



ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

OF

**CHILDCARE VOUCHERS PROVIDERS
ASSOCIATION**

A PRIVATE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Company Number 7505281

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PART 1

INTERPRETATION AND LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

Defined terms

1. In the articles, unless the context requires otherwise—

“articles” means the company’s articles of association;

“bankruptcy” includes individual insolvency proceedings in a jurisdiction other than England and Wales or Northern Ireland which have an effect similar to that of bankruptcy;

“chairman” has the meaning given in article 12;

“chairman of the meeting” has the meaning given in article 25;

“Companies Acts” means the Companies Acts (as defined in section 2 of the Companies Act 2006), in so far as they apply to the company;

“director” means a director of the company, and includes any person occupying the position of director, by whatever name called;

“document” includes, unless otherwise specified, any document sent or supplied in electronic form;

“electronic form” has the meaning given in section 1168 of the Companies Act 2006;

“member” has the meaning given in section 112 of the Companies Act 2006;

“ordinary resolution” has the meaning given in section 282 of the Companies Act 2006;

“participate”, in relation to a directors’ meeting, has the meaning given in article 10;

“proxy notice” has the meaning given in article 31;

“special resolution” has the meaning given in section 283 of the Companies Act 2006;

“subsidiary” has the meaning given in section 1159 of the Companies Act 2006; and

“writing” means the representation or reproduction of words, symbols or other information in a visible form by any method or combination of methods, whether sent or supplied in electronic form or otherwise.

Unless the context otherwise requires, other words or expressions contained in these articles bear the same meaning as in the Companies Act 2006 as in force on the date when these articles become binding on the company.

Liability of members

2. The liability of each member is limited to £1, being the amount that each member undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of its being wound up while he is a member or within one year after he ceases to be a member, for—

- (a) payment of the company's debts and liabilities contracted before he ceases to be a member,
- (b) payment of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up, and
- (c) adjustment of the rights of the contributories among themselves.

PART 2

OBJECTS OF ASSOCIATION

Defined Objects

- 3.1 To promote fair competition between providers in the childcare voucher industry.
- 3.2 To promote and protect the childcare voucher industry through;

Best practice

To establish and develop best practice principles for the childcare voucher industry covering areas such as security of voucher funds, integrity of data management, handling complaints and service levels.

Complaints

To hear and evaluate unresolved complaints made against members, by employers, employees and carers.

Public Awareness

- i To positively promote awareness of childcare voucher's with all stakeholders including employers, employees and carers.
- ii To inform buyers of their rightful expectations in respect of service & transparency.

Lobbying

To act as a coherent industry group, to represent members to inform and influence government policy.

Article

To act as a collective body to engage with HMRC and other regulatory bodies to ensure clear guidance on issues that affect the childcare voucher industry.

AND all other industries for the furtherance of the interests of members.

The company shall promote to stakeholders, government and the public the childcare voucher industry and provide a forum for providers of childcare vouchers to promote the general interests of the industry.

3.3 The company shall provide a model for members of best practice for the industry, covering:

the security of funds of stakeholders;

the application of data protection;

the principles and appropriate standards of service levels.

3.4 The company shall define, operate and enforce a complaints procedure for members of the public using the services provided by members.

3.5 The company shall provide a resource to buyers of childcare vouchers regarding the best practice and standards members of the public which should be expected of its members.

3.6 The company shall undertake to provide a single voice for the industry to stakeholders and government.

Non Profit Distribution

4.1 The Association has the power to do anything which is calculated to further its objects (in Article 1) or is conducive or incidental to doing so. The Association is not for profit and all profits are to be reinvested into the business and not shared amongst the directors.

4.2 On winding up the Company, the assets will be transferred to an organisation with similar objects and not sold for the profit of the Directors.

PART 3

DIRECTORS

DIRECTORS' POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Directors' general authority

5. Subject to the articles, the directors are responsible for the management of the company's business, for which purpose they may exercise all the powers of the company.

