

Complaints Policy

1. Introduction

Whilst we make every effort to meet peoples' expectations, circumstances may arise where an individual has a concern and wishes to bring this to our attention. We will take all reasonable steps to resolve the situation in everyone's best interests.

For very serious concerns, such as individual's safety or wellbeing being placed at immediate risk, take such action as is appropriate. For example, by calling the emergency services. In any such instance Lisa Conner is to be advised by contacting Lisa@adhdadultuk.onmicrosoft.com. If you are unsure what to do, please contact Lisa Conner.

2. Informal Complaints

Anyone who has a concern should initially raise this with a member of our team at the time, as this enables us to respond and deal with an issue quickly.

Any member of the team, who is made aware of a concern, should advise Laura Lenox. We will seek to resolve this and meet any reasonable expectations the individual may have, ideally to their satisfaction. If unable to, make a note of:

- The complainant's name and contact details, unless they are unwilling to provide these.
- The nature of their concern and anything that they wished to be done about it.
- The circumstances surrounding the complaint, including when, where any action that was taken and the details of others who were present/involved.

Advise the complainant that their concern will be passed to Lisa Conner.

3. Formal Complaints

Where an individual wishes to make a formal complaint, they should write to, or email:

Lisa Conner: Lisa@adhdadultuk.onmicrosoft.com

To help resolve the complaint as quickly and effectively as possible, the individual making the complaint should do so as soon as possible and should include in it:

- Name, organisation (if relevant), address, telephone number and e-mail.
 - If you do not wish to be contacted in a particular way, please let us know and we will of course respect this.
- As much information as possible, such as what happened, where, when (date/time), who was present and any action taken, and by whom.
- What it is you felt to be unsatisfactory.
- What you believe should be done to address your concern.

Receipt will be acknowledged, if possible, within 2 working days. The complaint will then be investigated. The Investigating Officer will have the relevant knowledge and experience to consider the issue objectively and fully. If necessary, specialist advice will be sought. Where clarification or further information is felt to be necessary, the Investigating Officer will contact the person complaining to request this.

On completion of their investigation, the Investigating Officer will submit a written report with recommendations to the Board of Trustees for review. A response will be sent within 14 working days. If this is not possible, a holding reply will be sent after 14 days advising when we estimate the investigation will be completed. The complaint response will explain our findings and what action we will be taking/have taken, subject to the constraints of the Data Protection Act, which will almost certainly not allow us to disclose sensitive personal information.

If the complainant is not satisfied with the response, they may appeal the decision to the Board of Trustees, by writing to the Chair:

Personal for: laura@adhdadultuk.onmicrosoft.com

The appeal should be specific about why the individual feels the decision made was wrong and provide the facts and information necessary to demonstrate this.

A decision will be notified within 28 days and will be final.

4. Wider Action

Irrespective of the outcome of any complaint, the Board of Trustees or Investigating Officer is to consider if there is any requirement in respect of wider action and/or statutory reporting to the Charity Commission, H&SW Executive, other regulator, or the Police.

Consideration is also to be given to whether any changes should be made to policies, procedures, training etc to see if anything might reasonably be done to prevent a similar issue arising in future.

5. Complaints Against the Trustees

Complaints about any member of the Board of Trustees are to be sent to the Chair, using the contact details above.

Letters addressed this way will be passed unopened to the chair. The formal complaints process above will be followed and the deadlines met, if possible. However, as Trustees are volunteers and most have busy jobs, investigating and responding to a complaint may take slightly longer.

6. Anonymous Complaints

Anonymous complaints will be recorded and any facts available looked in to. However, in doing so we will be mindful that anonymous complaints can sometimes be malicious. Everyone involved in our work, even incidentally, has a right to complain and we will hold anyone accountable but, equally, individuals have a right to be protected from unsubstantiated and, potentially, malicious allegations.

Consequently, anyone wishing to complain is strongly encouraged to provide the information requested above and their contact details. This will also allow us to advise them of the outcome.

7. Volunteer Complaints

Issues raised internally by volunteers are to be dealt with contacting the Chair using the details above.

8. Potential Financial Claims

If a complaint may potentially result in a claim for compensation, such as damage or loss to property, or personal issue, our insurers are to be notified.

9. Confidentiality

The complaint will be treated as confidential and any communication on this issue, including responding to the complainant, will be subject to compliance with the Data Protection Act.

10. Availability

This policy is to be available to everyone (hosted on the charity website) and given to anyone who advises that they wish to submit a complaint.

11. Recording of Complaints

Minor complaints do not need to be recorded, as long as these are satisfactorily resolved, but the details of any unresolved and all significant or damaging complaints are to be recorded in the Complaints Log held by the Secretary.

The Complaints Log is to be reviewed by the Secretary and reported to the Board of Trustees at each meeting.

Serious complaints are to be reported to the Chair. Although not exhaustive, complaints about any of the following would always be treated as serious:

- Risk of serious injury or harm.
- Discriminatory behaviour, such as sexism, racism or homophobia.
- Bullying or sexual harassment.
- Substantive breaches of safety, such as H&SW or safeguarding procedures.
- Substantive data protection breaches.
- Fraud or other criminal acts.
- Any complaint against an individual that falls within our definition of gross misconduct.