



**Children's Quarter Cooperative
Membership Agreement**

Children's Quarter Cooperative Membership Agreement

Members of the Children's Quarter Cooperative are independent autonomous organisations delivering a diverse range of community services for children, young people and their families. Membership of the Children's Quarter Cooperative does not restrict how organisations function under their existing operational, structural and accountability frameworks. However, members are unified by a shared ethos as advocated by the vision, missions and values as detailed herein which are integral to the Memorandum of Understanding that confers membership.

Children's Quarter Vision:

Birmingham as a City where all children and young people at risk of social exclusion have equitable access to meaningful opportunities and experiences that support their social, emotional, physical health and wellbeing together with developing their potential for participation and contribution.

Children's Quarter Mission:

Members are providers of services for children, young people and their families who aspire to, advocate for and commit to inclusion and to working collaboratively with each other and their communities to improve access to sustainable, high quality, person centred inclusive play, youth, learning, leisure, sports and cultural opportunities supporting personal and professional development.

Children's Quarter Values:

**Cooperation, Inclusion, Integrity, Openness,
Person-centred Practice, Trust, Transparency**

Memorandum of Understanding

Children's Quarter Members commit to the following principles when delivering/providing services commissioned on behalf of and funded through the cooperative:

- Inclusion as a fundamental pre-requisite
- Placing children with high needs at the centre of practice
- Needs- led response shaped by the children, young people and their families who are the clients
- Guarantee against exclusion on the grounds of additional needs
- Local provision wherever possible and appropriate
- Affordable and equitably priced provision together with an offer of transparent admissions policies prioritising children and young people at risk of exclusion.

NB: This commitment to Children's Quarter principles does not apply to other services that members provide either individually or collectively outside of delivery funded by Children's Quarter.

Children's Quarter Members recognise:

- that smaller organisations will need differing degrees of support.
- that children and young people with more complex needs may require differential levels of funding
- the benefits of sharing resources where appropriate i.e. backroom (financial and infrastructure), policy, professional development staff, specialisms, training, transport, venues etc.
- the need to collaborate with members when working at capacity
- the need to share knowledge, best practice, problem resolution and assist each other in times of challenge
- the Children's Quarter Board will respond to written concerns raised by clients who claim that Children's Quarter funded member organisations are working outside of agreed Children's Quarter principles

- the importance of working with academics and researchers to benefit practice and evidence outcomes
- the need to undertake campaigns, fundraise, promote and work collectively on behalf of in line with agreed objectives
- the imperative to improve the equitable distribution of inclusive services for children and young people and their families
- the requirement of a transparent accountability structure to ensure each member can exercise their rights and recognised responsibilities in accordance with their membership status
- the necessity for various and flexible types of membership e.g. full, associate, and supporter with distinct rights, responsibilities and benefits together with the ability for organisations to vary their membership subject to the Children's Quarter Memorandum of Understanding
- that a membership subscriptions structure will be further developed, agreed and implemented subject to annual reviews each March

Membership Criteria.

Organisations and individuals are invited to opt for the membership category that best suits their requirements; **Membership fees will be reconsidered by the Board of Children's Quarter at each Annual General Meeting.**

Full – this allows an organisation to determine the form and function of the Children's Quarter enjoying full voting rights as described in the cooperative's articles and instruments. ***Subscription per annum:***

Maximum £50 for organisations with 100k+ turnover, £40.00 for an organisation with 80k turnover, £30.00 for an organisation with 60k turnover, £20.00 for an organisation with 40k turnover, £10.00 for an organisation with 20k turnover

Associate – this allows an organisation to influence and contribute to the ongoing work and direction of the Children's Quarter Cooperative. This category carries restricted voting rights as described in the cooperative's articles and instruments. ***Subscription fees Per Annum***

Maximum £37.50 for organisations with 100k+ turnover, £30 for an organisation with 80k turnover, £22.50 for an organisation with 60k turnover, £15 for an organisation with 40k turnover, £7.50 for an organisation with 20k turnover

Supporter – this allows those organisations or individuals whose constitution and/or statutory/legislative structure or status precludes them from being part of the Children's Quarter cooperative but allows them to be actively involved in the Children's Quarter Cooperative. This category carries no voting rights.

Maximum £18.75 for organisations with 100k+ turnover, £15 for an organisation with 80k turnover, £11.25 for an organisation with 60k turnover, £7.5 for an organisation with 40k turnover, £3.25 for an organisation with 20k turnover

Members and Supporters benefits will include:

- improved promotion of the work of your organisation
- options to suggest and be involved in campaigns, research and evaluation
- networking, partnering and conferencing opportunities
- a shared voice for inclusion to recognise need and support best practice
- shared human and physical resources to benefit small, medium and large organisations through collaborative work for inclusive services for children, young people and families
- an invitation to the annual conference each November
- a minimum of four training and collaboration events each year
- Reduced membership rates to the Birmingham Play Care Network
- Flexible insurance premiums offered through Access Insurance
- associate members will be able to contribute to online strategic discussion groups, proffer suggestions and request support
- supporters will have access to and can feedback on regular online updates, proffer suggestions and request support

In addition to the above, full members will benefit from:

- The right to nominate a representative to fill a vacancy on the Board of Children's Quarter
- access to online / face to face strategic discussion groups, AGM(s) voting, proffering suggestions and requesting support
- better access to funding through clustered and whole alliance of cooperative member tenders

Organisation:

Please indicate which category you wish to adopt:

Full

Associate

Supporter

Signed by: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

Please return this form to Children's Quarter, All Saints Centre, 2 Vicarage Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham B14 7RA. In case of queries, our phone number is 0121 441 2207.

Cheques should be made payable to Children's Quarter Limited. Online payments should be sent to Children's Quarter at Unity Bank;

Sort code 60-83-01 Account number 20387787

Please ensure that you include the name of your organisation in the reference field.

Organisations applying for Full Membership should also complete the details on the following page.

Full Members only:

Cooperative rules require members to nominate a named representative to attend meetings and vote on behalf of your organisation. You can nominate more than one representative to attend if you wish, however you are only entitled to one vote per member.

Please provide details of your Nominated Representative(s) below:

Name _____

Signature _____

Email _____

Authorisation (Organisation Board member or delegated authority)

Signature _____

Date of Authorisation _____