



NRAS Policy for Funding Relationships with Third Party Organisations

Background

To further our aims, and allow us to continue to support all those who live with Rheumatoid Arthritis, we will often seek funding and support from a variety of sources.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that when seeking and securing such funding NRAS has a clearly understood way of working which is underpinned by high ethical standards.

Principles

When seeking, securing and allocating funding and support, NRAS will ensure that it follows clear ethical principles. NRAS commits to:

- Act with due care and attention
- Act with integrity
- Act to further the charitable objectives of NRAS and ensure there is no compromise of the charity's independence and reputation
- Be open and transparent about its funding sources

Due care and attention

Due diligence will be performed on any major potential funding source and this will be considered by the senior management team and trustee board if felt necessary. This due diligence will consider the nature, activities and reputation of the funder, the nature of the funding or relationship proposed, any associated activities proposed, the size of the proposed funding and any risks which may be posed to NRAS in accepting the funding.

If the funding proposed exceeds more than 15% of NRAS income forecast for the year, or is likely to have a major impact on the workload of NRAS, the senior management team must approve the proposal, with agreement from the board of trustees if deemed necessary, before it can be accepted.

Integrity

NRAS will not accept funding or support from any party whose activities and business practices are considered unlawful or unethical or may cause harm to the work of NRAS.

NRAS will not accept funding or support from any party whose activities are in competition to the work of NRAS, does not support the aims and vision of the charity or seeks to gain commercial or moral gain as a result of the funding.

NRAS will expect funders to support the vision of the charity and its compliance with Charity Commission and Institute of Fundraising rules.

Consistency with NRAS' charitable objects, independence and reputation

NRAS' priorities and programme of work is informed by what is in the best interest of its members, volunteers and the wider RA community. The charity will only undertake work which is consistent with its agreed programme and priorities for any given year.

NRAS will always retain complete editorial control over any published material, work programmes, events and meetings, regardless of who has funded them.

NRAS will always seek a diverse range of income streams to ensure financial sustainability and to avoid dependence on any one source.

Wherever possible, NRAS will seek to secure unrestricted funding which at least in part supports core costs.

NRAS will not endorse or promote specific products or services, or lobby for them in a commercial fashion, and will seek to ensure it is not acting so as to give the appearance of favouring any commercial interest of the funder. Collaboration with third parties on campaigns, lobbying or calls to action will only be undertaken if they align with NRAS' own priorities and values.

NRAS' logo and name are copyrighted and may only be used by a funder or supporter with the explicit permission of the charity, and must be approved before being used.

Openness and Transparency

NRAS will disclose all income streams and major funding in its annual report and accounts and also list these on its website.

All funding will be acknowledged and supporters thanked in the usual way. Any use of corporate logos will be carefully considered and no undue prominence will be given.