

GEORGE  
HOUSE+ TRUST  
HIV POSITIVE LIVING



JOIN US  
AS A MEMBER

# OUR VISION

GHT's vision is for all people living with HIV in the North West to live happy and healthy lives, and be free from stigma and discrimination.

GHT's vision is for all people to know their HIV status and to be HIV aware.



# OUR VALUES

## **Dignity**

We treat everyone with dignity, show respect and value them.

## **Respect**

We show respect by considering people's feelings, wishes and rights.

## **Empowerment**

We believe that people need freedom to act, think, initiate and make decisions.

## **Integrity**

We demonstrate integrity by being honest and having strong principles.

## **Recognising Differences**

Everyone is unique! We embrace and celebrate diversity and difference.

## **Passionate**

Our ambition is to put as much heart, mind, body and soul into our work- and it shows!



# Who We Are

**Founded in 1985, George House Trust has achieved many remarkable outcomes enabling people living with HIV to live fulfilled and healthy lives.**

- We provide high-quality services to people living with HIV, which enable them to feel empowered and able to live happily and healthily with HIV.
- We raise awareness of HIV, promote safer sex and encourage all sexually active people in the North West to know their HIV status.
- We ensure that HIV is prioritised by public bodies across the North West, given that it has the biggest population of people living with HIV outside of London.
- We challenge HIV stigma and discrimination and promote a better understanding of HIV.

## Membership Overview

George House Trust is, and has always been, a member-based charity. Our values of dignity, respect, empowerment, integrity, recognising differences and passion underpin everything we do; and our members uphold these values and have a real say in how we operate.

Membership is open to all people living with HIV, our supporters, our volunteers, our allies and our ambassadors. Members are involved at all levels of the charity.



# What Members Do

Membership of George House Trust is mutually beneficial.

Membership enables you to understand how George House Trust works, what HIV is, and how it impacts people's lives.

You will help to ensure we continue to support the changing needs for people living with or affected by HIV.

Members help George House Trust remain open and transparent in its activities and are informed of future plans and news. For example, Members:

- Are consulted on key information, for example our three year business plan.
- Elect members to the Board of Trustees
- Agree governance and constitutional changes.
- Hold Trustees and staff to account on how George House Trust is managed and governed.

After being a Member for a year and attending 75% of meetings, you are eligible to apply to be a Trustee if you wish.

## Meetings

Members are expected to attend when an Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Member meetings are held.

We understand that you might not be able to attend every meeting, so all we ask is that you send your apologies if this is the case.

## Legal Responsibilities of Members

George House Trust is both a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee. Membership entails being a Member of a registered charity and a shareholder of George House Trust the company.

Because we are a charity, our shareholders do not have to buy shares. In the unlikely event of George House Trust goes into liquidation, your liability as a Member would be limited to £1 (one pound).

George House Trust has a governing document called 'Memorandum and Articles of Association'. This is a legally binding document that sets out what Members, Trustees and shareholders can and cannot do. It is available on our website at: <http://ght.org.uk/membership>. You will also receive a summary of this in your induction pack.



# FAQs

## How do I become a Member?

We recruit new members on a rolling basis and new applications are always welcome. We ask that you fill in an application form to become a member, which is then approved by our Trustees.

After your membership application has been approved, you will be sent a Member Induction pack to read and sign.

## What happens after I apply?

Once you have applied and your application has been approved by George House Trustees, you will receive a Membership Induction Pack to read and sign.

This will include:

- A welcome letter from the Chair of the Board of Trustees.
- The Member Code of Conduct.
- George House Trust's Impact Report.

After you have read and signed the pack, you will be confirmed as a Member, and will receive our Member e-newsletters and invitations to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and other Member meetings.

## When do Member meetings take place?

There are usually four Member Meetings each year, and Members are expected to attend at least 2 of these meetings annually.

Meetings either take place at 6pm on a weekday (usually a Wednesday) or at 10am on a Saturday. Food and refreshments are provided.

## Can you help with childcare and travel costs?

Yes, as long as you let us know in advance and bring a receipt to the meeting. If you struggle to use public transport due to health reasons, let us know and we can arrange for a volunteer driver to collect you and then take you home.



# Meet our Members

## Jim



I was diagnosed HIV+ in 2003. George House Trust were there for me a couple of years later when I was at my lowest ebb. I used their services over the years and became a volunteer in 2017.

As a gay white male aged over 50, I find myself in the majority group for people living with HIV. However, my thoughts and efforts are often focussed on how I can help those from more diverse backgrounds, who often face extra challenges and who may not have the confidence to become more involved or voice their opinions. This is why becoming a Member is so important.

I have always been made to feel welcome and safe when attending George House Trust Member meetings, and by becoming a member and having my voice and opinions heard, it means I have a say in ensuring that everyone can feel welcome, safe and included.

I would encourage individuals from all races, gender identities and beliefs to become Members of George House Trust, add their own contributions and make their voices heard.

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## Mark



I first got involved with George House Trust as a fundraising volunteer and became a Member in 2018, which gave me a valuable insight into how the organisation was run and how the funds I'd helped to raise were used.

As well as meeting other Members, such as service users and volunteers who I may not have seen in my normal volunteer role, being a Member gave me great pride in helping George House Trust continue to

offer its great services to people living with HIV, and to help improve services if I could.

Membership also gave me a greater insight into the organisation as a whole which really helped when I started my new role as community fundraising support volunteer in 2019.

I would recommend membership to anyone. Come and join us to help shape George House Trust's present and future work!

## Charity



I became a Member because I wanted to support George House Trust and have an active role in shaping the services it offers.

I enjoy having a voice at George House Trust and can have my say without fear or hesitation. Being a Member means I can contribute to the discussion about how George House Trust develops and is run - both now, and in the future - and stay informed about what is happening in the organisation.

Personally, the thing that has impressed me most as a Member

is the professional mindset at George House Trust and the fact it gives me the opportunity to engage with the organisation.

Members communication well with each other and George House Trust, we focus on goals and results, and you are given the freedom to express your viewpoint and opinions.

Finally, membership is free, so come and be part of our diverse team! The more Members we have, the more we can do to help support and improve George House Trust!



## Contact us

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