



Benefits and implications of becoming an LCCT member project

People have chosen to bring their projects into LCCT membership for various reasons. Commonly it is a combination of the cost benefits of shared functions, the ease of 'not having to worry about' all the details of setting up as an independent charity, and wanting to be part of a relational network of support and mutuality. Working together LCCT member projects are creating an exciting way to lower costs as well as reducing the duplication of, (and time needed for), setting up and maintaining all the elements of being a charity. Being a member project of LCCT involves coming into relationship with other projects and as such there are also commitments and responsibilities to take account of as well. Listed and grouped below are some specific benefits for becoming a LCCT member project as well as some of the implications...

The benefits of being a member project

Back Office functions:

- *Shared accounting*—book-keeping, financial transaction processing, preparation of end of year accounts, payroll & related payments
- *Shared administration*—Insurance finding and buying, shared policies and updating, HR support

Development and Learning:

- *Development support*— Incubation developmental support for new projects, support with budgeting, ad hoc ongoing development support, signposting for in-depth developmental needs, mutual developmental support with fellow member projects.
- *Learning and training*— Access to learning programmes for personal and project reflection and development, skill/ knowledge specific training events, facilitated spaces for mutual learning and support.

Networking:

- *Mutual support frameworks*—Mentoring scheme, timebanking, network gatherings (Assemblies and learning events), wide network of member projects, associates and individual members coming together for mutual support.
- *Collective voice*—taking action with others on areas of shared concern

Governance:

- *Legal structure*—Shared charity number, reporting to Charity Commission & Companies House
- *Charitable oversight*—Governance structure (Governance hub, Trustees & membership participation)

Implications to consider

Finances:

- *Costs*—10% of annual turnover is paid into a central pot to cover the shared back office, governance, development and learning support.
- *Incubation*—For fledgling initiatives LCCT offers 1 year [free? Or reduced?], including additional incubation development support.

Participation:

- *Governance*—Being a member project of LCCT involves a commitment to being involved in the running of LCCT. LCCT holds 3 Assemblies each year for members to make decisions together. The Assembly elect a Governance hub of Trustees and Co-opted members who oversee the day-to-day running of the trust and each project is expected to take a turn in being part of this.
- *Sharing*—Through assemblies, learning spaces, and mutual support frameworks member projects support one another and seek to share skills, knowledge, and resources through an ethos of mutuality and reciprocity.

Structure:

- *Management*—Your project will need it's own management/advisory group responsible for the day-to-day oversight of your project. Legally the LCCT trustees delegate management authority to this group.
- *Activities*—Project activities have to fall within charity law. You will also need to show LCCT's name and charity number on your project materials (i.e. Leaflets, website, letterheads etc.)

Ethos:

- *Vision and values*—while each LCCT member project has it's own vision and mission, by becoming an LCCT member project you are also aligning yourself with the vision and values that are commonly agreed by LCCT projects.