Members' reserve power

6.1 The members may, by special resolution, direct the directors to take, or refrain from taking, specified action.

6.2 No such special resolution invalidates anything which the directors have done before the passing of the resolution.

Directors may delegate

7.1 Subject to the articles, the directors may delegate any of the powers which are conferred on them under the articles—

- (a) to such person or committee;
- (b) by such means (including by power of attorney);
- (c) to such an extent;
- (d) in relation to such matters or territories; and
- (e) on such terms and conditions;

as they think fit.

7.2 If the directors so specify, any such delegation may authorise further delegation of the directors' powers by any person to whom they are delegated.

7.3 The directors may revoke any delegation in whole or part, or alter its terms and conditions.

Committees

8.1 Committees to which the directors delegate any of their powers must follow procedures which are based as far as they are applicable on those provisions of the articles which govern the taking of decisions by directors.

8.2 The directors may make rules of procedure for all or any committees, which prevail over rules derived from the articles if they are not consistent with them.

DECISION-MAKING BY DIRECTORS

Directors to take decisions collectively

9.1 The general rule about decision-making by directors is that any decision of the directors must be either a majority decision at a meeting or a decision taken in accordance with article 10.

Unanimous decisions

10.1 A decision of the directors is taken in accordance with this article when all eligible directors indicate to each other by any means that they share a common view on a matter.

10.2 Such a decision may take the form of a resolution in writing, copies of which have been signed by each eligible director or to which each eligible director has otherwise indicated agreement in writing.

10.3 References in this article to eligible directors are to directors who would have been entitled to vote on the matter had it been proposed as a resolution at a directors' meeting.

10.4 A decision may not be taken in accordance with this article if the eligible directors would not have formed a quorum at such a meeting.

Calling a directors' meeting

11.1 Any director may call a directors' meeting by giving notice of the meeting to the directors or by authorising the company secretary (if any) to give such notice.

11.2 Notice of any directors' meeting must indicate—

(a) its proposed date and time;

(b) where it is to take place; and

(c) if it is anticipated that directors participating in the meeting will not be in the same place, how it is proposed that they should communicate with each other during the meeting.

11.3 Notice of a directors' meeting must be given to each director, but need not be in writing.

11.4 Notice of a directors' meeting need not be given to directors who waive their entitlement to notice of that meeting, by giving notice to that effect to the company not more than 7 days after the

date on which the meeting is held. Where such notice is given after the meeting has been held, that does not affect the validity of the meeting, or of any business conducted at it.

Participation in directors' meetings

12.1 Subject to the articles, directors participate in a directors' meeting, or part of a directors' meeting, when—

- (a) the meeting has been called and takes place in accordance with the articles, and
- (b) they can each communicate to the others any information or opinions they have on any particular item of the business of the meeting.

12.2 In determining whether directors are participating in a directors' meeting, it is irrelevant where any director is or how they communicate with each other.

12.3 If all the directors participating in a meeting are not in the same place, they may decide that the meeting is to be treated as taking place wherever any of them is.

Quorum for directors' meetings

13.1 At a directors' meeting, unless a quorum is participating, no proposal is to be voted on, except a proposal to call another meeting.

13.2 The quorum for directors' meetings may be fixed from time to time by a decision of the directors, but it must never be less than three, and unless otherwise fixed it is three.

13.3 If the total number of directors for the time being is less than the quorum required, the directors must not take any decision other than a decision—

- (a) to appoint further directors, or
- (b) to call a general meeting so as to enable the members to appoint further directors.

13.4 The minimum number of Directors shall be three.

Chairing of Directors Meetings

14.1 The directors may appoint a director to chair their meetings.

14.2 The person so appointed for the time being is known as the chairman.

14.3 The directors may terminate the chairman's appointment at any time.

14.4 If the chairman is not participating in a directors' meeting within ten minutes of the time at which it was to start, the participating directors must appoint one of themselves to chair it.

Casting vote

15.1 If the numbers of votes for and against a proposal are equal, the chairman or other director chairing the meeting has a casting vote.

15.2 But this does not apply if, in accordance with the articles, the chairman or other director is not to be counted as participating in the decision-making process for quorum or voting purposes.

Officers of the Board

16.1 The Board shall appoint from their number a Director to hold the Office Of:

President of the Association; and

Treasurer of the Association.

16.2 No Director shall be entitled to any remuneration for the performance of their duties as a Director of the Association unless they are in the full time paid employment of the Association.

