

City of Chelmsford Mencap
Annual General Meeting 2024

Special Resolution: Conversion to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Introduction

City of Chelmsford Mencap (CCM) has been providing services and support to people with a learning disability since 1951. Throughout this time, it has been registered at the Charity Commission as a “charitable association”. There are various categories of charity in the UK and the charitable association was the most common for small groups like us when CCM was first established.

Over time, new options have emerged for charitable status. Most of these recognise that charities are, in effect, small businesses and need to the same opportunities and protections as other corporate bodies. Unfortunately, the new freedoms offered to these newer types of charity have not been given to the older charities, such as us, meaning that they are governed by regulation that has not kept pace with the modern world.

Through this resolution, CCM is seeking the permission of its members to transfer to one of the current types of charity – the Charitable Incorporated Organisation, which most people refer to as a CIO for short.

Why does CCM want to change?

Becoming a CIO will help our charity operate in the same way as most others in the UK. Almost every charity set up in the last eight years is a CIO and we would like to operate under the same rules and with the same freedoms. A CIO is a corporate entity in its own right, just like a shop or a restaurant, so it can make its own decisions and plan for its future with complete independence, something that we cannot do now.

What does it mean for the members of the charity?

In terms of our services and communications, it makes no difference. The name of the charity will be unchanged as will our charitable purpose, our strategy and our commitment to our service users and members. There is no change to our staffing, our financial and banking arrangements, or the high standards of care for which we held in such high regard.

All of the changes are really “behind the scenes”. They allow the trustees, who oversee the charity on behalf of its members, to make decisions to allow the charity to grow and to operate on a level playing field with other similar UK charities.

Conclusion

This is a really important change for City of Chelmsford Mencap. Although it might feel a like something you do not need to pay attention to, the successful conversion to a new CIO will allow your charity more freedom to develop new and exciting opportunities for members and staff alike. We are one CCM Family and your “yes” vote to allow us to make those family ties even stronger.

The change to a CIO does not affect the charity’s memberships or affiliations. We will continue to be regulated by the Charity Commission for England and Wales and a network partner of Royal Mencap Society, just as we are today.

Your Board of Trustees looks forward to working on your behalf to make City of Chelmsford Mencap even better than today!

Anthony North
Chair of Trustees