

These are proposed amendments and additions to [the GAT Procedures](#). They are not retrospective although can be undertaken on a voluntary basis by groups who have been affiliated within the last six months.

Add to existing section Recommendations for Approval:

At the time of affiliation, Group Owners will be asked to confirm they will hand over the group to Freegle if they no longer wish to run it or give GAT details of any new owners they have appointed.

Add new section:

NEW GROUP SUPPORT

Freegle emphasises mutual help and encouragement. The purpose of this procedure is to provide support for brand new Group Owners (GO) to build their groups and to minimise the chances of groups being abandoned by the new GO soon after affiliation.

If a group is abandoned within the first six months of affiliation or the GO no longer wishes to run it and has not found another GO, this procedure allows Freegle to be able to keep the group running until a new GO is found.

a. Definition of New Group

A New Group is a group set up from scratch with new Moderators to Freegle. This procedure doesn't apply to groups moving from other reuse networks, or to existing Freegle Moderators who start a new group if they have at least six months experience of running a Freegle group.

b. Mentor Support

We require brand new groups to have a minimum of two Yahoo GOs, one of whom should be a Group Mentor (GM) assigned by GAT.

The newly affiliated GO is responsible for running the group. The GM is there to advise and support the newly affiliated GO/s and may not make rules for the group.

GMs will have 'sleeping' owner status on the group. They will not represent the group, have rights over the membership, or be involved in running the group unless expressly

requested by the GO. If the group is abandoned by the GO with no contact with the GM, the GM will consult with GAT on how to proceed.

c. Duration of Mentor Support

The GM will stay on the group for six months from the date of affiliation and then remove themselves, unless a newly affiliated GO asks them to stay. The GM must remove themselves whenever asked after the six month period has elapsed unless the group has been abandoned.

We strongly advise that groups have at least two Yahoo GOs and that a newly affiliated group GO arranges this before the GM leaves.

d. Terms of Mentor Support

A newly affiliated group Owner may request a change of GM at any time without giving a reason.

The removal of a GM as a Yahoo GO or the refusal to communicate with a GM within the six month period could be grounds for disaffiliation under the [usual procedures](#).

All groups are encouraged to follow [best practice](#) guidelines. The GM should discuss best practice with the GOs/mods if they feel the group is not benefiting from those guidelines. If the GM has ongoing concerns and GOs/mods do not respond, the GM should report the situation to GAT, particularly if the group looks as if it might be effectively abandoned.

- Once these concerns have been reported to GAT, GAT will investigate and make a decision on what to do, including whether the group has been abandoned.
- If GAT decides that the group is abandoned the GM will demote the original group owner to moderator with limited privileges, and stay on the group, ensuring it is run on a day to day basis, until GAT or the GM is able to find a new permanent GO.
- The GM will stay on the group for a further six months from the date of the appointment of a new GO, unless at least one of the GO/s has six months or more experience as a Freegle moderator.

e. Group Mentors

GMs will be sought in the first instance from local Freegle Volunteers. If there is no-one

suitable, a member of the Freegle Mentors Group will be appointed. GMs should belong to the [Freegle Mentors Group](#). They do not have to belong to be asked to be a GM but they should join as a condition of appointment, so they have a source of support in the role.