Fundraising Ethics Policy

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CEO	January 2028

Signed by : Juliet Diener

Purpose

This policy outlines how icandance approaches fundraising in a way that protects our integrity, maintains public trust, and supports our mission to serve children and young people with disabilities and their families through creative, therapeutic community work. icandance fundraises through various streams including events, JustGiving, applications to trusts and foundations, corporate giving, payroll giving, donation requests and monthly donations. icandance manages JustGiving and CAF donation pages, and icandance is registered with the Fundraising Regulator.

Terminology

Donors
Individuals, groups or organisations who give money, goods or services voluntarily, without expecting anything in return beyond appropriate acknowledgement. Their support is usually philanthropic and not tied to specific conditions.

Funders
Organisations or bodies, such as trusts, foundations, local authorities or corporate partners, that provide grants or contracted funding. Their contributions often come with agreed terms, reporting requirements or conditions on how the funds must be used.

Our Commitment

We are committed to fundraising that is:

- Respectful of our supporters and beneficiaries
- Transparent in how we raise and use funds
- Accountable to our community and donors
- Ethical in all practices and partnerships

Key Principles

- No one at icandance should use their position for personal gain or to benefit others at the charity's expense.
- We retain full control over the content and delivery of our activities and services.
- All gifts, donations, or sponsorships are subject to due diligence and must align with our values and mission.
- Sponsorships must be transparent, documented, and appropriate to the occasion.

Fundraising Practices

- Follow the law and the **Code of Fundraising Practice**
- Comply with icandance policies on safeguarding, equality, health and safety, and whistleblowing
- Declare any conflicts of interest to the Executive Leadership Team or Fundraising Leadership
- Understand that icandance may decline any donation if its source is deemed inconsistent with our ethical standards or poses a risk to the integrity of the organisation
- All donations are recorded accurately in our internal fundraising systems
- Different levels of documentation are required depending on the size and nature of the donation
- Higher-value or unusual donations receive enhanced verification to ensure they align with our organisational values
- Records are kept securely and in line with data protection requirements
- Donation information is reviewed periodically to maintain transparency and accountability
- icandance is committed to ensuring that fundraising activity does not exploit individuals who may be in vulnerable circumstances. Staff and volunteers must take care to recognise signs of vulnerability and respond appropriately.
- If a gift to icandance exceeds the value of £250, it will be brought to the attention of Executive Leadership Team for review.

Fundraising communications must:

- Be honest, clear and accurate in all representations
- Explain transparently how donations will be used, ensuring supporters understand their impact
- Respect the dignity, rights and privacy of the people we support, avoiding any language or imagery that could be harmful or exploitative
- Reflect the requirements of each funder/ donor, including how funds are acknowledged, publicised and reported on

Donors and potential donors have the right to:

- Receive clear information about our mission and how funds will be used
- Request our latest financial statements and this policy
- Remain anonymous if they wish
- Access and correct their donor records
- Have their data protected in line with data protection laws
- Make a complaint and have it handled fairly and promptly

Accepting Donations

We welcome support from a wide range of individuals and organisations. However, we will only accept donations that:

- Clearly benefit icandance and align with our charitable objectives
- Can be used as the donor intends, within our operational capacity
- Do not compromise our independence, reputation, or values

We will not accept donations from sources that:

- Seek to exert inappropriate influence
- Could deter other supporters
- Pose a reputational risk
- Are suspected to be linked to illegal activity (e.g. fraud, money laundering)
- If a donation raises concerns for any reason, it may be reviewed and its acceptance reconsidered at the discretion of the Executive Leadership Team and the Board of Trustees

Responsibilities and Oversight

- Donations above £250 will be received with scrutiny. New donations will be reviewed by the Executive Leadership Team.
- Ongoing relationships will be reviewed if concerns arise.
- High-value, highly visible or high-risk proposals will be reviewed by the Executive Leadership Team and approved by the Board of Trustees.

Financial Accountability

- All donations will be used to support our mission.
- Restricted donations will be used as agreed with the donor. If changes are needed, we will consult the donor or their legal representative.
- If the donor is unreachable (for example deceased or legally incompetent), we will use the funds in a way that best reflects their original intent.
- Our financial records are subject to regular internal and external review.
- Large donations/donors are published in our annual accounts.

This policy will be reviewed every three years by Executive Leadership Team and the Board of Trustees, or sooner if required by changes in regulation or organisational practice.