

Principles of Public Life

(Based on the framework suggested by the Nolan Committee)

A code of conduct for Board members ensures high standards and makes it clear how any potential conflict of interests are to be raised and dealt with. The principles described are based on the framework suggested by the Nolan Committee and they are part of the Community First model code of conduct for trustees.

1. **Selflessness** - Board Members have a general duty to act in the best interests of Community First as a whole. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other benefits for themselves, their family, their friends or the organisation they come from or represent.
2. **Integrity** – Board Members of Community First
 - Should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence them in the performance of their role
 - As well as avoiding actual impropriety, should avoid any appearance of improper behaviour
 - Should avoid accepting gifts and hospitality that might reasonably be thought to influence their judgement.
3. **Objectivity** – In carrying out their role, including making appointments (including Board member appointments), awarding contracts, recommending individuals for rewards and benefits or transacting other business, the Board members of Community First should ensure that decisions are taken solely on merit.
4. **Accountability** – The Board Members of Community First
 - Have a duty to comply with the law on all occasions in accordance with the trust placed in them and in such a way as to preserve public confidence in Community First
 - Are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public, funders and service users. They must submit themselves to what scrutiny is appropriate to their role.

5. **Openness** – The Board Members of Community First
 - Should ensure that confidential material, including material about individuals, is handled in accordance with due care
 - Should be open as possible about their decisions and action that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider interest clearly demands.

6. **Honesty** – the Board Members of Community First
 - Have a duty to declare any interests relating to their Board member role and to take steps to resolve any conflicts that may arise. Where private interests of Board members conflict with their duties, he/she must resolve this conflict in favour of the Board member's role.
 - Must make relevant declarations of interest in the different circumstances and roles they play both within and outside Community First.

7. **Leadership** – the Board Members of Community First
 - Should promote and support the principles of leadership by example
 - Must respect the role of the Community First Chief Executive. There will be circumstances under which Board Members will be working directly with CF staff. Guidelines for such working conditions must be clear to both staff and Board members and , when these occasions arise, the Chief Executive should be informed in advance.