16.3 The Board shall meet not less than four times per calendar year.

(a) Board Meetings shall not be less than 120 days apart.

(b) Board Meetings shall be quorate if three members are in attendance.

(c) At least one Board Meeting per annum shall take place in person.

Conflicts of interest

17.1 If a proposed decision of the directors is concerned with an actual or proposed transaction or arrangement with the company in which a director is interested, that director is not to be counted as participating in the decision-making process for quorum or voting purposes.

17.2 But if paragraph (3) applies, a director who is interested in an actual or proposed transaction or arrangement with the company is to be counted as participating in the decision-making process for quorum and voting purposes.

17.3 This paragraph applies when—

(a) the company by ordinary resolution disapplies the provision of the articles which would otherwise prevent a director from being counted as participating in the decision-making process;

(b) the director's interest cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to give rise to a conflict of interest; or

(c) the director's conflict of interest arises from a permitted cause.

17.4 For the purposes of this article, the following are permitted causes—

(a) a guarantee given, or to be given, by or to a director in respect of an obligation incurred by or on behalf of the company or any of its subsidiaries;

(b) subscription, or an agreement to subscribe, for securities of the company or any of its subsidiaries, or to underwrite, sub-underwrite, or guarantee subscription for any such securities; and

(c) arrangements pursuant to which benefits are made available to employees and directors or former employees and directors of the company or any of its subsidiaries which do not provide special benefits for directors or former directors.

17.5 For the purposes of this article, references to proposed decisions and decision-making processes include any directors' meeting or part of a directors' meeting.

17.6 Subject to paragraph (17.7), if a question arises at a meeting of directors or of a committee of directors as to the right of a director to participate in the meeting (or part of the meeting) for voting or quorum purposes, the question may, before the conclusion of the meeting, be referred to the chairman whose ruling in relation to any director other than the chairman is to be final and conclusive.

17.7 If any question as to the right to participate in the meeting (or part of the meeting) should arise in respect of the chairman, the question is to be decided by a decision of the directors at that meeting, for which purpose the chairman is not to be counted as participating in the meeting (or that part of the meeting) for voting or quorum purposes.

17.8 The directors must ensure that the company keeps a record, in writing, for at least 10 years from the date of the decision recorded, of every unanimous or majority decision taken by the directors.

Directors' discretion to make further rules

18.1 Subject to the articles, the directors may make any rule which they think fit about how they take decisions, and about how such rules are to be recorded or communicated to directors.

APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS

Methods of appointing directors

19.1 Any person who is willing to act as a director, and is permitted by law to do so, may be appointed to be a director —

(a) by ordinary resolution, or

(b) by a decision of the directors.

19.2 In any case where, as a result of death, the company has no members and no directors, the personal representatives of the last member to have died have the right, by notice in writing, to appoint a person to be a director.

19.3 For the purposes of paragraph (19.2), where 2 or more members die in circumstances rendering it uncertain who was the last to die, a younger member is deemed to have survived an older member.

Termination of director's appointment

20.1 A person ceases to be a director as soon as—

(a) that person ceases to be a director by virtue of any provision of the Companies Act 2006 or is prohibited from being a director by law;

(b) a bankruptcy order is made against that person;

(c) a composition is made with that person's creditors generally in satisfaction of that person's debts;

(d) a registered medical practitioner who is treating that person gives a written opinion to the company stating that that person has become physically or mentally incapable of acting as a director and may remain so for more than three months;

(e) by reason of that person's mental health, a court makes an order which wholly or partly prevents that person from personally exercising any powers or rights which that person would otherwise have;

(f) notification is received by the company from the director that the director is resigning from office, and such resignation has taken effect in accordance with its terms.

Directors' expenses and remuneration

21.1 The company may pay any reasonable expenses which the directors properly incur in connection with their attendance at—

(a) meetings of directors or committees of directors, or

(b) general meetings,

21.2 Directors shall be entitled to such reasonable remuneration as shall be authorised by the President or Treasurer.

PART 4

MEMBERS

BECOMING AND CEASING TO BE A MEMBER

Rights & responsibilities of full corporate members

22.1 All members shall rank equally. Every member, whether an individual or an organisation, shall have one vote.

22.2 Members shall:-

be required to be members of the Company by reason of giving a Guarantee; and

alone have the right to be Directors of the Company; and

be entitled to vote on the appointment of Directors to the Board; and

be entitled to vote at a general meeting.

