

# Equality and Diversity Policy

2011 - 2015



Leeds City Council has adopted the Equalities Review 2007 definition of an equal society which strengthens our approach to equality and diversity. The definition is:

**“An equal society protects and promotes equal, real freedom and substantive opportunity to live in the ways people value and would choose, so that everyone can flourish. An equal society recognises different people’s different needs, situations and goals and removes the barriers that limit what people can do and can be”**

The council is committed to:

- eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- advancing equality of opportunity; and
- fostering good relations within and between our communities with a view to building good community relations

The Policy is in line with Leeds City Council’s duties and responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010.

## Our aims are that:

- all our existing and potential service users are treated with dignity and respect;
- our partnership and contract arrangements promote equality of opportunity;
- we will work with and between communities to help develop and strengthen relationships;
- our workforce will be reflective of all sections of society; and
- each employee feels respected and able to give of their best.

We will treat everyone with the same attention, courtesy and respect regardless of:

- Age,
- Disability,
- Race or racial group (including colour, nationality and ethnic origin or national origins),
- Religion or belief,
- Sex
- Marriage and Civil Partnership,
- Gender reassignment,
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Sexual orientation,
- Caring responsibilities,
- Social class, or
- Trade union activity.

We will take all reasonable steps to ensure that we do not unlawfully discriminate.

## Our commitment is to create an environment both for staff and people of Leeds:

- that promotes dignity and respect for all;
- where people are treated fairly and according to their needs;
- where no form of intimidation, bullying or harassment is tolerated; and
- in which individual differences and the contributions of all are recognised and valued.

## **This policy applies to:**

- all council Members;
- all service users and those applying to access services;
- all contractors and sub contractors; and
- all employees, whether part-time, full-time or temporary, and all job applicants.

## **Roles and responsibilities**

We all have a right to be treated fairly and with dignity and respect. For this to happen we have a responsibility to ensure that our own actions and behaviours are equally fair and that we respect the dignity of others.

Less favourable treatment should be challenged directly, either by the recipient or by any witnesses. Where this is not possible, for whatever reason, then the complaints procedure can be used.

## **Good practice**

In **all** our activities we will:

- give due regard to equality and diversity when reviewing existing and developing new strategies/ policies and services/ functions to ensure that we
  - secure flexible and fair working practices,
  - provide excellent services and
  - fairly award contracts, and commission services
- engage and involve interested groups and individuals (both internal and external to the council) with our decision making processes
- deal with all complaints of discrimination, harassment or victimisation promptly and with sensitivity to all those involved
- take all opportunities to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations within and between our communities.

In delivering our services we will:

- assess the needs of our existing and potential service users and ensure fair access to our services. This includes making reasonable adjustments to enable disabled people to use our services;
- ensure the availability of appropriate support services. This includes translation and interpretation and making key information available in a range of alternative formats,
- provide access points for reporting hate crimes.

In employment, learning and development we will:

- provide increased opportunities in areas of under-representation. This could include school placements, supported trainee schemes or mentoring;
- continue to progress equal pay;
- assess the needs of our existing and potential disabled employees and provide appropriate reasonable adjustments, and
- take appropriate positive action in recruitment and selection.

## **Support to implement the policy**

All our policies and practices are supported by appropriate training or briefing sessions and guidance. For the equality and diversity policy:

- general and bespoke equality and diversity training is available through Human Resources, and
- advice and guidance is also available from the Equality Team.

## **Monitoring**

All our policies contribute to our overall aims around equality. Key policies – such as those relating to employment, service delivery, community engagement, commissioning and procurement - are specifically designed to promote equality of opportunity and protect people against unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation. We collect and analyse data relating to these areas of policy, to identify trends and areas of inequality, and then take appropriate action.

## **Communications**

The equality and diversity policy is available on the intranet and our external website. We will use all opportunities to promote the policy. This includes key messages, induction events for new staff, and specific equality and diversity events.

## **Responsibility for reviewing this document**

The Head of Equality will be responsible for the bi-annual review and update of this policy.

## **For enquiries about this policy please contact the Equality Team:**

**By email:** [equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk)

**By telephone:** 0113 2474190

**By text:** 07891 270162

**Website:** [www.leeds.gov.uk/equality](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/equality)

**By post:**

Equality Team  
Ground Floor,  
Civic Hall  
Calverley Street  
Leeds  
LS1 1UR

This publication can also be made available in large print, Braille, on audio tape, audio cd and on computer disk.

If you do not speak English and need help in understanding this document, please telephone the number below and state the name of your language. We will then put you on hold while we contact an interpreter. The number is **0113 247 4190**.

