



## Equality & Diversity Policy

### Introduction

St Edmunds Society believes that all people have a right to services and employment which are free from all forms of unlawful and unfair discrimination on the grounds of age, class, gender, gender reassignment, race, nationality or citizenship, ethnicity, religion or belief, political persuasion, disability, HIV status, marital status and sexuality.

St-Edmunds Society will take every step possible to ensure that every individual is treated fairly and equally and that decisions on recruitment, employment, education, selection, training, promotion, career management and provision of other benefits are based solely on objective and job-related criteria.

### Responsibility

The Trustees of St Edmunds Society have ultimate responsibility for the equality and diversity policy. Every member of St Edmunds Society is required to support this policy and ensure discrimination does not occur.

### Objectives

Equality of opportunity is crucial to good practice in any organisation and fairness of opportunity for all is a basic right.

This policy is therefore underpinned by the following:

- To deliver equality and diversity throughout organisational policies, procedures and practice and develop an ethos which respects and values all people
- To challenge discrimination and lack of opportunity and encourage other organisations and individuals to do the same to actively promote equality of opportunity
- To create a culture that respects and values an individual's differences and recognises that difference/diversity is an asset to our organisation both to its work and the people it serves
- To eliminate all forms of unfair discrimination, bullying, harassment or other oppressive behaviour. No form of intimidation, bullying or harassment will be tolerated
- Take positive action to provide encouragement and support to individuals and groups whose progress has been limited by stereotyping and cultural expectations and to prepare candidates for life in a diverse society
- To ensure all employees, volunteers, candidates and collaborative partners are aware and encouraged to support the objectives of this policy
- Promote good relations amongst people within the organisations community and the wider communities within which we work

- Do our best, within available resources, to remove barriers which limit or discourage access to St Edmunds Society training provision and activities
- Monitor the implementation, set targets for improvement and evaluate the impact of equality and diversity action.

## What is Equality?

Equality is ensuring individuals or groups of individuals are treated fairly and equally and no less favourably, specific to their needs, including areas of race, gender, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation and age.

## What is Diversity?

Diversity aims to recognise, respect and value people's differences to contribute and realise their full potential by promoting an inclusive culture for all staff and candidates

## Monitoring of Compliance

All feedback, both formal and informal, from candidates, employers, and clients or other interested parties, is reviewed by St Edmunds Society. If any changes to the Centre's policies or procedures are considered necessary to maintain compliance, these are actioned as soon as possible