22.3 A Member may advertise his connection to the Association by using the affix for the time being in force as appropriate, but he shall not add to or in any way alter such affix, nor shall be entitled to use such affix after the membership has ceased.

22.4. No person shall become a member of the company unless—

(a) that person has completed an application for membership in a form approved by the directors; and

(b) has paid the requisite subscription fee due in full; and

(c) the directors have approved the application; and

(d) the person is an incorporated company which is subject to an audit under the provisions of English or Scottish legislation and Articles.

Termination of Membership

23.1 A member may withdraw from membership of the company by giving 7 days' notice to the company in writing.

23.2 Membership is not transferable.

23.3 Membership terminates when the person dies or ceases to exist.

23.4 Membership terminates by reason of non-payment of the membership fee

23.5 The Directors may terminate a persons Membership by written notice at any time where, in their opinion, such a termination is in the best interests of the Association.

23.6 This Article shall only apply where Article 23.5 arises and the person so terminated is a fully paid up Member of the Association.

(a) The terminated person shall have the right to seek reinstatement at the next following General Meeting and request the Meeting vote on reinstatement of that Member.

(b) The terminated Member shall notify the Association in writing addressed to the President of his intention to seek reinstatement within 14 days of Notice of Termination and failure to comply with this Article shall cause the person to cease to have a right of redress under this Article.

(c) The terminated Member shall provide the Association with a written submission not exceeding 1000 words, for inclusion in the Notice Of General Meeting not less than 90 days prior to the date of the Meeting and failure to comply with this Article shall cause the person to cease to have a right of redress under this Article

(d) Where the termination occurs within 90 days of the General Meeting, the Member may provide a written submission of not more than 1000 words and nominate a Director to read the submission to the Meeting provide such submission is made prior to the day of the meeting.

(e) The Directors may refuse to distribute or read any submission provided where they reasonably believe the submission to be defamatory or libelous to any person and shall notify the Terminated Member of such a finding.

(f) Failure to provide a submission shall invalidate any right to redress granted under this Article.

(g) No part of this Article shall permit the Terminated Member to speak at a General Meeting or vote therein.

ORGANISATION OF GENERAL MEETINGS

Attendance and speaking at general meetings

24.1 A person is able to exercise the right to speak at a general meeting when that person is in a position to communicate to all those attending the meeting, during the meeting, any information or opinions which that person has on the business of the meeting.

24.2 A person is able to exercise the right to vote at a general meeting when—

(a) that person is able to vote, during the meeting, on resolutions put to the vote at the meeting, and

(b) that person's vote can be taken into account in determining whether or not such resolutions are passed at the same time as the votes of all the other persons attending the meeting.

24.3 The directors may make whatever arrangements they consider appropriate to enable those attending a general meeting to exercise their rights to speak or vote at it.

24.4 In determining attendance at a general meeting, it is immaterial whether any two or more members attending it are in the same place as each other.

24.5 Two or more persons who are not in the same place as each other attend a general meeting if their circumstances are such that if they have (or were to have) rights to speak and vote at that meeting, they are (or would be) able to exercise them.

Attendance and speaking by directors and non-members

25.1 Directors may attend and speak at general meetings, whether or not they are members.

25.2 The chairman of the meeting may permit other persons who are not members of the company to attend and speak at a general meeting.

Adjournment

26.1 If the persons attending a general meeting within half an hour of the time at which the meeting was due to start do not constitute a quorum, or if during a meeting a quorum ceases to be present, the chairman of the meeting must adjourn it.

26.2 The chairman of the meeting may adjourn a general meeting at which a quorum is present if—

(a) the meeting consents to an adjournment, or

(b) it appears to the chairman of the meeting that an adjournment is necessary to protect the safety of any person attending the meeting or ensure that the business of the meeting is conducted in an orderly manner.