### **Arabic:**

إن كنت لا تتحدث باللغة الإنجليزية وتحتاج لمساعدة لفهم هذا المستند؛ الرجاء الاتصال بالهاتف على الرقم أدناه، واذكر اسم لغتك. حينئذ، سوف نطلب منك أن تنتظر على الخط حتى نتصل بمترجم.

### **Bengali:**

যদি আপনি ইংরেজীতে কথা বলতে না পারেন এবং এই দলিলটি বুঝতে পারার জন্য সাহায্যের দরকার হয়, তাহলে দয়া করে নিচের নম্বরে ফোন করে আপনার ভাষাটির নাম বলুন। আমরা তখন আপনাকে লাইনে থাকতে বলে কোন দোভাষীর (ইন্টারপ্রিটার) সাথে যোগাযোগ করব।

### **Cantonese:**

如你不懂說英語而需要協助以明白本文件，請致電下列電話號碼並說明你的母語。我們將會請你稍候以聯絡口譯員。

### **Hindi:**

यदि आप इंग्लिश नहीं बोलते हैं और इस दस्तावेज़ को समझने में आपको मदद चाहिए, तो कृपया नीचे दिए गए नंबर पर फ़ोन करें और अपनी भाषा का नाम बोलें। उसके बाद जब तक हम किसी दुभाषिण (इंटरप्रिटर) से संपर्क करेंगे, हम आपको होल्ड पर रखेंगे।

### **Punjabi:**

ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇੰਗਲਿਸ਼ ਨਹੀਂ ਬੋਲਦੇ ਅਤੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਝਣ ਲਈ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਵਾਲੇ ਨੰਬਰ ਤੇ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ ਅਤੇ ਆਪਣੀ ਜ਼ਬਾਨ ਦਾ ਨਾਂ ਦੱਸੋ। ਫੇਰ ਅਸੀਂ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇੰਤਜ਼ਾਰ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਕਹਾਂਗੇ ਤਾਂ ਜੋ ਅਸੀਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਇੰਟਰਪਰਿਟਰ (ਦੁਭਾਸ਼ੀ) ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰ ਸਕੀਏ।

### **Kurdish:**

گەر زمانى ئینگلیزى نازانیت و بیویستت به هاوکاریه له تیگه یشتنى ئەم به لگه نامه یه دا، تکایه ته له فۆن بۆ ژماره که ی خواره وه بکه و زمانى ئاخاوتنى خۆت بلێ. ئیمه ش تۆ راده گرین له سه ره ته له فۆنه که تا وه رگێرکی زمانت بۆ دابین ده که یین.

**Tigrinya:**

እንግልሽ ዘይትዛረብ/ብ, እንተኾንካ/ኪ, እሞ ነዚ ደኩመንት'ዚ/ሰነድ'ዚ ንምርዳእ ሓገዝ ምስ ዘድልዩካ/ኪ ቋንቋኻ/ኸ, ብምሕባር ኣብ'ዚ ኣብ ታሕቲ ተገሊጹ ዘሎ ቁጽሪ ተሌፎን ደውለልና/ደውልልና። ብድሕሪኡ ንሕና ኣስተርጓሚይ ክሳብ ንረክብ ኣብ መስመር ክነጸብዩካ/ኪ ኢና።

**Urdu:**

اگر آپ انگریزی نہیں بولتے ہیں اور اس دستاویز کو سمجھنے کیلئے آپ کو مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو براہ مہربانی نیچے دیئے گئے نمبر پر ٹیلی فون کریں اور اپنی زبان کا نام بتائیں۔ اس کے بعد ہم آپ سے انتظار کرنے کا کہہ کر آپ کیلئے کسی ترجمان سے رابطہ کریں گے۔

**Czech:**

Jestliže nemluvíte anglicky a potřebujete, aby vám někdo pomohl vysvětlit tento dokument, prosím zavolejte na níže uvedené číslo a uveďte svůj jazyk. Potom vás požádáme, abyste nepokládal(-a) telefon a mezitím zkontaktujeme tlumočnicka.

**French:**

Si vous ne parlez pas anglais et que vous avez besoin d'aide pour comprendre ce document, veuillez téléphoner au numéro ci-dessous et indiquez votre langue. Nous vous demanderons d'attendre pendant que nous contactons un(e) interprète.

**Polish:**

Jeżeli nie mówią Państwo po angielsku i potrzebują pomocy w zrozumieniu tego dokumentu, prosimy zadzwonić pod poniższy numer telefonu. Po podaniu nazwy swojego ojczystego języka prosimy poczekać – w tym czasie będziemy kontaktować się z tłumaczem.

**Slovak:**

Ak nehovoríte anglicky a potrebujete, aby vám niekto pomohol vysvetliť tento dokument, prosím zavolajte na nižšie uvedené číslo a uveďte svoj jazyk. Potom vás požiadame, aby ste nepokladali telefón a medzitým skontaktujeme tlmočníka.