



Building Bridges Partnership Gender Equality and Equal Opportunities Policy

1. Our aim

1.1 The Building Bridges partnership is committed to promoting equality of opportunity for all, and ensuring that no individual is discriminated against in the planning and delivery of any of our activities.

1.2 We therefore aim to ensure that the values of equality, diversity, and respect for all are embedded into everything that we do.

2. About our policy

2.1 This policy is intended to demonstrate the commitment to eliminating discrimination and encouraging and valuing diversity among staff, managing committees, trustees, volunteers, partners, suppliers and those people we support.

2.2 We recognise our responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010, and are committed to meeting them in full. We believe that a culture that embraces equality and values diversity will help us to ensure that everyone feels involved and included in our plans, programmes and activities.

2.3 We aim to create an environment which respects and welcomes everyone, and in which no form of bullying, harassment, disrespectful or discriminatory behaviour is tolerated by anyone towards anyone. This particularly applies in relation to the 'protected characteristics' named in the Equality Act 2010:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage or civil partnership status
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex (gender)
- Sexual orientation

3. Our responsibilities

3.1 The Building Bridges partners understand that for equality to be achieved this policy needs to be made understandable to, and embraced by staff, volunteers, suppliers, partners, participants and trustees.

3.2 All staff, volunteers, suppliers, partners and trustees have a responsibility to ensure that their own language and actions are consistent with the spirit as well as the contents of this policy.

3.3 Overall responsibility for the implementation of this policy lies with each Building Bridges partner organisation and its Trustees.

4. Our commitments

4.1 Building Bridges recognises that an Equality and Diversity Policy alone is not enough to ensure that equality and diversity are central to everything that we do.

4.2 We will therefore seek to create an environment in which diversity and the contributions of all staff, volunteers, suppliers, partners, residents, managing committees and trustees are recognised



and valued in all that we do. In this way we hope to provide an example of good equality practice and promote community cohesion within (area/client group).

4.3 In introducing this policy we recognise that many people are unfamiliar with the ways in which discrimination and disadvantage affect people's health, well-being and quality of life. We will therefore support people to develop equalities awareness and understanding.

4.4 To ensure that we are meeting the aims and the spirit of this policy we will:

- a) Discuss and review how well we are implementing this policy, and (adjust our practices/develop an action plan) where necessary, including as part of our Strategic Partnership Group meetings
- b) Assess any significant new or revised policies and procedures for their impact on equality
- c) Embed equality and diversity into our delivery plans
- d) Ensure our employment practices and procedures are consistent with the aims of this policy.
- e) Communicate the policy to staff, participants, partners and sub-contractors as necessary
- f) Using accessible venues for events and meetings
- g) Using Plain English, and offering accessible communications, for example, emails, letters, reports and publicity materials as far as it is within our means to do so.

6. Review and Action

6.1 We recognise that it is important for us to regularly review this policy to ensure that it reflects up to date equality legislation and best practice.

6.2 A review of our Equality and Diversity Policy will be carried out on a bi-annual basis as a minimum and any necessary actions taken.

Signed

Lynn Gibson
CEO, Community First