

## Hastings Voluntary Action Membership Criteria

Membership of Hastings Voluntary Action is open to all voluntary and community groups who are working for the benefit of people in the Hastings area and whose commitment to equal opportunities is consistent with HVA's statement of values and equal opportunities. Membership reflects the diversity of the voluntary and community sector and includes groups working in the fields of health and social welfare, environment, arts, leisure, education, community action and self-help.

Member organisations must:

- Have a clearly defined purpose
- Be a not-for-profit organisation (e.g. charity, community group, social enterprises etc.).
- Have an appropriate governing document
- Have a decision-making committee
- Have a bank account in the name of the organisation, and at least two people authorise any transaction (if holding funds)
- Have a commitment to equal opportunities
- Work for the benefit of people in the Hastings area

Membership is not open to any group or organisation which can be demonstrated to have aims and objectives relating to party politics.

## Community Interest Companies, Social Enterprises and Companies Limited by Guarantee

We will accept applications from social enterprises, CICs and Companies Limited by Guarantee carrying out activities which are charitable.

However, in addition to the membership requirements listed above, these organisations must have:

- A minimum of three unrelated directors, the majority of whom are not paid either as directors or for delivering the activities of the organization (if some are related there must be at least three who are not)
  - A majority of non-executive directors approving the salaries and benefits of any paid directors, which should be reasonable and proportionate to the work they do and the financial position of the organisation
  - An asset lock body (in the case of CICs) with objectives which are charitable and similar to the CIC
- If you are unsure whether your organisation meets these criteria, contact HVA.