

WESTERLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL
EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY POLICY

The Council aims are to:

1.0 Welcome and celebrate diversity

- 1.01 Provide support for community activities which promote mutual understanding and community cohesion
- 1.02 Promote positive images of people from all sections of the community in Council publications
- 1.03 Use appropriate and effective consultation methods to enable people at risk of discrimination and exclusion to influence the Council's decision making, policy and practice
- 1.04 Work collaboratively with community based equalities groups and representatives in identifying needs, developing policy and overcoming barriers to services
- 1.05 Take action to promote and implement equality and opportunity

2.0 Provide high quality inclusive services and facilities

- 2.01 Take appropriate steps to ensure as far as possible that all service users have equal and independent access
- 2.02 Provide clear information about our services in a variety of formats on request
- 2.03 Ensure physical/social barriers to accessing facilities and services are overcome
- 2.04 Involve users in the review and development of services
- 2.05 Develop protocols and other guidance which recognise and help meet specific needs of diverse groups and individuals
- 2.06 Act promptly and appropriately if we receive any complaints about the way we provide services

3.0 Ensure employment policies and practices are fair and equitable

- 3.1 Ensure we select applicants for jobs solely on the basis of their relevant experience, qualifications and skills
- 3.2 Ensure that an individual's age, gender, sensory, physical impairment, emotional/mental distress and learning difficulty, faith, sexuality or ethnic origin is not a barrier to recruitment

4.0 Challenge harassment and discrimination in the wider community

- 4.1 Provide community leadership in promoting tolerance, understanding and respect
- 4.2 Work closely with service providers, the police, other enforcement agencies and the community to take action to encourage reporting of harassment and discrimination
- 4.3 Deal robustly with any incidents of harassment or discrimination within the Council or its services

