
Goodenough Services – Equality & Diversity Policy

INTRODUCTION

1. We are an equal opportunities employer. We are committed to equality of opportunity and to providing a service and following practices which are free from unfair and unlawful discrimination. The aim of this policy is to ensure that no applicant or member of staff receives less favourable treatment on the grounds of disability, age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origins, religion or belief, or is disadvantaged by conditions or requirements which cannot be shown to be relevant to performance. It seeks also to ensure that no person is victimised or subjected to any form of bullying or harassment.
2. We value people as individuals with diverse opinions, cultures, lifestyles and circumstances. All employees are covered by this policy and it applies to all areas of employment including recruitment, selection, training, deployment, career development, and promotion. These areas are monitored and policies and practices are amended if necessary to ensure that no unfair or unlawful discrimination, intentional, unintentional, direct or indirect, overt or latent exists.
3. The **Commercial Director – Business Partner** has particular responsibility for implementing and monitoring the Equality and Diversity in Employment Policy and, as part of this process, all personnel policies and procedures are administered with the objective of promoting equality of opportunity and eliminating unfair or unlawful discrimination.
4. All employees, workers or self employed contractors whether part time, full time or temporary, will be treated fairly and with respect. Selection for employment, promotion, training, or any other benefit will be on the basis of aptitude and ability. All employees will be helped and encouraged to develop their full potential and the talents and resources of the workforce will be fully utilised to maximise the efficiency of the Company.
5. Equality of opportunity, valuing diversity and compliance with the law is to the benefit of all individuals in our Company as it seeks to develop the skills and abilities of its people. While specific responsibility for eliminating discrimination and providing equality of opportunity lies with managers and supervisors, individuals at all levels have a responsibility to treat others with dignity and respect. The personal commitment of every employee to this policy and application of its principles are essential to eliminate discrimination and provide equality throughout the Company.

OUR COMMITMENT AS A SERVICE PROVIDER

1. We aim to provide services to which all clients are entitled regardless of race, religion, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, offending past, caring responsibilities, social class or age.
2. We will make sure that our services are delivered equitably and meet the diverse needs of our service users and clients by assessing and meeting the diverse needs of our clients.
3. This policy is fully supported by senior management and has been agreed with employee representatives
4. This policy will be monitored and reviewed annually.
5. We have clear procedures that enable our clients, candidates for jobs and employees to raise a grievance or make a complaint if they feel they have been unfairly treated.
6. A detailed action plan in the full version of this policy sets out how we are implementing these processes.
7. Breaches of our equality and diversity policy will be regarded as misconduct and could lead to disciplinary proceedings.

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EQUAL OPPORTUNITY POLICY STATEMENTS

GENDER

We will:

- challenge discriminatory assumptions about women and men;
- take positive action to redress the negative effects of discrimination against women and men;
- offer equal access for women and men to representation, services, employment, training and pay and encourage other organisations to do the same; and
- provide support to prevent discrimination against transsexual people who have or who are about to undergo gender reassignment.

AGE

We will:

- ensure that people of all ages are treated with respect and dignity;
- ensure that people of working age are given equal access to our employment, training, development and promotion opportunities; and
- challenge discriminatory assumptions about younger and older people.

RACE

We will:

- challenge racism wherever it occurs;
- respond swiftly and sensitively to racist incidents; and
- actively promote race equality in the Company.

EX-OFFENDERS

We will:

- prevent discrimination against our employees to clients regardless of their offending background (except where there is a known risk to children or vulnerable adults).

DISABILITY

We will:

- provide any reasonable adjustments to ensure disabled people have access to our services and employment opportunities;

RELIGION AND BELIEF

We will:

- ensure that employees' beliefs and related observances are respected and accommodated wherever possible;
- respect people's beliefs where the expression of those beliefs does not impinge on the legitimate rights of others.

EQUAL PAY

We will:

- ensure that all employees, male or female, have the right to the same contractual pay and benefits for carrying out the same work, work rated as equivalent work or work of equal value.

Chris Howley