College of Sexual and Relationship Therapists

Fundraising Policy

It is important for COSRT to ensure that it acts responsibly and with a sufficient level of care when considering any proposed fundraising relationship with individual supporters, government, non-profit organisations or corporate entities.

Trustees must, under general principles of charity law, take decisions as to whether to accept or refuse donations in the best interests of the charity. Guidance issued by the Institute of Fundraising and specifically cited by the Charity Commission, states that trustees must not allow individual or collective views on political or ethical issues which are not directly related to the interests of the charity to affect their judgement.

Links to Mission, Values and Strategy

COSRT's policy is to enter fundraising relationships which contribute to the attainment of our mission. Our policy is to engage with the companies, organisations, individuals and sectors best placed to help COSRT achieve its strategic aims and which are aligned with our values.

Risks

The risks of not having an ethical approach to fundraising include:

- Reputational damage arising from association with organisations or individuals perceived to be engaged in unethical activities.
- Acceptance of donations and consequential reputational damage arising from complicity with illegal activities.
- Financial loss arising from a failure to manage relationships effectively with potential donors or sponsors.

The Policy Statement

COSRT will endeavour to work with partners who conduct their business in a way that is compatible with our policies of respect for human rights and ethical conduct. We will work to ensure that contractual requirements do not infringe human rights.

COSRT will endeavour to work with partners who conduct their business in a way that is compatible with our Code of Ethics.

COSRT will remain politically independent in our engagements with partners or donors, ensuring that we remain objective on our policy position and information provided to other professionals, members of the public and members of the organisation.

COSRT will exercise extreme caution before entering into a relationship with partners or donors where a relationship with them might offend our stakeholders or might damage our reputation.

Procedure

COSRT will consider each offer of sponsorship or donation on its own merits according to whether:

- There is significant risk that harm might be caused to COSRT
- Any such harm is likely to be disproportionate to the benefit that COSRT will derive.

COSRT will use a set of principles to decide with whom, when and how we should engage with companies, organisations, individuals or sectors.

Decision Making Principles

Decisions are made on the following basis:

- Does the engagement contribute significantly to the achievement of a priority objective?
- Partner Is it the right partner, with whom COSRT can achieve most?
- Does the partner have a similar ethical stance to COSRT?
- How will the engagement be perceived? Do the strengths and opportunities outweigh the weakness and threats?
- Does COSRT and the partner have sufficient and appropriate capacity to deliver?
- What are the communications objectives and/or opportunities?
- What are the funding implications and/or opportunities?
- Will the engagement make a significant difference?
- Is COSRT certain that there is no conflict of interest?

All potential funding relationships will be referred to the CEO in the first instance. The CEO will undertake any further investigation or research as deemed appropriate. Where any residual concerns remain or where the amount of money involved exceeds £5000 the matter will be referred to the Chair or the Board of Trustees where ultimate responsibility rests for ensuring that COSRT acts responsibly and with a sufficient level of care when forming funding relationships.

COSRT reserves the right to not approve a partnership if it believes that it might negatively impact on stakeholders in COSRT, or result in damage to the name or reputation of the charity. In addition, COSRT will carry out due diligence checks to ensure that any funding or income is received, as far as can be ascertained, from a legally proper source.

Monitoring and Review

The policy will be reviewed every two years and is due for review by December 2024.