

Statement on political impartiality

Leeds Older People's Forum (LOPF) exists to further its charitable objectives as detailed in our constitution.

The Board recognises, in line with Charity Commission requirements, that campaigning and political activity can be legitimate and valuable activities for LOPF, but only to support our charitable purposes. The activity must not be the sole aim of the charity but we may aim to focus some of our resources on political activity for a period. This activity is not, and will not become, the reason for LOPF's existence.

Such activity will be around, for example, maintaining or promoting the observation of or a change in law, policy or decisions, where this supports LOPF's objectives.

However LOPF cannot and does not exist for a political purpose, which is any purpose directed at furthering the interests of any political party. In the political arena, LOPF must stress our independence and ensure that any involvement we may have with political parties is balanced. We will not give support or funding to any political party, individual candidate or politician.

LOPF may support specific policies, advocated by any political party, which would help achieve our charitable purposes.

LOPF will not allow the charity to be used as a vehicle for the expression of the political views of any individual trustee or staff member (in this context the Charity Commission means personal or party political views).

LOPF will always welcome the opportunity to meet with influencers (including elected representatives, political parties, their candidates and the media) to raise awareness of the needs of older people and the issues affecting them. We will also seek to raise awareness and gain support for the campaigns and policies promoted by LOPF, or other organisations who share our charitable aims.

LOPF will at all times act impartially and must not endorse the platform or policies of any political party or their representatives. During election campaigns (local or national) we will be aware of the need to act sensitively to ensure impartiality to all candidates and parties and that our activities fall within the guidance of the Charity Commission and the Electoral Commission.

See further guidance on the Charity Commission website:

[Charities, Elections and Referendums - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/charities-elections-and-referendums)

[Campaigning and political activity guidance for charities - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/campaigning-and-political-activity-guidance-for-charities)

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