26.3 The chairman of the meeting must adjourn a general meeting if directed to do so by the meeting.

26.4 When adjourning a general meeting, the chairman of the meeting must—

(a) either specify the time and place to which it is adjourned or state that it is to continue at a time and place to be fixed by the directors, and

(b) have regard to any directions as to the time and place of any adjournment which have been given by the meeting.

26.5 If the continuation of an adjourned meeting is to take place more than 14 days after it was adjourned, the company must give at least 7 clear days' notice of it (that is, excluding the day of the adjourned meeting and the day on which the notice is given)—

(a) to the same persons to whom notice of the company's general meetings is required to be given, and

(b) containing the same information which such notice is required to contain.

26.6 No business may be transacted at an adjourned general meeting which could not properly have been transacted at the meeting if the adjournment had not taken place.

VOTING AT GENERAL MEETINGS

Voting: general

27.1 A resolution put to the vote of a general meeting must be decided on a show of hands unless a poll is duly demanded in accordance with the articles. Every member whether an individual or an organisation, shall have one vote.

Errors and disputes

28.1 No objection may be raised to the qualification of any person voting at a general meeting except at the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the vote objected to is tendered, and every vote not disallowed at the meeting is valid.

28.2 Any such objection must be referred to the chairman of the meeting whose decision is final.

Poll votes

29.1 A poll on a resolution may be demanded—

(a) in advance of the general meeting where it is to be put to the vote, or

(b) at a general meeting, either before a show of hands on that resolution or immediately after the result of a show of hands on that resolution is declared.

29.2 A poll may be demanded by—

(a) the chairman of the meeting;

(b) the directors;

(c) two or more persons having the right to vote on the resolution; or

(d) a person or persons representing not less than one tenth of the total voting rights of all the members having the right to vote on the resolution.

29.3 A demand for a poll may be withdrawn if—

(a) the poll has not yet been taken, and

(b) the chairman of the meeting consents to the withdrawal.

29.4 Polls must be taken immediately and in such manner as the chairman of the meeting directs.

Content of proxy notices

30.1 Proxies may only validly be appointed by a notice in writing (a "proxy notice")

which—

(a) states the name and address of the member appointing the proxy;

(b) identifies the person appointed to be that member's proxy and the general meeting in relation to which that person is appointed;

(c) is signed by or on behalf of the member appointing the proxy, or is authenticated in such manner as the directors may determine; and

(d) is delivered to the company in accordance with the articles and any instructions contained in the notice of the general meeting to which they relate.

30.2 The company may require proxy notices to be delivered in a particular form, and may specify different forms for different purposes.

30.3 Proxy notices may specify how the proxy appointed under them is to vote (or that the proxy is to abstain from voting) on one or more resolutions.

30.4 Unless a proxy notice indicates otherwise, it must be treated as—

(a) allowing the person appointed under it as a proxy discretion as to how to vote on any ancillary or procedural resolutions put to the meeting, and

(b) appointing that person as a proxy in relation to any adjournment of the general meeting to which it relates as well as the meeting itself.

Delivery of proxy notices

31.1 A person who is entitled to attend, speak or vote (either on a show of hands or on a poll) at a general meeting remains so entitled in respect of that meeting or any adjournment of it, even though a valid proxy notice has been delivered to the company by or on behalf of that person.

31.2 An appointment under a proxy notice may be revoked by delivering to the company a notice in writing given by or on behalf of the person by whom or on whose behalf the proxy notice was given.

31.3 A notice revoking a proxy appointment only takes effect if it is delivered before the start of the meeting or adjourned meeting to which it relates.

31.4 If a proxy notice is not executed by the person appointing the proxy, it must be accompanied by written evidence of the authority of the person who executed it to execute it on the appointor's behalf.

Amendments to resolutions

32.1 An ordinary resolution to be proposed at a general meeting may be amended by ordinary resolution if—

(a) notice of the proposed amendment is given to the company in writing by a person entitled to vote at the general meeting at which it is to be proposed not less than 48 hours before the meeting is to take place (or such later time as the chairman of the meeting may determine), and

(b) the proposed amendment does not, in the reasonable opinion of the chairman of the meeting, materially alter the scope of the resolution.

