Insert Name/Logo of Organisation here

**Compliments, Complaints and Comments**

**Policy & Procedure**

**Policy Statement**

Insert name of organisation here aims to provide all its users with the best possible service at all times. It is important to us that people are able to express their views and experiences of the services we provide. These can be both good and bad. If we know what your experience is, we can build on what we are doing well and introduce changes where they are needed. If you are unhappy with your experience we also need to know. This will help us improve our services for all who use them. You might want to complain, give us a compliment or make some comments about the service you have experienced.

**A compliment is…**

….. telling us about a service you received that you are particularly pleased with. We can then pass on your appreciation to our staff/volunteers.

**A complaint is…**

….. telling us when you are unhappy with a service you receive or the way you feel you were treated by Insert name of organisation here.

We are keen to ensure that everyone who has contact with us has a positive experience. Sometimes a complaint can be the catalyst for change. When a complaint is upheld we will review our service ensuring that where possible and appropriate we involve the complainant in the review process.

**A comment is…**

…. giving us your point of view about the services we provide. Your information can help us consider how we deliver our services and may help us make changes that will benefit everyone.

**Who can complain?**

Anyone who receives a service or enquires about a service can use this procedure. Or you may prefer to have someone complain on your behalf. This could be a friend, employer, or support worker who can speak on your behalf.

**What can I complain about?**

* We have failed to give you access to information or have given you incorrect advice or information.
* We have not treated you politely.
* We have discriminated against you or not treated you fairly.
* We have not responded to you within appropriate timescales.

**What you cannot complain about**

You may be disappointed with the advice or information given, but you cannot use the complaints procedure to complain about information and advice if it is correct and appropriate at the time it was given.

**MAKING A COMPLIMENT, COMPLAINT OR COMMENT**

**How to make a comment or compliment**

We welcome comments, compliments and suggestions as these can help us improve our services. Please send them to insert contact details here. We hope that you will always be satisfied with our service and look forward to receiving your comments. If we get it right or wrong we would like to know.

**How to make a complaint**

There are three stages in the Insert name of organisation here complaints procedure.

**Stage One:**

If you are not happy with the service you have received, please contact our name of team/person and insert method and insert contact details. The manager responsible for the service you have received will try to put things right in the first instance, and we would hope to settle complaints as quickly as possible in this way. Please let us know at the time if there is anything we need to know about how to contact you (for example, if you would like us to reply by text phone or on audio tape).

Within 5 working days of receiving your complaint we will phone or write to you to say that we have received it. We will also tell you how to contact the person who is dealing with your complaint and when you can expect a reply.

**Stage Two:**

If you are not satisfied with the response you receive, you can take this further by contacting the Chair of the Board of Trustees/Management Committee, by letter or email. The address is

Please state

* What happened
* When it happened
* Who dealt with you
* What you would like us to do to put things right.

If you cannot make your complaint in writing, please contact us via telephone on xxxxxx Please let us know at the time of making your complaint if there is anything we need to know about how to contact you (for example, if you would like us to reply by text phone or on audio tape).

The Board of Trustees/Management Committee will undertake to investigate the circumstances leading to the complaint and take steps to put the matter right.

You will receive a reply to your complaint within 10 working days. If they cannot give you a full response at this time, they will tell you why and when you are likely to receive it. This should be within a reasonable time. If they don’t respond within ? months, they must notify you in writing and explain the reason for the delay.

The response to the complaint should:

* give an explanation of how the complaint was looked at
* say what the conclusions are, including any action that’s needed to sort out the problem
* confirm that any action needed has been taken or will be taken

This will be the final stage in the Insert name of organisation here Complaints Procedure, but this does not affect your right to approach your local Citizens Advice Bureau or seek legal advice.

Records of complaints, including details of our investigation and our findings, will be kept until the case is closed.

**Further Information**

If you use our complaints procedure, you are agreeing that we can use any personal information you send us for the purposes connected with your complaint. We may also give your personal information to other people and organisations if we have to by law or if you have given us permission.

WVA DISCLAIMER

This good practice model policy is produced by Warrington Voluntary Action for you to adapt to suit the needs of your organisation. Please note that we do not accept any liability for how it is used.