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About Your Network

'Your Network' ("YN") is a membership of independent not-for-profit learning disability organisations, many of which operate using the Mencap brand. The purpose of Your Network is to assist its members (Network Partners) to work together to improve the lives of people with a learning disability and their families, and to achieve the vision of a world where people with a learning disability in the UK are valued equally, listened to and included.

To join Your Network

For your organisation to join the network you will need to meet the eligibility criteria outlined below.

Eligibility

YN Membership is open to any independent not-for-profit learning disability organisation that provides a service to people with a learning disability and can satisfy the membership criteria. This includes charities, co-ops and friendly societies, operational units of public bodies, community interest companies and other social enterprises.

YN membership criteria – Our criteria is the following:

- your organisation operates within the UK (England, Wales or Northern Ireland)
- if you are a Community Interest Company, your aims, objectives and methods of working should be stated in a document that is available for public inspection.
- your charitable or organisational objectives will primarily focus on providing services or support to people with a learning disability
- your organisation complies with relevant legal and regulatory requirements, holds sufficient insurance and has the relevant policies and procedures in places (i.e. a complaints procedure)
- your organisation will be open to share and collaborate with other organisations

How we will consider applications

When considering applications, we will take into account the following factors:

- the length of time your organisation has been in operation and your financial situation. Membership will generally be open to organisations which are properly constituted or working towards being properly constituted, and whose existence is not time limited for a particular purpose
- the extent to which your organisation provides a benefit to those individuals with a learning disability
- if your organisations is undertaking party political activity. (If your organisation is you will not be eligible.)

Mencap branded criteria

In addition to becoming a member of Your Network you can become a Mencap branded organisation. In order to do this, you will need to satisfy the criteria in the Mencap Trademark licensing agreement. In summary, you will need to be able to demonstrate that;

- you will only use the Trademark in England, Wales and Northern Ireland
- you will use the associated logo and branding in the agreed way
- you will not use the Trademark in any way that could bring Mencap in to disrepute

We also expect all our partners to subscribe to the following values:

Inclusive

People with a learning disability are at the heart of everything you do

Trustworthy

When we promise something, we don't let people down

Caring

We treat everyone with respect and kindness

Challenging

When we see things that aren't fair we will campaign until we see real change

Positive

We never stop believing in a better future and we celebrate what we are proud of now

NOTES:

1. We place greater emphasis on what an organisation does and how it does it than on how it is constituted. Accordingly, applications are welcome from all types of organisations, whether in the voluntary or public sectors. This includes charities, co-ops and friendly societies, operational units of public bodies, community interest companies and other social enterprises.
2. For the purposes of your initial application we ask you to confirm that you have read the eligibility criteria and to declare that you comply. We may ask you to provide evidence of compliance at a later stage eg we may ask you to give us sight of any policies or procedures relating to complaints. If you cannot satisfy all of the criteria or are uncertain about whether you comply please do [contact us](#) for guidance. We will be happy to help.

Royal Mencap Society reserves the right to refuse membership to any organisation it believes to be ineligible, the decision by Royal Mencap Society will be final.