

Hoo Village Hall – Equal Opportunities Policy

Preamble:

Hoo and Chattenden Parish Council as Sole Corporate Trustee of the Hoo Village Hall represented by the Management Committee acknowledges that the United Kingdom is diverse in culture race beliefs and religion and believe that no individual or group of people should receive less favourable treatment on the grounds of gender, age, colour, race, nationality, racial or national origins, culture heritage, disability, marital status, social background, sexual orientation or geographical location.

Hoo Village Hall Management Committee acknowledges that members of these groups are often under-represented, exposed to prejudice and stereotyping and suffer various disadvantages with our society. The purpose of this Policy Statement is to set out clearly and fully the positive action that the Hoo Village Hall Management Committee intends to take to combat direct and indirect discrimination in employment policy, management of the organisation, relationships with other bodies, and the services it provides to the community, community organisations and individuals.

Hoo Village Hall Management Committee is committed to providing equality of opportunity in all areas of its work. It aims to overcome discrimination on the grounds mentioned above. Hoo Village Hall Management Committee recognises that positive steps need to be taken to ensure equality of provision in areas of representation, service provision and access and will take action to make this policy effective.

The Aims of the Committee:

Our aim is to ensure that we become aware of discrimination and the problem it causes. The Village Hall Management Committee will challenge practices, legislation and institutions which seek to discriminate against or deny the rights of individuals or groups in any form.

- Hoo Village Hall Management Committee will seek to take positive action to address the inequalities in our society.
- Hoo Village Hall Management Committee is committed to the equal opportunities policy set out in this documentation and will work to develop, improve and monitor it.

Policy Statement:

Legislation

The Committee acknowledges the definitions of various groups of people who are vulnerable to discrimination as set out in the relevant legislation. Hoo Village Hall Management Committee will support and implement the legislation and will work to ensure that no person protected by the legislation is discriminated against unlawfully, and that any positive obligations duties are performed.

Hoo Village Hall Management Committee gives the following specific commitments:

- **Disabled** – The Committee recognises that the legislation applies to persons who are not apparently disabled or ill. Where reasonably practical, The Committee will aim to widen accessibility by removing barriers which make it difficult for people with disabilities to use the hall and provide facilities for people with disabilities to enables them to participate in activities.

- **Age** – The Committee believes that people of all ages have skills, experiences and ideas, which are equally valid, and have valid needs, expectations and aspirations.
- **Ethnic Minorities** – The Committee will be alert to any implications of its services and actions for potential unlawful discrimination. The Committee will challenge racism in any form and will encourage its users to do the same.
- **Gender and Sexual Orientation** – Sexist policies, practices and attitudes (Including policies, practices and attitudes which may relate to sexual orientation and gender re-assignment) will be challenged and users will be encouraged to do the same.
- **Religion and Belief** – The Committee endorses the right of each individual to his or her own religious beliefs or the absence of a belief.

The Code of Conduct:

- People will be treated with dignity and respect regardless of the group to which they belong.
- People's feelings and views will be valued and respected. Language or jokes or derogatory terminology will not be tolerated.
- No one will be harassed, abused or intimidated on the grounds that they belong to a vulnerable group. Incidents or harassment will be taken seriously, and the Hall Committee will undertake investigations of any complaints quickly, impartially and thoroughly.