

# Code of Conduct for the Association of Acupuncture Clinicians Strategic Board

1 Directors of the AAC Strategic Board are elected/appointed to perform the duties of the Strategic Board as set out in the Articles of Association and within the legal framework of the Companies Act 2006, as an association, a professional membership body and as an employer. They are expected to act in the best interests of the Association and to ensure that it is well run.

2 Members of Strategic Board have corporate responsibility for ensuring that the Association complies with any statutory or administrative requirements for the use of its funds.

3 The Strategic Board is accountable to the Working Board and the members of the Association.

4 Directors must demonstrate their adherence to the principle of collective responsibility in respect of all decisions made by the Strategic Board and by any AAC committee or working group to which they may be appointed.

5 In respect of advice or recommendation to the Strategic Board, Directors of the AAC committee or working group concerned should express their individual view only when they wish to act on their own conscience in relation to a serious issue arising from their engagement. Views on such issues should be expressed in a responsible manner, the Chair having been notified beforehand.

6 Directors must make themselves reasonably available for service on the Strategic Board and any of its committees and working groups to which they may be appointed.

7 Directors must ensure that all their decisions and actions safeguard the Association's reputation and maintain public confidence in the acupuncture profession.

8 Directors must notify the Board if they have contravened any legal requirements such as:

- a contravening the law and/or be subject to warnings from the Police
- prosecution for offences other than speeding
- working in breach of the law
- breaking environmental health laws,
- breaking local authority regulations

9 Directors must complete and maintain their entry in the Association's Declaration of Interest and declare any related party transactions.

10 Directors must be committed to the development and demonstration of the competencies required for the effective performance of their role on the Strategic Board and on any of the Association's committees.

11 In performing their duties, Directors must uphold the following seven principles of public life (the Nolan principles):

#### Selflessness

Holders of public office should take decisions solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family or their friends.

#### Integrity

Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might influence them in the performance of their official duties.

#### Objectivity

In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.

#### Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.

#### Openness

Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.

#### Honesty

Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.

#### Leadership

Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.