

GREATER MANCHESTER COALITION OF DISABLED PEOPLE
Steering Group

Constitution Sub-Committee

Notes of meeting on Monday 2nd July at Ann Millers

1. Attending were Ann Miller, John Wells & Kevin Hyett

2. The Task.

It was agreed that we will have to go through each constitution point one by one to make sure that we don't miss anything. But first we have to look at Membership and the Legal Structure.

3. Membership.

It was agreed that the following should go into the constitution;

a) The Council has the right to refuse membership, or to alter the class of membership.

b) Classes of Membership

CLASS

A1 - Individual Disabled people over 16 years old

A2 - Disabled controlled organisations

B1 - Non Disabled individuals over 16 years old

B2 - Non Disabled controlled organisations

B3 - Junior members under 16 years old

(A means voting member, B means non voting member)

4. Voting power of disabled controlled organisations.

It was agreed to ask the main committee for guidance on this issue.

The choices are:

a) Fixed number of representatives from each group to coalition meetings. Each rep having one vote. eg 1 rep per group no matter what the size.

b) Votes in ratio of membership. eg 1 vote for every 20 "listed" disabled members.

c) 1 vote per "listed" disabled member.

5. Legal Structure.

Choices were; Unincorporated Association
 Trust
 Friendly Society
 Company limited by guarantee
 Industrial and Provident Society

Provisional recommendation was to register under the Industrial and Provident Societys Act 1965 as a Co-operative Society, without charitable status

6. Next meeting.

Tue 24th July at Ann Millers.

DRAFT CONSTITUTION FOR CONSIDERATION BY STEERING GROUP Sections (2), (3), (4) and (5) having been approved to date.

(1) NAME

The name of this organization is Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People, hereinafter referred to as the Coalition.

(2) AIMS

The Coalition aims to promote the full participation of disabled people in ensuring that they have the necessary facilities and support to live independently; to have control of their own lives, and to support all measures that seek to ensure that disabled people have the means to be fully integrated into society.

(3) MEMBERSHIP

Full members - Individual disabled people aged 16 years and over.

Associate members - Individual non-disabled people aged 16 years and over.
- Organizations.
- Juniors aged under 16 years.

Prospective full members should state that they are disabled, the Council reserving the right to refuse membership or alter its status.

(4) MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

The annual subscription rates will be fixed by majority vote at a General Meeting. Subscriptions will be due on 1st January, and if not paid within three months, membership will be deemed to have lapsed. A new member joining on or after 1st October will have their membership carried forward to the following year.

(5) WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBERSHIP

The Council has the power to withdraw membership on an 80% majority vote if a member is considered to have acted in a way detrimental to the Coalition, or contrary to its aims. In such circumstances the member has the right to be present when the Council is discussing his/her case and is entitled to appeal to a General Meeting.

(6) THE COUNCIL

- (a) The affairs of the Coalition shall be managed by a Council which shall consist of ten full members of the Coalition who have been elected at each Annual General Meeting. These full members will have the right to vote on all issues presented to the Council.
- (b) The quorum for a meeting shall be five. All decisions of the Council shall be by simple majority vote. The Chairperson has the same title to vote as any Council member but is not entitled to a casting vote.
- (c) Council members may send substitutes to meetings which they are unable to attend provided that the substitutes are full members of the Coalition and the number of substitutes does not exceed one quarter of those present.
- (d) The Council may co-opt a maximum of three full or associate members. These co-opted members will have no voting rights and will stand down at the next Annual General Meeting.

- (e) At the first Council meeting after the Annual General Meeting the Council shall appoint as many officers as it sees fit provided that they include a Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. The Chairperson shall not necessarily chair all Council meetings, those present at the start of a meeting agreeing who shall chair that meeting.
- (f) Officers may be replaced at any time by a majority vote of the entire Council.
- (g) The Council shall meet not less than six times a year. The Secretary shall be responsible for calling a meeting if a date has not been circulated previously.
- (h) The Council may approve the formation of sub-committees to further the aims of the Coalition. The Council must give each sub-committee written terms of reference and must be represented on all sub-committees. Any sub-committee required to make policy decisions must consist solely of Council members.

18.8.84.