

This document outlines how OBJECT is run and organised – from its ‘trustees’ through to volunteers.

Overview of the Structure

OBJECT has to maintain a ‘hierarchy’ in order to run smoothly, quickly and effectively. This is outlined below. However, we are not a ‘hierarchical’ organisation in terms of our outlook – and believe one of the reasons for our success is the inclusive ethos that we aspire to.

So we welcome input, comments and suggestions from supporters at any time and some of the ways in which you can do this are outlined below.



The Constitution

The existence of a constitution and Management Committee are the most basic requirements for any charitable organisation.

The organisation’s constitution sets out our aims and ‘powers’ (how we are allowed to achieve these aims). Object’s constitution is modelled closely on the model constitutions produced by the Charity Commission.

Object’s constitution is available at :
http://www.object.org.uk/files/Object_Constitution.pdf

The Management Committee (MC)

Like most charitable organisations, Object is run by a Management Committee (sometimes know as Trustees), who cannot be paid. Their role is described below.

The Role of the Management Committee

The Management Committee has ultimate responsibility for the organisation. Its role is to ensure that the organisation is run legally and follows its own constitution. It also has a role in the policy and overall direction of the organisation and in ensuring this is appropriate to its constitution. So the MC are like 'a guiding hand' – overseeing the organisation, aware of its current work and future plans but without getting directly involved in the day-to-day running.

About Committee Members

Management Committees are generally made up of a minimum of 3 members - and typically include a Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

An ideal Committee will have a range of specialisms that are useful to the organisation. Currently Object's Committee has specialisms in management, mental health, working with parents, law and fundraising.

Becoming a member of the Management Committee

Our Committee members have always been made up of our supporters who have the time and necessary skills to get involved.

Object aims to have 6-8 MC members at any one time and aims to meet every 6-8 weeks. When vacancies arise, Object advertises for new members via the Newsletter, website and through other networks. Applications can be made by anyone who believes in the work and ethos of Object (with the exclusion of anyone paid by the organisation, such as staff).

The whole MC is 'voted in' by members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), typically held in the Autumn of each year. Outside of this time individuals can be 'co-opted' on to the MC by the existing Committee.

If you have previous MC experience, knowledge of business planning or fundraising or simply enthusiasm and some time to put in – please contact us for more details as to how you can get involved : <mailto:ido@object.org.uk>

Staff and Volunteers

Director

The director is responsible for the day to day running of Object. She, or he, oversees all projects and is a key intermediary between Staff/volunteers/supporters/members and the Management Committee. As such she manages current projects and relevant staff and reports back regularly to the Management Committee.

Other Paid Posts

Object has a Campaigns Manager, Lobbyist, Fundraiser and Membership Officer as part-time paid posts. In addition, we often make use of sessional staff – such as part-time admin help or PA support.

Volunteers

Volunteers are an invaluable resource to an organisation like OBJECT, for whom funding for paid work can be very hard to achieve. Volunteering can take the form of interns (to whom we can sometimes offer a stipend) who may take up specific, short term projects.

It also includes the dozens of activists – who input considerable time, skill and energy - into ensuring our protests and stunts (both large and small) are the incredibly successful, fun and empowering events that they are.

Membership

Membership fees are on a monthly sliding scale. Becoming a member of OBJECT is an important way to support us financially. It also helps raise our profile to decision makers, funders and others.

As a member of OBJECT you have the right to 'vote in' new, or existing members, of the Management Committee at our AGM and to approve any necessary changes to the Constitution.

The Committee has a standing invitation to OBJECT members for one person to attend MC meetings from time to time. They would attend as a representative of OBJECT members and need to report back to other members/supporters via our yahoo group or a similar network (staff can assist with this).

Who Can Join?

Anyone who believes in our goals and ethos can become a member of OBJECT. You might be an existing supporter or volunteer, or simply want to support the organisation financially without getting more involved. You might also be a representative of another organisation.

Your Views

The views of our users, our supporters and members are invaluable. So OBJECT aims to carry out a yearly 'users survey' to gain the views of its members and users and get their thoughts on current issues and possible future campaigns.

Supporters and users of our site and services can, and often do, feedback through staff or our general email address.

In addition, members can attend Management Committee meetings, can approve members of the committee at our AGM and changes to the constitution, when required.

When we have more resources we will be developing a 'Letterbox' on our site – where visitors can simply post ideas.

Our Ethos

Our ethos is to be accessible, empowering, inclusive and non judgemental– ie feminist !

We welcome all who believe in our work and the way we seek to carry it out.