Grievance

Grievance procedures exist to try to ensure that any concerns or complaints that staff members have are settled quickly and as fairly as possible. If a staff member feels they are receiving unfair treatment or being harassed by other staff members or have any grievance about their employment they should be initially raised with the individual concerned, if appropriate. If the grievance persists or if the concern relates to working conditions or is with the management committee itself the staff member should seek advice from their manager or the chair of the committee (or other officer if the grievance relates to the chair) who should seek to resolve the matter on the staff members behalf. If the matter cannot be resolved informally the grievance should be dealt with following a three-step process.

Step One

The staff member must put their grievance in writing to their employer, clearly outlining the reasons for the grievance. The employer should give the staff member full details of their rights under the Grievance procedures, including relevant timescales. Prior to the meeting both parties must be given time to consider the complaint.

Step Two

A face-to-face meeting between the staff member and a panel made up of senior members of staff must be called. The staff member has the right to be accompanied by someone usually a colleague or trade union representative, who may speak on his or her behalf. The staff member and their representative should state their case, calling witnesses if necessary. The panel should consider their decision in private. At the end of this meeting the employer must inform the staff member of their decision and that they have the right to appeal.

Step Three

If required an appeal meeting. The staff member must request an appeal meeting within five working days of the grievance hearing. The staff member or their representative will be given the opportunity to state their case and witnesses for both sides may be called and questioned. Again, the panel should consider the case in private and give the staff member their decision, which is final.