

# Constitution of Macclesfield and District Young Stroke Society

(M.A.D.Y.S.S.)

## **1) Name**

The name of the Society shall be Macclesfield and District Young Stroke Society, to be referred to as “the Society” in this Constitution.

## **2) Aim**

The aim of the Society shall be to support stroke survivors and their carers.

## **3) Powers**

In order to achieve its aim the Society may:

- a) Raise money
- b) Open bank accounts
- c) Take out insurance
- d) Organise courses and events
- e) Work with similar societies and exchange information and advice with them
- f) Do anything that is lawful which will help it to fulfil its aim.

## **4) Membership**

a) Membership of the Society shall be open to

- any stroke survivor and
- a carer of that stroke survivor

who is

- interested in helping the Society to achieve its aim
- willing to abide by the Society’s rules and Code of Conduct
- willing to pay any subscription agreed by the members of the Society **and sign the registration/data protection form**
- willing to make their own transport arrangements to enable them to attend and participate in the Society’s group meetings and activities **but in exceptional circumstances assistance may be provided by the Support Fund**

a) Provided that any stroke survivor in need of personal care shall be accompanied by a carer who will take responsibility for that personal care during Society meetings and activities.

- b) Membership shall have no regard to political or religious affiliation, race, sex or sexual orientation.
- c) The carer of a stroke survivor whose membership has ceased may remain a member of the Society.
- d) The membership of any member may be terminated for good reason by the Committee, provided that the member concerned shall have the right to be heard by the Committee, accompanied by a friend, before a final decision is made.

## **5) Management**

- a) The Society shall be administered by a Committee of not less than five members elected by the Society in General Meeting.
- b) The Officers of the Committee shall be: the Chair, the Vice Chair, the Treasurer, and the holders of other positions to be determined from time to time by the Committee.
- c) The Committee may co-opt additional individuals onto the Committee in an advisory and non-voting capacity to help fulfil the aim of the Society.
- d) **The Committee shall meet as required.**
- e) At least four Committee members must be present for a Committee meeting to take place.
- f) Voting at Committee meetings shall be by a show of hands. If there is a tied vote then the Chair shall have a second vote.
- g) The Committee shall have the power to remove any member of the Committee for good and proper reason, including breach of the Code of Conduct.
- h) The Committee may appoint any other member of the Society as a Committee member to fill a vacancy.

## **6) Finance**

- a) All monies received by or on behalf of the Society shall be applied to further the aim of the Society and for no other purpose.
- b) Any bank accounts opened for the Society shall be in the name of the Society.
- c) Four unrelated members of the Committee, including the Treasurer and Chair, shall act as signatories to any bank account or investment held in the Society's name. Any two of those signatories, to include the Treasurer or Chair, shall give authority to transactions, as required by the bank or financial institution.
- d) The Society shall hold 3 Bank Debit Cards in the names of the Treasurer, The Chairman and one other committee member. Any use of the card must be **reported to the Treasurer immediately.**
- e) **A Support Fund will be established.**
- f) **The Committee shall ensure that annual accounts are prepared. The accounts shall be audited or independently examined every year.**

g) The Society may pay reasonable out of pocket expenses to members representing the Society at conferences or similar events subject to prior approval by, and submission of receipts to the Committee.

### **7) Annual General Meeting**

a) The Society shall hold an Annual General Meeting (A.G.M.). This meeting shall take place no later than three months after the date to which its annual accounts have been prepared.

b) All members shall be given at least fourteen days' notice of the AGM and each member shall be entitled to attend and vote.

c) Members may vote by proxy.

d) Voting shall be by secret ballot, if two or more people are nominated for the same position.

e) The business of the A.G.M. shall include:

- receiving a report from the Chair on the Society's activities over the year
- receiving a report from the Treasurer on the finances of the Society
- receiving any further reports, as determined by the Committee
- electing a new Committee and
- considering any other matter as may be decided.

f) At least forty per cent of members must be present for the Annual General Meeting and any other General Meeting to take place.

### **8) Special General Meeting**

a) A Special General Meeting may be called by the Committee or at least twenty five per cent of members to discuss an urgent matter. The Secretary shall give all members fourteen days' notice of any Special General Meeting together with notice of the business to be discussed.

b) Each member shall be entitled to attend and vote at a Special General Meeting.

c) Members may vote by proxy.

d) Voting shall be by secret ballot

### **9) Alterations to the Constitution**

Any changes to this Constitution must be agreed by at least two-thirds of members voting in person or by proxy in general meeting.

### **10) Dissolution**

The Society may be wound up at any time if agreed by two-thirds of those members voting in person or by proxy at any General Meeting. In the event of winding up any assets remaining

after all debts have been paid shall be given to the Stroke Association or to a Registered Charity with objects similar to the Stroke Association.

This Constitution was adopted on 14th May 2019

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