

The EHRC have published the [draft code of practice for the Equality Act 2010](#), updated following the ruling on sex and gender reassignment by the Supreme Court in April 2025 and much other legislative changes since the last code of 2011.

The Charity Commission are understood to be issuing guidance in the autumn. When this is available CVS Bedfordshire will amend our model policy to be consistent with this new guidance – 5/8/2026.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy – with effect from 1 June 2025

[Name of organisation] aims to encourage, value and manage equality, diversity and inclusion and is committed to providing equity for all. *[Name of organisation]* wishes to secure genuine fairness of opportunity in all aspects of its activities.

[Name of organisation] is committed to eliminating discrimination and encouraging diversity amongst staff, trustees, volunteers and users of its services. Equality, diversity and inclusion will be considered in all activities and resources. This policy will be implemented within the framework of current legislation.

Legislation and Guidance

This policy is underpinned by and complies with the following key legislation and national guidance:

- **Equality Act 2010**
- **Human Rights Act 1998**

Our Beliefs

[Name of organisation] believes that:

- Equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) are fundamental to the integrity and success of our work.
- Our beneficiaries should have equal access to the opportunities we offer, and no one should be disadvantaged due to personal characteristics or background.
- Promoting an inclusive culture enhances personal development and strengthens community cohesion.

Commitment to Anti-Discriminatory Practice

[Name of organisation] is fully committed to anti-discriminatory practices in all areas of our operations. We actively challenge and eliminate discrimination based on:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender identity
- Race and ethnicity
- Religion or belief
- Sexual orientation
- Socioeconomic background

We also commit to celebrating diversity and fostering an environment of respect and acceptance.

Ensuring Non-Discrimination

To ensure no one is discriminated against:

- All policies and procedures are regularly reviewed for fairness and inclusivity.

- Trustees / Directors / Committee Members and staff and volunteers receive training on EDI principles and how to implement them.
- Clear reporting mechanisms exist for any breaches of this policy.
- We ensure equitable access to services, facilities, events, training and leadership opportunities.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide equality and fairness for all involved in *[Name of organisation]* and to eliminate discrimination for protected characteristics defined by law and including:

Gender (including sex, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, gender re-assignment)

People are fully and properly represented and rewarded for their contribution at all levels of the organisation through:

- challenging gender stereotypes
- supporting employees and volunteers in balancing their life at work and at home

Employees, trustees, volunteers and service users are treated fairly and equally irrespective of their marital/civil partnership or family status.

[Name of organisation] will take positive steps to support a transgender person and ensure they are treated with dignity and respect.

Race (including ethnic origin, colour, nationality and national origin)

The racial and cultural diversity of the local community is represented through:

- challenging racial stereotypes
- understanding, respecting and valuing racial and cultural difference and perspectives
- encouraging and enabling members of minority ethnic groups to work and volunteer for *[Name of organisation]* at all levels

Disability

The abilities of disabled people are recognised and valued through:

- focussing on what people can do rather than on what they cannot
- challenging stereotypes about people with disabilities and in particular, not making false assumptions that disabled people are unable to do certain things
- making appropriate adjustments in the workplace so that people can reach their full potential regardless of any disability.

Sexual orientation

People are treated fairly irrespective of their sexuality through:

- respecting the rights of everyone irrespective of whether or not they are open about their sexuality
- respecting different lifestyles even if someone's different lifestyle conflicts with one's own religious or cultural beliefs
- challenging negative stereotypical views
- celebrating and welcoming significant LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bi, trans, queer/questioning and more) events in the same way that similar events of importance to heterosexual people are celebrated

Religion or belief

People are treated fairly irrespective of their religious beliefs, faith or lack of belief. Demands of religion (e.g. prayer times and religious holidays) and of culture (traditional dress) are accepted.

Age

Age diversity is promoted and valued through:

- challenging age stereotyping, recognising that the new ideas and fresh approaches can come from anyone irrespective of their age

- recognising the benefits of mixed-age staff, trustees and volunteers

Eliminating discrimination

Discrimination occurs when a condition or requirement is applied which cannot be justified. Forms of direct discrimination include less favourable treatment (denial of access to or a poor level of service), harassment or victimisation.

