

# Becoming a member: Everything you need to know...

What are  
members?

Is it free to join?



Should I be  
a member?

What do  
members do?



# What are members?

Members are people who hold some decision-making rights and responsibilities for our Charity. They are people who care about the success of Healthy Minds, and who support our mission. They are a group that **share a sense of belonging** to our Charity.

Members are not involved in managing the business of the organisation - this is the role of the **Board of Trustees** - who meet regularly to ensure resources are being used responsibly in order to meet our aims.

Nor are members involved in the day-to-day operations - this is the role of the staff and volunteer team, whose activity is overseen by the Board of Trustees.



# What do members do?

**Informally**, members will get to know what Healthy Minds' aims and mission are, and have an awareness of our activities. They might get involved in other aspects of the Charity too - for example by volunteering or fundraising (but this is not essential).

**Formally**, members collectively make decisions (through voting) about matters such as: appointing new Trustees; deciding where remaining assets should go if the Charity is wound up; and they can also decide to make changes to the Charity's governing document in order to serve the best interests of the Charity's mission.

They will put all of this into action at member meetings - usually at the **Annual General Meeting**, an opportunity for members to hear reports from the Trustees and Staff team about the Charity's business and finances.



# Who can become a member?

The criteria for becoming a member is that:

- You are over 18 years.
- You share a commitment to our vision, mission and values, and have a genuine reason for wanting to join our membership base.
- You complete our member's application form.



# Why would I want to become a member?

You might want to become a member simply **because you agree with our vision, mission and values**, and want to help Healthy Minds thrive in the future.

You might be a beneficiary of Healthy Minds, for example, you might use (or have used) our services, and want to **feel more informed about how we operate**.

You might want to feel part of the 'Healthy Minds community' - a community of people who all **care about the mental health of our local populations**.

You might want to use your voice to help Healthy Minds learn and grow, for example by **taking part in member consultations**.



# Is it free?

Yes, it is free to join.

We don't want cost to be a barrier to anyone becoming a member, so we don't ask you to pay a membership fee.

Some members want to donate to support our work, so there is the option to set up a regular 'Member's Donation' if you wish. These donations are greatly appreciated, as public donations are becoming a more important aspect of our funding in a challenging financial landscape.



# Do I have to be a member to access Healthy Minds services?

No, you do not need to be a member to use any of our services.

Our services are available to everyone in Calderdale, regardless of whether they are a member of Healthy Minds or not.

But, if you have benefitted from our services, you might be someone who cares about our organisation and wants to see it succeed, so in this way, you might be interested in being a member.



# Can organisations be members?

Yes! We welcome both individuals and organisations to become members of Healthy Minds.

**Individual** members are singular people who become members. This group of members are **able to vote** on items relating to our Charity (e.g. deciding where our remaining assets might go if we dissolved the Charity).

**Organisational** members are groups, businesses or other charities, who want to share our commitment to improving the wellbeing of people in Calderdale. This is a **non-voting** group of members, but they can still be involved in other ways, for example by supporting our work or mutually sharing resources.





# What does membership include?

Membership includes:

- Your own digital membership card.
- An exclusive quarterly members' newsletter by email.
- Our annual report & a letter from our Chief Officer once a year.
- The ability to vote at our Annual General Meeting.
- Exclusive opportunities to take part in consultations & meet the board of Trustees.
- The ability to nominate other members to become a Trustee.
- Being part of a network of members committed to improving mental health in Calderdale populations.



# What are members' responsibilities?

When you become a member, you agree to:

- Champion Healthy Minds and advocate for our mission where you can.
- Get to know our mission and long-term aims.
- Act in the best interests of our Charity (e.g. when taking part in member votes)
- Attend our Annual General Meeting (AGM), or send apologies if you can't make it.
- Update your personal details & confirm your Membership once a year (we will contact you to do this)
- Be willing to pay a sum, if needed, of up to £10 if the Charity is dissolved in the future, to contribute to any remaining costs.



# Can I choose to stop being a member?

Yes, if you would like to cease your membership of Healthy Minds, you can do so at any time by writing to us to let us know at:

**Email:** [engagement@healthymindscalderdale.co.uk](mailto:engagement@healthymindscalderdale.co.uk)

**Post:** Healthy Minds, 1 King Street, Halifax, HX1 1SR



# Where do I sign up!

To become a member, please fill out the online membership application form. You can find a link to this on our webpage:

[www.healthymindscalderdale.co.uk/membership](http://www.healthymindscalderdale.co.uk/membership)

There are separate forms depending on whether you are joining as an Individual or as an Organisational member.

Once we have your form, we will contact you to confirm your membership and send you a welcome pack!

