



Visual Art at the heart of Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin

## Visual Art Network (VAN) – Conflicts of Interest Policy

VAN Trustees recognise their legal duty to act only in the best interests of the charity and to identify and address any conflicts of interest that may arise.

For the purpose of this Policy, a conflict of interest is defined as:

Any situation in which a trustee's personal interests or loyalties could, or could be seen to, prevent them from acting or making decisions only in the best interests of the charity.

The main categories of conflicts of interest are: financial interests, conflicts of commitment, conflicts of loyalty and other trustee benefits such as property, goods or services.

Conflicts of interest might apply to the Trustee directly or to another person connected to the Trustee such as a friend or family member.

This Conflicts of Interests Policy aligns with the Seven Principles of Public Life established by the Nolan Committee, namely: Selflessness, Integrity, Objectivity, Accountability, Openness, Honesty and Leadership.

The Trustees of VAN will act in accordance with these principles at all times.

This policy provides for a three-fold approach to actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest:

**Identification and Disclosure** – VAN Trustees are required to identify and declare conflicts of interest. This will be done routinely, as a standing agenda item, at the start of Trustees meetings and should also be done at other times as conflicts arise. A Register of Conflicts of Interest will also be maintained and regularly reviewed.

**Manage the conflict** – in most cases conflicts of interest can be managed through discussion, negotiation and collaboration. This might include a Trustee with a conflict of interest being asked to leave a meeting when a particular topic is being discussed or a Trustee not having a vote on a decision where they have a conflict of interest.

**Prohibit the activity** – in some cases, where the conflict of interest is particularly serious, it may be necessary for the Trustee to desist from the activity or resign as a Trustee.

Last review date: February 2023

Next review date: February 2024