused member status can appeal the decision by writing to the Chair of the Trustee Board of Community People who will arrange for the matter to be considered in accordance with the Complaints Policy.

Existing members who have been advised that their membership is to be withdrawn can appeal the decision by writing to the Chair of the Trustee Board of Community People, who will arrange for the matter to be raised before the full Trustee Board.

Version Control

To be reviewed every three years – March 2028

Version Number	Date of Update	Amendments	Owner
2.0	03/25	Policy reviewed	CEO; Exec
1.0	9/16	Date First Published	