THE NEUROLOGICAL ALLIANCE

Policy for funding relationships with third party organisations

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1. Background

1.1. The Neurological Alliance is the national coalition in England of neurological organisations. We work to strengthen the voices of people with neurological conditions, and those closest to them, with the aim of reducing unwarranted variation and improving treatment, care and support.

1.2. To further our aims, The Neurological Alliance seeks funding and support from a variety of sources in addition to the subscriptions paid by members and associates. Currently, additional income comes from unsolicited donations and from the corporate sector. You can find our latest annual report and accounts on our website for more information. We are in support of the Code of Fundraising Practice of the Chartered Institute of Fundraising, and will abide by it.

1.3. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that in seeking and securing non-member funding, the organisation has a clearly understood way of working, underpinned by high ethical principles. In particular, The Neurological Alliance will:

- Be open and transparent
- Act to further our charitable objects, and ensure that there is no compromise of the charity's independence and reputation
- Act with integrity and treat all sponsors fairly and honestly
- Act with due care and attention.

2. Key principles of working with third party organisations

2.1. Openness and transparency

2.1.1. The Neurological Alliance will disclose all sources of income and support in its annual report and accounts and make these clear on its website.

2.1.2. The Neurological Alliance will acknowledge and thank sponsors of individual projects or activities proportionately. The Neurological Alliance will

consider carefully any request to display corporate logos and avoid giving them undue prominence.

2.1.3. The Neurological Alliance will be open and transparent about its policy and influencing priorities, and how these are pursued and developed over time, with its members.

2.2. Consistency with The Neurological Alliance's charitable objects, independence and reputation

2.2.1. The Neurological Alliance's priorities and work programme are informed by what is in the interests of people affected by neurological conditions; are determined in a collaborative effort involving our member organisations; and are approved annually by the Board of Trustees. The Neurological Alliance will undertake only those activities which are consistent with our agreed priorities and work programme.

2.2.2. The Neurological Alliance welcomes financial and other material support for its work as long as funding is provided free of any conditions that might compromise The Neurological Alliance's charitable status, reputation and independence. Any support that is accepted will further The Neurological Alliance's objectives and will be judged by its potential benefit for people with neurological conditions.

2.2.3. The Neurological Alliance will retain complete editorial control of the content of its plans, policies, written outputs – including research and policy materials – and the programmes for its events and meetings.

2.2.4. The Neurological Alliance seeks a diverse funding base in the interests of financial sustainability and to avoid both dependence and the appearance of dependence on any one source.

2.2.5. The Neurological Alliance prepares its annual budget with the aim of having no more than 49% of core (unrestricted) funding from the pharmaceutical and medical device industry. This is to ensure that The Neurological Alliance maintains its independence and patient-led approach.

2.2.6. The Neurological Alliance needs to recover all its costs to ensure that it can remain a viable organisation. We will therefore favour unrestricted funding arrangements that support core costs, and will otherwise seek to recover the full overhead costs associated with specific activities.

2.2.7. Where funding is sought for particular projects or activities, The Neurological Alliance prefers to engage with more than one party. Any project funded by only one party must receive prior approval from the Board of Trustees before funding is accepted and/or the project commences.

2.2.8. The Neurological Alliance will not endorse or promote products or services provided by non- member funders or supporters, or lobby for their commercial interests, and will seek to avoid acting so as to give the appearance of favouring any commercial interests. We will work alongside third parties on campaigns, lobbying and calls to action only where these align with The Neurological Alliance's own priorities and values.

2.2.9. The Neurological Alliance's name and logo are its property and may not be used by a funder or supporter without the explicit permission of the charity.

2.3. Integrity

2.3.1. The Neurological Alliance will not accept funding or support from any party whose activities and business practices are demonstrably unlawful or unethical.

2.3.2. The Neurological Alliance will not accept funding or support from any party whose activities are demonstrably harmful to health and wellbeing, or in other ways demonstrably harmful to the public good, in the judgment of the Board of Trustees.

2.3.3. The Neurological Alliance will expect funders or supporters to comply with their respective industry codes of practice governing funding relationships with third parties such as charities.

2.3.4. The Neurological Alliance will not disclose to funders or supporters the contact details of individuals working for or associated with its member or associate organisations, without the explicit permission of the individuals concerned.

2.3.5. The Neurological Alliance will, when providing information, insight or opportunities to support activities, take reasonable steps to ensure that such information is shared with all relevant parties at the same time.

2.4. Due care and attention

2.4.1. All proposals to accept non-member funding or support will be notified in advance to the Board of Trustees by the Chief Executive, alongside an account of the due diligence performed on the potential funder.

2.4.2. This due diligence will cover the nature, activities and reputation of the third party funder; the nature of the funding or support relationship proposed; the associated activities proposed; the size of the proposed contribution; and any risks posed to The Neurological Alliance and associated mitigation.

2.4.3. All agreements to fund or support The Neurological Alliance must be in writing, with clarity about the benefits that each party expects to gain.

2.4.4. The Neurological Alliance may occasionally consider providing funds to funders to carry out research projects. Such direct funding would be subject to a clear agreement and terms and conditions outlining each partner's expectations, particularly around intellectual property, publications and exploitation.