



# POLICY – CAMPAIGNS AND POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

## ST MADOC OF FERNS COMMUNITY GROUP

REGISTERED CHARITY 1204104

### 1. Legal Framework, Advice and Definitions

The Charity Commission includes in its guidance for charities on campaigns and political activities the following:

- campaigning and political activity can be legitimate and valuable activities for charities to undertake however, political campaigning, or political activity, as defined in this guidance, must be undertaken by a charity only in the context of supporting the delivery of its charitable purposes.
- charities can campaign for a change in the law, policy or decisions where such change would support the charity's purposes. Charities can also campaign to ensure that existing laws are observed.
- in the political arena, a charity must stress its independence and ensure that any involvement it has with political parties is balanced. A charity must not give support or funding to a political party, nor to a candidate or politician.
- a charity may give its support to specific policies advocated by political parties if it would help achieve its charitable purposes. However, trustees must not allow the charity to be used as a vehicle for the expression of the political views of any individual trustee or staff member
- as with any decision they make, when considering campaigning and political activity charity trustees must carefully weigh up the possible benefits against the costs and risks in deciding whether the campaign is likely to be an effective way of furthering or supporting the charity's purposes.
- when campaigning, charity trustees must comply not only with charity law, but other civil and criminal laws that may apply. Where applicable they should also comply with the Code of the Advertising Standards Authority.

### 2. Scope

This policy covers all activities relating to the charity undertaken by trustees, volunteers and staff. It does not cover activities relating to personal beliefs outside the work undertaken by or on behalf of the charity.

### 3. Policy on Campaigns and Political Activities

Where appropriate, and within the charity's charitable purpose, the charity may choose to engage in political dialogue. It will not endorse or renounce political parties. It will not promote a particular candidate or political party, and it will not provide money or other resources to anyone who is standing as a candidate. The charity will not promote the political views of any one trustee, volunteer or member of staff. The hire of the building by any third-party is at the discretion of the trustees and must comply with our hiring policy.

### 4. Further Guidance

Charity Commission information and guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/speaking-out-guidance-on-campaigning-and-political-activity-by-charities-cc9/speaking-out-guidance-on-campaigning-and-political-activity-by-charities#checklist>