

Complaints Policy

Policy approved by the Board of Trustees on: 25th January 2022

Review Date: 25th January 2024



This policy is for all people who work for us, volunteers, trustees and anybody who uses (or has used) our services.



If you work or volunteer at Lewisham Speaking Up and you are unhappy with something, you should tell someone. If you are unhappy about something your advocate or supporter has done, you should tell someone about it.



If we know about it, we can do something about it. It tells us that we need to make our service to you better.

Complaints Policy



If you have a problem with one of our services, or you are unhappy with a worker, volunteer, or trustee, this document tells you what you can do.



The steps we take will be different depending on who the problem or complaint is about.



Sometimes the problem can be sorted out quickly by talking to a Manager or to the CEO.



But sometimes it will be more serious and we will need to sort it out using a formal plan.

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If your complaint is about a Trustee on the LSU board, you can speak to or write to the **Chair of the Trustees**.



They must get back to you in writing or agree to meet with within 2 weeks. You can have a friend or supporter with you at this meeting.



If your complaint is about the Chair or co-Chair of the Trustees, you can speak to another member of the board and they must get back to you in writing or agree to meet with you within 2 weeks.

You can have a friend or supporter with you at this meeting.

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If your complaint is about a volunteer who is your advocate or a person who helps with LSU groups, then you can speak to or write to the person who supervises/supports them.



If you are not comfortable speaking to this person, you can speak to the CEO. They must get back to you in writing or agree to meet with you within 2 weeks. You can have a friend or support with you at this meeting.

If you have a complaint about a paid worker, then you can speak to the CEO and they must get back to you in writing or agree to meet you within 2 weeks. You can have a friend or supporter with you at this meeting.

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Michelle Stanistreet
Chair



Sean Phillippo
Treasurer



Ashley Thomas
Secretary



Mark Anderson
Trustee and Co-Chair



Hannah Raven
Trustee and Co-Chair



Zeldia McCollum
Trustee



Imthiaz Rehman
Trustee



Meriel Hodgson-Teall
Trustee



Robert Garlinge
Trustee

If you are still not happy or if things have not changed, you can speak to or write to the Chair of the Trustees, or another Trustee. They must get back to you in writing or agree to meet with you within 2 weeks. You can have a friend or supporter with you at this meeting.



If you need an advocate to support you with any part of making the complaint, you can contact The Manager at **Advocacy in Greenwich**: they will try and find an advocate for you

The Manager
Advocacy in Greenwich
Equitable House
7 General Gordon Square
Woolwich
London
SE18 6FH

Tel: 020 8293 3720

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In **all** cases, if the complaint is very serious and we think you or another person may be harmed, or we think a crime has happened or may happen, we have to tell Lewisham Social Care services, called 'Gateway'.



If your complaint is very serious and about someone hurting you or breaking the law, the managers of Lewisham Speaking Up will tell the police.

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Here is how you can make a complaint:



Send an email to complaints@lsup.org.uk



Contact Michelle, who is the Chair of the Trustee Board, at Chair@lsup.org.uk



Contact Will, our CEO. You can call Will on 07759 410 907 or email him at William.davies@lsup.org.uk



Here is more about our complaint policy.

Complaints Policy



- 1.0 Lewisham Speaking Up is committed to providing high quality support and services. In order to do this Lewisham Speaking Up actively seeks feedback from people who use our services, volunteers, members of the public, partner organisations and staff.
- 2.0 Lewisham Speaking Up does recognise that there may be occasions when people may be dissatisfied with the service they have received. In these circumstances the person concerned will be made aware of the complaints policy.
- 3.0 As part of this commitment it is the responsibility of all staff and the Board of Trustees to raise awareness of the existence of the Complaints Policy and Procedure. This ensures that when individuals are dissatisfied with the work of Lewisham Speaking Up they are aware of their right to complain.
- 4.0 Lewisham Speaking Up takes all complaints made against staff, volunteers, its services, or activities seriously and views it as an opportunity to learn and develop. When a complaint has been made the complainant can expect it to be fully investigated and to be informed of the outcome.
- 5.0 Lewisham Speaking Up places great emphasis on achieving local resolution of complaints quickly and courteously.
- 6.0 Lewisham Speaking Up recognises that making a formal or informal complaint is a difficult undertaking for many people and as a result information should be provided to complainants about potential support from independent advocacy organisations, where available, to assist them through the process. Advocacy in Greenwich will support a person with a learning disability through a complaints procedure if an independent advocate is required. The independent advocate should be allowed to interview the complainant and other interested persons. They should also have

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access to case records. In all cases it should be verified that the independent person has permission to speak for the complainant.

- 7.0 Lewisham Speaking Up believes that any failure to act quickly will lead to an aggravation of the problem.
- 8.0 A complaint is defined as any expression of dissatisfaction about Lewisham Speaking Up, its activities, staff, volunteers, or Board of Trustees which requires a response. Complaints may also concern discrimination, provision of inaccurate information, delays, poor facilities, unacceptable policies or accusations of theft, physical, financial, emotional, psychological or sexual abuse.
- 9.0 It is recognised that it is up to the Complainant to decide whether and which way to proceed with the complaint.
- 10.0 Lewisham Speaking Up acknowledges that the nature of any serious complaint may result in criminal proceedings for example in the case of Health and Safety and/or where a person's safety is at risk. In such circumstances, immediate action will be taken to report it to the appropriate authorities.

