



MEMBERSHIP POLICY

Membership

Note: Membership of Pillar Kincardine is open to both service users and non service users, whether individuals or organisations. The following paragraphs relate specifically to members who are service users.

Membership Criteria

Service using membership of Pillar Kincardine shall be open to any adult over 16 years who:

- Resides within South Aberdeenshire.
- Has experienced mild, moderate, severe, acute or enduring mental ill health, causing personal distress and problems in daily living.
- Has recently (within the past 2 years) required assistance and guidance for mental health problems from a health and/or social care professional.
- Benefits in terms of their mental health from social contact and activities of the type that Pillar Kincardine provides.
- Accesses Pillar Kincardine services of their own free will.

Membership Services

Pillar Kincardine will aim to facilitate social contact and activities of a kind which positively enhances mental wellbeing both within its own meeting places and elsewhere in the local community, and members will be expected to make positive choices about the groups or sessions they wish to attend, in conjunction with other community resources and facilities. While it is not a treatment service, people who use Pillar Kincardine will be able to access advice, information and support during group sessions and individually.

Pillar Kincardine is committed to active user involvement in the management of its services. Members will be encouraged to make suggestions about future activities or to raise general issues about the running of the organisation through regular feedback and evaluations, and to stand for election to the Board of Directors.

Membership reviews

Membership of Pillar Kincardine is intended to be used as a steppingstone into mainstream activities and services, however we do recognise that for most of our members it is a preventative service which aids their recovery and maintains their wellbeing. Reviews of existing membership will be undertaken on a rolling basis with regard to membership criteria and members' individual circumstances.

It is aimed to review members' circumstances and progress during the course of each year. As part of this process, members will be encouraged to review their contact with Pillar Kincardine and, with support from staff, to move towards making positive choices about how they use the service; this may include identifying activities and resources outside Pillar Kincardine.

To facilitate this process Pillar Kincardine will make active links with other organisations such as Community Education. Any choices that members make will be viewed flexibly, so that members are able to lean more heavily on the service when less well.

Moving On

Where the initial review indicates that a member is using Pillar Kincardine inappropriately, they will be given suggestions for alternatives to explore. It may be that, in subsequent reviews, such a member may be asked, with active help, to move on from Pillar Kincardine.

Moving on should be a positive choice and experience for Pillar Kincardine members. The friendships that people form through Pillar Kincardine can be maintained outside Pillar Kincardine without any direct Pillar Kincardine involvement.

Moving on is not a one-way process, and ex-members may return at any point where their needs are compatible with the service Pillar Kincardine provides.