Harassment occurs when someone's actions or words, based on the relevant grounds, are unwelcome and violate another person's dignity or create an environment that is intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive.

[Name of organisation] will not tolerate harassment in any form and in particular:

Racial harassment is unlawful. Incidents include:

- physical assaults/threats against a person or group because of colour or ethnicity
- racist insult/joke/name calling
- racist graffiti/any other written insult
- provocative behaviour (e.g. wearing racist badges or insignia)
- racial comments in meetings conversation/workshops
- attempting to recruit for racist organisations or groups
- racist literature (leaflets, comics, magazines) brought into the organisation's premises
- providing a platform for racism

Sexual harassment is unlawful. The definition adopted by **[Name of organisation]** is:

- Repeated and unwanted verbal or sexual advances, sexually explicit derogatory statements or sexually discriminating remarks which are offensive to the person involved, which cause them to feel threatened, humiliated, patronised or harassed or which creates a threatening or intimidating environment.

Harassment against disabled people. It is unlawful to subject a disabled person to harassment by engaging in unwanted conduct which has the purpose or effect of violating the disabled person's dignity, or creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment for the person involved.

Victimisation means treating someone less favourably because they have made a complaint of discrimination (a "protected act"), or are thought to have done so; or because they have supported someone else who has made a complaint of discrimination.

Indirect discrimination occurs where the effect of provisions, criteria or practices imposed by an employer have an adverse impact disproportionately on one group or other. Indirect discrimination generally occurs when a rule or condition, which is applied equally to everyone, can be met by a considerably smaller proportion of people from a particular group; the rule is to their disadvantage and it cannot be justified on other grounds.

[Name of organisation] will seek to overcome indirect discrimination by:

- provision of training for staff, volunteers, and where possible service users
- provision of information about relevant support organisations
- making clear its expectations of staff, volunteers and service users in the conduct of their duties in any circumstances where they represent **[Name of organisation]**

Responsibilities

[Name of organisation]'s commitment to equality and diversity means that everyone involved with **[Name of organisation]** has a duty to:

- promote equality and diversity in the delivery of **[Name of organisation]** services
- ensure that everyone associated with **[Name of organisation]** is treated in a non-discriminatory way

- promote a welcoming environment in which individuals from all backgrounds feel welcome, valued and respected
- promote this equality and diversity policy

Managers and trustees have additional responsibility to:

- ensure systems, procedures and services do not discriminate
- promote and implement diversity within the management of service provision
- provide appropriate training to put this equality and diversity policy into practice
- challenge inappropriate behaviour immediately
- listen to and respect others, and not dismiss their problems as “trivial”
- set a positive example in everything they do

Recruitment and employment

[Name of organisation] is an equal opportunities employer and wishes to attain a workforce that is representative of the local community to secure the widest pool of talent possible. All employees, 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 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 organisation.

Volunteering

It is crucial that all volunteers are able to participate and enjoy the activities without discrimination. *[Name of organisation]* believes that volunteers should not be excluded from any opportunity without due reason. Volunteers will not be discriminated against in the advice and support they are given. Nor will they be denied access to opportunities because of their assumed abilities, skills or behaviour and each volunteer will be judged on their own merits. *[Name of organisation]* will actively encourage and support volunteers to participate in the planning and implementation of their work.

Disciplinary and grievance procedures

Details of the *[Name of organisation]* grievance and disciplinary policies and procedures can be found at [insert details as appropriate]. This includes with whom an employee, volunteer or service user should raise a grievance.

Use of the organisation’s grievance or disciplinary procedures does not affect anyone’s right to make a claim to an employment tribunal within three months of the alleged discrimination.

Monitoring, review and responsibility

Trustees / Directors / Committee Members are responsible for implementing the equal opportunities policy. Any complaint or grievance should be made to the chair of the organisation.

Organisational Lead for Equality

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Lead:

Name:

Role:

Email:

Signed: _____ Role [usually Chair]: _____ Date

Next review date: