Ethical Fundraising Policy

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Approved by	Board of Trustees
Related policies or procedures	

1. Purpose and scope

This policy sets out how The National Organisation for FASD ensures its fundraising is ethical, legal and aligned with its mission and values. It applies to all staff, trustees, volunteers, and third parties who fundraise for, or on behalf of, the organisation.

2. Principles

All fundraising must be:

- **Legal** – complying with all relevant law, regulation and guidance (including the Code of Fundraising Practice, Charity Commission/OSCR guidance, data protection, anti-money-laundering and the Bribery Act 2010).
- **Honest and transparent** – truthful in all communications; clear about who is asking, for what purpose, and how funds will be used.
- **Respectful** – treating donors, beneficiaries and the public with dignity, protecting privacy and not pressuring anyone to give.
- **Child- and rights-focused**: decisions will put the best interests of children and young people first and reflect relevant rights instruments (e.g. UNCRC).

3. Acceptance and refusal of donations

Trustees have a duty to act in the organisation's best interests and may accept or refuse a donation on that basis.

The organisation will only accept funding that:

- Supports or is consistent with its charitable purposes;
- Does not compromise its independence, integrity or reputation;
- Does not give a donor undue influence over strategic decisions, policies or activities.

The organisation may decline or return funding from individuals or organisations where:

- There is credible evidence of activities that conflict with its mission, values or safeguarding standards (for example, exploitation, abuse, serious human-rights violations or harmful products/practices affecting children or vulnerable people);
- The association is likely to cause significant harm to beneficiaries or serious and lasting damage to the organisation's reputation or ability to campaign;
- Acceptance would be inconsistent with this policy or relevant regulator guidance.

A clear decision-making route (e.g. CEO and at least one trustee, or a board subcommittee) will be used for higher-risk or contentious donations, and reasons for decisions will be recorded.

4. Due diligence

Reasonable and proportionate checks will be carried out before accepting significant donations, corporate partnerships or other high-risk income, to understand:

- The donor's main activities and sources of income;
- Any serious legal, regulatory or ethical concerns;
- Any potential conflicts with the organisation's mission, values or policies.

The level of due diligence will be proportionate to the size and type of support and the perceived level of risk.

5. Independence and influence

Funding relationships must not:

- Restrict the organisation's ability to speak out independently on issues affecting its beneficiaries;
- Require it to endorse products, policies or positions that conflict with its evidence base or values;
- Be framed in a way that could mislead the public about who is responsible for its policy positions or advocacy.

Any partnership agreements with funders will make clear that editorial and strategic control rest with the organisation.

6. Safeguarding and fundraising with/around children and vulnerable people

All fundraising involving or directed at children, young people or adults at risk will follow the organisation's safeguarding policies and relevant specialist guidance on fundraising with children and young people. This includes:

- Assessing and managing risks in events or activities;
- Ensuring participation is voluntary and appropriate;
- Providing information in accessible formats.

7. Use of funds and reporting

All funds raised will be used for the purposes stated when the donation was solicited, or for closely related purposes where this is clearly explained to donors.
The organisation will:

- Keep accurate records of income and its application;
- Report openly on its funding sources and fundraising costs in annual reports and other public materials, in line with regulator requirements.

8. Working with third-party fundraisers and platforms

Any third parties (agencies, community fundraisers, online platforms) raising funds in the organisation's name must:

- Comply with this policy and the Code of Fundraising Practice;
- Be clearly identified to donors;

- Have appropriate contracts and monitoring in place so their conduct meets the organisation’s standards.

9. Roles, responsibilities and review

- Trustees are responsible for approving this policy and overseeing its implementation.
- Senior staff are responsible for ensuring procedures and training are in place so fundraisers can apply it in practice.
- The policy will be reviewed at least every three years, or sooner if there are significant changes in law, regulation or the organisation’s activities.