Procedure

- 1.0 All beneficiaries, staff, and volunteers should be made aware of the Complaints policy.
- 2.0 The complaints procedure will differ depending on whom the complaint is made against.
- 3.0 If the Complaint is minor in nature the aim should be to resolve the issue informally to the satisfaction of the complainant by either the appropriate Line Manager or the CEO.
- 4.0 If your complaint is about a member of the Trustee Board, you can speak to or write to the Chair. They must get back to you in writing

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- or agree to meet with you within 2 weeks. You can have a friend or supporter with you at this meeting.
- 5.0 If your complaint is about the Chair of the Trustees, you can speak to another member of the Trustee Board. They must get back to you in writing or agree to meet with you within 2 weeks. You can have a friend or supporter with you at this meeting.
- 6.0 If your complaint or problem is about a volunteer who is your advocate or a person who helps with LSU groups, then you can speak to or write to the person who supervises/supports them. If you are not comfortable speaking to this person, you can speak to the CEO. They must get back to you in writing or agree to meet with you within 2 weeks. You can have a friend or support with you at this meeting.
- 7.0 If you have a problem with or a complaint about a paid worker, then you can speak to the CEO and they must get back to you in writing or agree to meet you within 2 weeks. You can have a friend or supporter with you at this meeting.
- 8.0 If you are still not happy or if things have not changed, you can speak to or write to the Chair of the Trustees, or another Trustee. They must get back to you in writing or agree to meet with you within 2 weeks. You can have a friend or supporter with you at this meeting.
- 9.0 If you need an advocate to support you with any part of making the complaint, you can contact The Manager at Advocacy in Greenwich: they will try and find an advocate for you.

The Manager
Equitable House
7 General Gordon Square
Woolwich

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London
SE18 6FH

Tel: 020 8293 3720

- 10.0 In all cases, if the complaint is very serious and we think you or another person may be harmed, or we think a crime has happened or may happen, we have to inform the Police and/or Lewisham Social Care services, which is called 'Gateway':
gateway@lewisham.gov.uk, tel: 020 314 7000.
- 11.0 All personal information or case records relating to complaints will be treated in confidence and in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act. Information will only be disclosed to those people with a need to know to enable them to investigate the complaint.
- 12.0 A copy of the Complaints Policy will be made available on the website, and a copy will be made available upon request.
- 13.0 All LSU staff and volunteers will be made aware of this policy.
- 14.0 All contact with the complainant should be courteous, respectful and polite.
- 15.0 Complainants should be assured that making a complaint will not compromise the provision of any future services or support.
- 16.0 The CEO will establish if the complainant has any kind of special needs which requires them to have additional support during the complaints process.
- 17.0 Complainants should be informed of their right to inform the Charity Commissioners of their complaint.

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- 18.0 In the case of serious complaints the CEO may need to seek legal advice.
- 19.0 The CEO will notify the Governing Body of any complaints.

Other

- 1.0 Complaints can be made by letter, phone, email or personal contact – see 9.0, page 13.
- 2.0 This procedure can be used by any person or organisation wishing to make a complaint about the work of the organisation or individual members of staff or volunteers.
- 3.0 All complaints, no matter how seemingly unimportant should be taken seriously and the member of staff receiving the complaint should seek to address the issue immediately.
- 4.0 All complaints should be recorded on the appropriate form.
- 5.0 It may be possible to resolve some more minor complaints in an informal and sensitive manner by the appropriate Manager or CEO.
- 6.0 At this stage the complainant may be satisfied that their views have been listened to and have no wish to take the matter further.
- 7.0 Following the investigation the appointed Manager will report back to the CEO. Full records of all findings should be kept securely.
- 8.0 It is hoped that the complaint will be resolved easily. However, if the complainant is not satisfied they should be informed of their right to contact the Charity Commission. They can be supported to do this by an advocate from Advocacy in Greenwich.

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9.0 Making a complaint

To make a complaint you can email complaints@lsup.org.uk . Your complaint will then be handed to the most appropriate person.

You can contact the Chair of the Trustee Board, Michelle Stanistreet, at chair@lsup.org.uk

You can contact the CEO, Will Davies, at William.davies@lsup.org.uk or phone him on 07759 410 907.

If you wish to speak to a Trustee on the Board, you can find out their names on our website: www.lsup.org.uk . If you then wish to contact them you can ask the CEO or our Admin Officer how to contact them.

Appendix 1

This form is to be used by the LSU staff member who has been told about the complaint, not by the complainant. It must be used for all complaints received.

COMPLAINTS FORM	
NAME:	
ADDRESS:	
CONTACT NO:	
DETAILS OF COMPLAINT:	
RECEIVED BY NAME:	DATE:
HOW RECEIVED:	PERSON TELEPHONE LETTER EMAIL
ACTION TAKEN:	

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COMPLAINT RECORDED: DIRECTOR NOTIFIED: CHAIR OF TRUSTEES NOTIFIED: OTHER TRUSTEE NOTIFIED: (IF APPLICABLE)	LETTER SENT: DATE:
DOES PERSON WISH TO HAVE ANY ASSISTANCE WITH THEIR COMPLAINT Yes No	
HAS THE PERSON MAKING THE COMPLAINT BEEN INFORMED OF THEIR RIGHT TO INFORM THE CHARITY COMMISSION? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>. IF NOT, PLEASE SAY WHY NOT:	
REFERRED TO:	
COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE:	
FINAL OUTCOME:	