

EAST WILLIAMSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Equality and Diversity Policy

1. INTRODUCTION:

We at East Williamston Community Council are committed to equality of opportunity and to providing a service and following practises which are free from unfair and unlawful discrimination. The aim of this policy is to ensure that no applicant, member of staff or volunteer receives less favourable treatment on the grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, or is disadvantaged by conditions or requirements which cannot be shown to be relevant to performance. It seeks also to ensure that no person is victimised or subjected to any form of bullying or harassment. We value people as individuals with diverse opinions, cultures, lifestyles, and circumstances. All employees and volunteers are covered by this policy, and it applies to all areas of employment including recruitment, selection, training, deployment, career development, and promotion. These areas are monitored, and policies and practices are amended if necessary to ensure that no unfair or unlawful discrimination, intentional, unintentional, direct or indirect, overt or latent exists. All employees, volunteer, workers or self-employed contractors whether part time, full time or temporary, will be treated fairly and with respect. Selection for employment, promotion, training, or any other benefit will be on the basis of aptitude and ability. All employees and volunteers will be helped and encouraged to develop their full potential and the talents and resources of the workforce will be fully utilised to maximise the efficiency of the Community Council. Equality of opportunity, valuing diversity and compliance with the law is to the benefit of all individuals in the Community Council as it seeks to develop the skills and abilities of its people. Responsibility for eliminating discrimination and providing equality of opportunity lies with all individuals at all levels have a responsibility to treat others with dignity and respect. The personal commitment of every employee and volunteer to this policy and application of its principles are essential to eliminate discrimination and provide equality throughout the Community Council.

2. OUR COMMITMENT AS AN EMPLOYER:

- i) To create an environment in which individual differences and the contributions of our staff and volunteers are recognised and valued.
- ii) Every employee, volunteer, worker or self-employed contractor is entitled to a working environment that promotes dignity and respect to all. No form of intimidation, bullying or harassment will be tolerated.
- iii) Training, development and progression opportunities are available to all staff and volunteers.
- iv) Equality in the workplace is good management practice and makes sound business sense.
- v) We will review all our employment practices and procedures to ensure fairness.

3. OUR COMMITMENT AS A SERVICE

- i) We aim to provide services to which all clients are entitled regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, offending past, caring responsibilities or social class.
- ii) We will make sure that our services are delivered equitably and meet the diverse needs of our service users and clients by assessing and meeting the diverse needs of our clients.

iii) This policy is fully supported by the Members of the Council.

iv) This policy will be monitored and reviewed annually.

v) We have clear procedures that enable our clients, candidates for jobs and employees to raise a grievance or make a complaint if they feel they have been unfairly treated.

vi) Breaches of our equality and diversity policy will be regarded as misconduct and could lead to disciplinary proceedings.

4. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY POLICY STATEMENTS AGE

We will:

- ensure that people of all ages are treated with respect and dignity;
- ensure that people of working age are given equal access to our employment, training, development and promotion opportunities; and
- challenge discriminatory assumptions about younger and older people.

DISABILITY

We will:

- provide any reasonable adjustments to ensure disabled people have access to our services and employment opportunities;
- challenge discriminatory assumptions about disabled people; and seek to continue to improve access to information by ensuring availability of: loop systems; Braille facilities; alternative formatting; and sign language interpretation when required.

RACE

We will:

- challenge racism wherever it occurs;
- respond swiftly and sensitively to racist incidents; and
- actively promote race equality in the Town Council.

GENDER

We will:

- challenge discriminatory assumptions about gender;
- take positive action to redress the negative effects of discrimination against gender;
- offer equal access for individuals to representation, services, employment, training and pay and encourage other organisations to do the same; and
- provide support to prevent discrimination against transsexual people who have or who are about to undergo gender reassignment.

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

We will:

- ensure that we take account of the needs of LGBTQ+ community; and promote positive images of individuals who are LGBTQ+.

RELIGION OR BELIEF

We will:

- ensure that employees' religion or beliefs and related observances are respected and accommodated wherever possible; and respect people's beliefs where the expression of those beliefs does not impinge on the legitimate rights of others

PREGNANCY OR MATERNITY

We will:

- Ensure that people are treated with respect and dignity and that a positive image is promoted regardless of pregnancy or maternity; challenge discriminatory assumptions about the pregnancy or maternity of our employees; and ensure that no individual is disadvantaged and that we take account of the needs of our employees' pregnancy or maternity.

MARRIAGE OR CIVIL PARTNERSHIP

We will:

- Ensure that people are treated with respect and dignity and that a positive image is promoted regardless of marriage or civil partnership; challenge discriminatory assumptions about the marriage or civil partnership of our employees; and ensure that no individual is disadvantaged and that we take account of the needs of our employees' marriage or civil partnership.

EX-OFFENDERS

We will:

- prevent discrimination against our employees regardless of their offending background (except where there is a known risk to children or vulnerable adults).

EQUAL PAY

We will:

- ensure that all employees, male or female, have the right to the same contractual pay and benefits for carrying out the same work, work rated as equivalent work or work of equal value.