



Equality, Inclusion and Inclusion Policy

Version 5 – 14th December 2024
Next Review Date – 14th December 2025

Equality, Inclusion and Diversity Policy

A) STATEMENT OF POLICY

- 1) The terms equality, inclusion and diversity are at the heart of this policy. 'Equality' means ensuring everyone has the same opportunities to fulfil their potential free from discrimination. 'Inclusion' means ensuring everyone feels comfortable to be themselves at work and feels the worth of their contribution. 'Diversity' means the celebration of individual differences amongst the workforce. We will actively support diversity and inclusion and ensure that all our employees are valued and treated with dignity and respect. We want to encourage everyone in our business to reach their potential.
- 2) We recognise that discrimination is unacceptable and although equality of opportunity has been a long standing feature of our employment practices and procedures, we have made the decision to adopt a formal policy. Breaches of the policy will lead to disciplinary proceedings and, if appropriate, disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.
- 3) The aim of the policy is to ensure no job applicant, employee or worker is discriminated against either directly or indirectly on the grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.
- 4) We will ensure that the policy is circulated to any agencies responsible for our recruitment and a copy of the policy will be made available for all employees and made known to all applicants for employment.
- 5) The policy will be communicated to all private contractors reminding them of their responsibilities towards the equality of opportunity.
- 6) The policy will be implemented in accordance with the appropriate statutory requirements and full account will be taken of all available guidance and in particular any relevant Codes of Practice.
- 7) We will maintain a neutral working environment in which no employee or worker feels under threat or intimidated.
- 8) We will incorporate equality, inclusion and diversity into our strategic business plan and the aims and objectives of Community Action Dacorum
- 9) We will ensure that premises used in relation to our work are accessible and inviting for all members of the community. Where access to our building is limited, the guidance as set out in "Statement on Provision of Services for People with Access Needs" will be followed.

B) RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION

- 1) The recruitment and selection process is crucially important to any equality, inclusion and diversity policy. We will endeavour through appropriate training to ensure that employees making selection and recruitment decisions will not discriminate, whether consciously or unconsciously, in making these decisions.
- 2) Promotion and advancement will be made on merit and all decisions relating to this will be made within the overall framework and principles of this policy.

- 3) We will ensure that job descriptions are in line with this policy. Job requirements will be reflected accurately in any personnel specifications.
- 4) We will adopt a consistent, non-discriminatory approach to the advertising of vacancies.
- 5) We will not confine our recruitment to areas or media sources which provide only, or mainly, applicants of a particular group.
- 6) All applicants who apply for jobs with us will receive fair treatment and will be considered solely on their ability to do the job.
- 7) All employees involved in the recruitment process will periodically review their selection criteria to ensure that they are related to the job requirements and do not unlawfully discriminate.
- 8) Short listing and interviewing will be carried out by more than one person where possible.
- 9) Interview questions will be related to the requirements of the job and will not be of a discriminatory nature.
- 10) We will not disqualify any applicant because they are unable to complete an application form unassisted unless personal completion of the form is a valid test of the standard of English required for the safe and effective performance of the job.
- 11) Selection decisions will not be influenced by any perceived prejudices of other staff.

C) TRAINING AND PROMOTION

- 1) All staff and Trustees will receive training in the application of this policy to ensure that they are aware of its contents and provisions.
- 2) All promotion will be in line with this policy.

D) SERVICE DELIVERY AND PROVISION

Community Action Dacorum supports the development of a locally diverse voluntary/community sector and in doing so is committed to providing high quality services that are accessible to all irrespective of race, age, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, illness, marital status or responsibility for dependents. Community Action Dacorum aims to ensure that all its services are delivered in line with this policy by

- Promoting equality and diversity in our work with other agencies or individuals
- Ensuring that all services are responsive to the changing needs of community groups and individuals in Dacorum.
- Ensuring that information on the services delivered by Community Action Dacorum is widely available and where necessary targeted and adapted to ensure maximum awareness.
- Ensuring that new services developed to meet identified needs in the local community are based upon consultation and research with potential service users.
- Ensuring that service delivery is monitored on an ongoing basis and regular feedback is sought from service users to inform future development.
- Supporting our members in developing their own policies and work practices in relation to equality and diversity.

E) TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees membership (including co-opted members) should aim to reflect a fair balance and representation of the local community and should endeavour to redress any imbalance of under-represented groups.

F) COMMUNICATIONS

Community Action Dacorum will endeavour to ensure that all communication whether internal or external is provided in accessible formats. We will when requested make information available in other formats and languages so as not to disadvantage people and use plain English to communicate effectively.

G) CONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS

As part of our commitment to equality, inclusion and diversity Community Action Dacorum aims to work with other organisations/companies whose equality and diversity principles are compatible with our own.

H) MONITORING

- 1) We will maintain and review the employment records of all employees to monitor the progress of this policy.
- 2) Monitoring may involve:
 - a) the collection and classification of information regarding the race in terms of ethnic/national origin and sex of all applicants and current employees;
 - b) the examination by ethnic/national origin and sex of the distribution of employees and the success rate of the applicants; and
 - c) recording recruitment, training and promotional records of all employees, the decisions reached and the reason for those decisions.
- 3) The HR group will be responsible for monitoring adherence to this policy. The results of any monitoring procedure will be reviewed at regular intervals to assess the effectiveness of the implementation of this policy. Consideration will be given, if necessary, to adjusting this policy to afford greater equality of opportunities to all applicants and staff.