

Leeds Mind Policy



For better
mental health

Pharmaceutical Company Funding and Sponsorship

Why do we need this policy?

The aim of this policy is to clarify what level of association with pharmaceutical companies is acceptable to Leeds Mind and what is not.

Introduction

Pharmaceutical companies play a major part in the sponsorship and funding of many mental health services and events. This can cause a conflict of interest, or the appearance of one.

This policy does not cover the pros and cons of our position on psychiatric medication as a treatment option. We recognise the right of service users to choose whichever interventions suit them best, and to reject any they consider harmful or unhelpful. We will support people to think these issues through without prejudice, and will advocate for an increase in choice for service users.

Who does it apply to?

- We expect all staff to work within this policy, though we recognise it does not reflect the views of everyone.
- It is the responsibility of project managers and senior managers to ensure that this policy is followed
- All staff should behave with 'ethical mindfulness' whenever pharmaceutical companies are involved.
- We will not ask staff to lobby or campaign on this issue, except where that is part of their job.

Policy

1. We will not receive funds from pharmaceutical companies.
2. We will not allow our name logo, or projects to be used for any purpose by a pharmaceutical company.
3. We may work with other services that are funded by pharmaceutical companies when they are deemed beneficial by those who use them, but will remain at arm's length from those services.
4. We will not allow product placement or advertising from pharmaceutical companies in our newsletter, at our Annual General Meeting, or through any other channels for which we are responsible.

5. We are prepared to take part in conferences or similar events that are sponsored by pharmaceutical companies, and will not discourage staff from doing so, except where such participation is in breach of this policy.
6. When attending conferences, it is sometimes the case that the lunch and/or refreshments which staff will eat are sponsored by a pharmaceutical company. While this is acceptable, staff are not allowed to accept promotional gifts or hospitality from pharmaceutical companies. Examples of gifts are pens and other stationary, cups, items of clothing, umbrellas. Examples of hospitality are staff meals out, staff away days and holidays. These lists are not exhaustive.

Further Information

The following may be of interest if you would like to read more about this issue:

BMJ 2003; 326:1155-1156 (31st May 2003)

The Editorial of the BMJ for this month was an article which argued that patients would benefit from doctors and drug companies disentangling.

Website: bmj.com

www.nofreelunch.org

This is a website which advocates greater distance between doctors and drug companies.

New Internationalist 362, November 2003. The magazine's theme for this month was pharmaceutical companies – there is a range of articles covering different aspects of their influence within society.

Accessibility

If you would like a copy of this policy in a larger print, get in touch with us at Leeds Mind Central Admin by phone (0113 230 7608) or email (leeds.mind@leedsmind.org.uk) and we'll be happy to send you one. You can also download a copy, in whatever text size you like, from our website – www.leedsmind.org.uk

Date formally approved by Leeds Mind Executive Committee:	23rd February 2005
Date last reviewed:	N/A
Date to be reviewed:	
Date review formally agreed:	