

SEEDS CONSTITUTION

1. NAME

The name of the organisation is SEEDS (Survivors Empowering and Educating Domestic Abuse Services), hereinafter called SEEDS.

2. AREA

The Organisation will focus its work in the Devon area

3. OBJECTS

The aims of the organisation are :

- 3.1 To raise awareness of domestic abuse and its consequences for women and children
- 3.2 To be a representative voice to the key agencies in Devon on Survivor views.
- 3.3 To support women who have experienced domestic abuse.
- 3.4 To empower women to move forward in their lives.
- 3.5 To review and monitor the findings from the original SEEDS report (November 2005).
- 3.6 To continue to identify where services need improvement and where there are gaps in services.
- 3.7 To work with the statutory sector in improving the delivery of services for women and children and experiencing domestic abuse.
- 3.8 To provide relevant information for local services.
- 3.9 To act as a model for other survivor groups.
- 3.10 To continue to identify opportunities for research and evaluation and learning opportunities for women

4. ANCILLARY POWERS

In furtherance of SEEDS objectives, SEEDS shall have the following powers:

- 4.1 To raise and manage funds for further work identified by the group to achieve the objects
- 4.2 To hire premises, provide equipment and engage staff
- 4.3 To expend money received from any source to do all such other things as appear to the committee to be necessary to pursue the objects

5. MEMBERSHIP

- 5.1 Full membership of SEEDS shall be open to any woman who is a survivor of domestic abuse.
- 5.2 Full members of SEEDS shall have the right to vote at meetings and to stand for election to the committee
- 5.3 Membership of SEEDS shall be by invitation, recommendation or referral.
- 5.4 Associate Membership shall be open to individuals who are supportive of the aims of the organisation. Associate members do not have the right to vote or stand for election to committee but can be co-opted in accordance with clause 6.4
- 5.5 Unless otherwise decided by the committee, no subscription shall be payable for membership.
- 5.6 A register of members will be kept by the secretary.
- 5.7 All applications for membership (full or associate) must be approved by the committee.
- 5.8 The committee shall have the right to terminate the membership of an individual member provided that the member shall have the right to be heard by the committee before a decision is made.**

6. THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- 6.1 The business of SEEDS shall be conducted by a management committee (hereinafter called the committee) which shall meet not less than 6 times a year.
- 6.2 The committee shall comprise :
- Chairperson
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - and up to 6 other members elected by the membership
- 6.3 Committee members shall serve for a period of 1 (one) year after which time they shall be eligible for re-election.
- 6.4 In addition the committee may co-opt further members provided that the number of co-optees shall not exceed one third of the total number of committee members

7. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- 7.1 Once each calendar year, SEEDS shall hold an Annual General Meeting, being not more than fifteen months after the adoption of this constitution and thereafter the holding of the preceding Annual General Meeting.
- 7.2 Written notice shall be sent to every member not less than 21 days before the meeting
- 7.3 The business of each Annual General Meeting shall be: -
- a. to receive the annual report of the management committee
 - b. to receive the annual accounts
 - c. to elect the honorary officers and representatives of the ordinary members to serve on the management committee in accordance with clause 6.2 above.
 - d. to consider and vote on any proposals to alter this constitution
 - e. to consider any other business of which due notice has been given.

8 SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

On receipt of a written request, giving reasons for the request and signed by no less than one third of voting members, the Chair of the management committee shall call a Special General Meeting to consider the business specified on the notice of the meeting and for no other purpose. At least 14 days written notice shall be given of a Special General Meeting.

9 MEETINGS PROCEDURE

9.1 Quorum

- The quorum at any General Meeting shall be one third of the voting membership
- The quorum for any Management Committee meeting shall be four members.

9.2 Voting

Decisions at any meeting of SEEDS shall be decided by a simple majority. Voting will be by a show of hands. No member will have more than one vote but in the case of an equality of votes the Chairperson shall have a second or casting vote.

10 FINANCE

- a) Any money received shall be paid into the account of XX at the XX branch of the XX bank.
- b) The Management Committee shall authorise the Treasurer and two other members of the committee to sign cheques on behalf of SEEDS. All cheques must be signed by no less than two of the three authorised signatories.
- c) No member of the management committee shall derive any financial benefit from the group, other than the payment of reasonable expenses .

11 ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

11.1 Any alterations to this constitution shall require the approval of a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at the General Meeting at which it is discussed. Any resolution for the alteration of the constitution must be received by the secretary at least 14 days before the meeting at which the resolution is to be brought forward.

12 DISSOLUTION OF SEEDS

SEEDS may only be dissolved by a special general meeting, called for that purpose and advertised at least 14 days in advance. A proposal to dissolve SEEDS shall only take effect if agreed by two-thirds of the members present. All funds, documents and possessions belonging and relating to SEEDS shall be disposed of according to the wishes of the meeting.

THIS CONSTITUTION WAS ADOPTED AS THE CONSTITUTION OF SEEDS AT A MEETING HELD AT

Signed: _____(Chairperson)

Signed: _____(Secretary)