32.2 A special resolution to be proposed at a general meeting may be amended by ordinary resolution, if—

(a) the chairman of the meeting proposes the amendment at the general meeting at which the resolution is to be proposed, and

(b) the amendment does not go beyond what is necessary to correct a grammatical or other non-substantive error in the resolution.

32.3 If the chairman of the meeting, acting in good faith, wrongly decides that an amendment to a resolution is out of order, the chairman's error does not invalidate the vote on that resolution.

PART 5

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

Means of communication to be used

33.1 Subject to the articles, anything sent or supplied by or to the company under the articles may be sent or supplied in any way in which the Companies Act 2006 provides for documents or information which are authorised or required by any provision of that Act to be sent or supplied by or to the company.

33.2 Subject to the articles, any notice or document to be sent or supplied to a director in connection with the taking of decisions by directors may also be sent or supplied by the means by which that director has asked to be sent or supplied with such notices or documents for the time being.

33.3 A director may agree with the company that notices or documents sent to that director in a particular way are to be deemed to have been received within a specified time of their being sent, and for the specified time to be less than 48 hours.

Company seals

34.1 Any common seal may only be used by the authority of the directors.

34.2 The directors may decide by what means and in what form any common seal is to be used.

34.3 Unless otherwise decided by the directors, if the company has a common seal and it is affixed to a document, the document must also be signed by at least one authorised person in the presence of a witness who attests the signature.

34.4 For the purposes of this article, an authorised person is—

(a) any director of the company;

(b) the company secretary (if any); or

(c) any person authorised by the directors for the purpose of signing documents to which the common seal is applied.

No right to inspect accounts and other records

35.1 Except as provided by law or authorised by the directors or an ordinary resolution of the company, no person is entitled to inspect any of the company's accounting or other records or documents merely by virtue of being a member.

Provision for employees on cessation of business

36.1 The directors may decide to make provision for the benefit of persons employed or formerly employed by the company or any of its subsidiaries (other than a director or former director or shadow director) in connection with the cessation or transfer to any person of the whole or part of the undertaking of the company or that subsidiary.

COMPANY ACCOUNTS, INDEMNITY AND INSURANCE

Accounts

37.1 The Directors shall cause financial statements to be prepared up to 31st December each year.

37.2 The Directors shall ensure that financial statements are audited, regardless of any statutory provision which does not require this.

37.3 The Directors shall maintain monthly management accounts.

37.4 The Directors shall cause an Annual General Meeting to occur no later than 30th June each year.

Budget

38.1 The Directors shall prepare a Budget to be provided with each Notice Of General Meeting.

38.2 The Budget shall be prepared for each of the three calendar years starting with the calendar year following the year in which the General Meeting is held.

38.3 The Directors shall only be entitled to disburse funds or raise Membership subscriptions in accordance with the Budget duly voted upon and approved by Ordinary Resolution of the Members in General Meeting.

38.4 Where the Members do not approve a Budget, the budget for the calendar year in which the General Meeting occurs shall be in force for the following year.

Indemnity

39.1 Subject to paragraph (b), a relevant director of the company or an associated company may be indemnified out of the company's assets against—

(a) any liability incurred by that director in connection with any negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the company or an associated company,

(b) any liability incurred by that director in connection with the activities of the company or an associated company in its capacity as a trustee of an occupational pension scheme (as defined in section 235(6) of the Companies Act 2006),

(c) any other liability incurred by that director as an officer of the company or an associated company.

39.2 This article does not authorise any indemnity which would be prohibited or rendered void by any provision of the Companies Acts or by any other provision of law.

39.3 In this article—

(a) companies are associated if one is a subsidiary of the other or both are subsidiaries of the same body corporate, and

(b) a “relevant director” means any director or former director of the company or an associated company.

Insurance

40.1 The directors may decide to purchase and maintain insurance, at the expense of the company, for the benefit of any relevant director in respect of any relevant loss.

40.2 In this article—

(a) a “relevant director” means any director or former director of the company or an associated company,

(b) a “relevant loss” means any loss or liability which has been or may be incurred by a relevant director in connection with that director’s duties or powers in relation to the company, any associated company or any pension fund or employees’ share scheme of the company or associated company, and

(c) companies are associated if one is a subsidiary of the other or both are subsidiaries of the same body corporate.