

## SP14 FUNDRAISING AND ETHICS POLICY

Policy Number	SP14
Policy Name	Fundraising Donations and Ethics Policy
Issue Date	May 2024
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Owner	Fundraising Manager
Reviewing Body	Board of Trustees

Version	Amendments	Date	Initials	Publish on Website?
0.0	Original	October 2020	CB	Yes
1.1	3 year review minor amends	October 2023/May 2024	CB/BOT	Yes

### 1.0 Purpose

Autism Unlimited (or ‘the charity’) is dedicated to supporting children, adults and families living with autism. Fundraised monies and donations are integral to achieving our funding aims. We ensure that there is no conflict between raising additional voluntary income and our values, aims and objectives or funding received from statutory sources.

We aim to develop and maintain a broad base of different sources of funding whilst adhering to the Fundraising Regulator’s Code of Fundraising Practice, and ensuring that the ethics and ethos of the charity are not compromised or diminished in any way.

Staff and volunteers alike will follow the principles of this policy and accompanying procedures and guidelines to ensure that our fundraising behaviours remain consistent. Maintaining consistency in our approach will help to encourage, maintain and develop relationships of benefit to the charity and the people we support.

### 2.0 Scope

This policy will apply to all members of staff, volunteers and trustees; anyone that Autism Unlimited contracts to support fundraising; as well as individuals and / or organisations intending to fundraise or donate funds to the charity.

### 3.0 Fundraising Ethics

We actively seek opportunities to work with external organisations and individuals to achieve shared objectives. Our Fundraising Donations and Ethics Policy aims to maintain our independence and aims to protect against any external partnerships bringing our name or reputation into disrepute.

We therefore accept financial support from and work in partnership with companies and individuals subject to the following conditions:

- Strong grounds exist for believing that the partnership will result in a benefit to the charity and its service users.

- , CEO Trustees and Head of Marketing are satisfied that adequate steps have been taken to ensure that there is low risk of adverse publicity in result from such support.
- There is no attempt on the part of any company or individual to influence charity policy or actions explicitly or implicitly.
- Initiatives do not compromise the independent status of the charity.
- No individual or group of service users is exploited either directly or indirectly by the fundraising activity.

#### **4. Marketing: affinity marketing and product/service endorsements**

Autism Unlimited does not endorse or approve products or services of any company unless this is part of a defined “autism friendly” initiative. A statement to this effect will be included alongside any branding or promotion associated with products and even where an opinion of Autism Unlimited endorsement has been assumed (either accurately or inaccurately) the sponsorship and/or support received from the organisation/individual can be freely terminated by the charity without notice.

We will not promote any products or services knowingly linked with anything irrelevant to or in opposition of our ethics.

Autism Unlimited will do everything it its power to protect data belonging to our stakeholders, fundraising partners and donors adhering to UK Data Protection regulations and the Code of Fundraising Practice. Access to our supporter database will not be shared under any circumstances.

#### **5. Avoidance Criteria**

Autism Unlimited may decline to accept financial support or enter into partnerships with companies involved with but not limited to the following:-

- Sale or production of pornographic materials.
- Sale or production of goods that could be interpreted to be in conflict with the image of the charity.
- An individual and/or organisation whose reputation has been brought into disrepute via the public domain or media.
- A politically, racially or religiously motivated individual and/or organisation whose ethics clearly oppose those of the charity.

#### **6. Acceptance Criteria**

When deciding to accept any particular donation, the Fundraising Manager, Head of Marketing, CEO and Trustees have a duty to be prepared to demonstrate to the Charity Commission that they have acted in the best interests of the charity. Further, the Board will ensure that any association with a particular donor does not compromise Autism Unlimited’s ethical position, harm its reputation or put future funding at risk.

The charity complies with all relevant legislation and with applicable provisions including but not limited to; the, the Data Protection Act 2018, the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, Terrorism Act 2000, Bribery Act 2010 and Money Laundering Regulations 2007 and all amending legislation.

Examples of financial donations or other offers of support we would therefore decline are listed below:

- Was known to be associated with criminal sources.
- Would help further the donor's personal objectives, which conflict with those of the Autism Unlimited.
- Would lead to possible decline in support and so risk a fall in funding for our cause.
- Would otherwise significantly damage our reputation.
- Would harm relationships with partners, donors or stakeholders.

## **7. Monitoring**

The Executive will receive regular reports about fundraising and donations. These will include details of any instances where donations or offers of fundraising which may need to be approved or declined and which will be escalated to Trustees as necessary.

## **8.0 Review**

Triennial