**Ability Shetland: Trustees code of conduct**

**1. Scope and Purpose**

**Ability Shetland** expects its staff members to behave in a professional and sympathetic manner. The organisation looks to its Trustees to display exemplary behaviour befitting of the image of **Ability Shetland** in its dealing with the public, potential funders and its clients.

Being a member of the Board therefore holds responsibilities and **Ability Shetland** expects that its Trustees will uphold the standards and values of the organisation.

**2. Selflessness**

The trustees of **Ability Shetland** have a general duty to act in the best interests of **Ability Shetland** as a whole. They should not do so to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their friends or the organisation they represent, if applicable.

**3. Integrity**

The trustees of **Ability Shetland**:

* should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence them in the performance of their role
* should, as well as avoiding actual impropriety, avoid any appearance of improper behaviour
* should avoid accepting gifts and hospitality that might reasonably be thought to influence their judgement

**4. Objectivity**

In carrying out their role, including making staff and trustee appointments, awarding contracts or transacting other business, the trustees of **Ability Shetland** should ensure that decisions are made solely on merit.

**5. Accountability**

The trustees of **Ability Shetland**:

* have a duty to comply with the law on all occasions in accordance with the trust placed in them and in such a way as to preserve public confidence in **Ability Shetland.**
* are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public, funders and service users and must submit themselves to scrutiny as appropriate to their role.

**6. Openness**

The trustees of **Ability Shetland:**

* should ensure that confidential material, including that about individuals, is handled with due care
* should be as open as possible about their decisions and the action they take and give reasons for their decisions and restrict access to information only when the wider interest clearly demands

**7. Honesty**

The trustees of **Ability Shetland**

* have a duty to declare any interests relating to their trustee role and to take steps to resolve any conflicts that may arise
* must resolve any conflict between his/her private interests and his/her trustee duties in favour of the trustee role
* must make relevant declarations of interest in their different roles both within and outside **Ability Shetland**

**8. Leadership**

The trustees of **Ability Shetland**:

* should promote and support the principles of leadership by example
* must respect the role of staff and volunteers