EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION POLICY

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The Umbrella Hub Community CIC EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION POLICY

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The Umbrella Hub Community CIC

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION POLICY

1.	POLICY STATEMENT
	The Umbrella Hub Community CIC expects all staff to respect their colleagues/clients' differences.
	Staff and Clients of the Organisation should expect to be treated fairly and with dignity.
2.	REASONS FOR HAVING AN EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION POLICY
	The Umbrella Hub Community CIC will not tolerate behaviour in the form of discrimination, victimisation, harassment or bullying.
	Legislation and associated regulations exist to protect employees and clients, and there are a number of policies and procedures in place to support the legislation.
3.	WHAT IS DIVERSITY?
	Diversity encompasses a multitude of areas such as gender, race, disability, physical ability, mental capacity, education, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, values, age, personality, experiences, culture and the way each area approaches work. <i>This list is not exhaustive</i> . Embracing diversity means acknowledging, understanding, and appreciating the differences between individuals and developing a workplace that enhances their value. By being flexible in our approaches it is then possible to achieve a rewarding environment.
4.	THE BENEFITS OF DIVERSITY MANAGEMENT
	A diverse workforce can offer a wide range of resources, skills, ideas and energy to the business, providing a competitive edge. Organisations that

	 embrace diversity will reap the benefits of resourcing from a wider pool of talent, broaden their markets, improve productivity and raise the community profile. Diversity management can benefit the organisation in a number of ways, ie. Improve opportunities within the organisation through internal promotion Utilise the knowledge of different areas of the community Understand market segments and consumer behaviour Become an employer of choice Have a more representative 'balanced' workforce
	Value and respect employees, attracting and retaining a wider talent pool
5.	THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY
<u> </u>	
	Equality and Diversity are often regarded as the same thing. However, there are differences. Valuing diversity is about seeing everyone as individuals, valuing the abilities and skills they can bring to an organisation. It is not about seeing people first and foremost in terms of their membership of a particular group. Equality of regard for people is about emphasising inclusiveness, openness and fairness, offering a positive outlook on the many differences, as well as similarities, that can affect how people interact and perform with each other in the workplace. Diversity is about respecting differences within minority groups and not expecting everyone to conform to the ways of majority groups.
	Widening diversity is something that is initiated internally, where a culture for diversity has developed over time. Equal opportunities are usually prompted by external factors such as legislation and codes of practice.
	Managing diversity is concerned with improving quality within the organisation, with a focus on qualitative issues and good practice, whereas equal opportunities focuses on improving numbers. This might include increasing the number of women in management positions, or increasing

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the number of ethnic minorities or raising the age profile.

Valuing people, and their many diverse qualities, enhances employee potential, therefore enhancing the business. Equal opportunities aims to ensure that no group receives less favourable treatment because of their differences, ensuring all people are treated equally. This is about adapting to individual needs rather than treating everyone the same.

Diversity focuses on being proactive and finding opportunities to enhance the business. Equal opportunities is reactive and will focus on existing problems while trying to redress the balance.

A diverse culture is something that can develop with support but an equal opportunities culture is socially constructed by specific measures being put into place. Managing diversity encourages people to reflect on and change their own practises and systems, resulting in a diverse culture. Diversity at work is not only concerned with keeping within the confines of the law, but would also gradually seek to educate every staff member so that discrimination would become a thing of the past.

6. **DISCRIMINATION**

Direct discrimination will occur where in like for like circumstances, a person is treated, or would have been treated, less favourably than others on the grounds of race, gender, sexual orientation, religion or belief, age or personal characteristics.

7. INDIRECT DISCRIMINATION

Indirect discrimination occurs when an employer applies a provision, criterion or practise to everyone that puts, or would put, a group of people at a particular disadvantage compared to others. Furthermore, the individual complainant can show that he or she suffered that disadvantage and the employer cannot show the provision, criterion or practice to be a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim (within the limits of what is needed to achieve the business objective). This definition covers formal requirements, conditions and provisions, as well as informal practices. An

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example of indirect discrimination would be a requirement for all staff to be clean shaven. In this example, the same requirement is applied equally to all staff, but it would particularly disadvantage those of a particular faith.
GENUINE OCCUPATIONAL REQUIREMENT (GOR)
In very limited circumstances it will be lawful for an employer to treat people differently if it is a GOR.
Where there is a genuine requirement for a particular type of person to do the job, the employee must be able to justify a sound business reason for this.
This may occur if it is necessary that, for example, a male or female is required to do a job involving personal care, or that an individual of a particular religion is required to do a job.
VICTIMISATION
Victimisation will occur where a person is treated less favourably because he or she carried out a 'protected act', ie: has alleged that discrimination or harassment has taken place; has presented a claim to an employment tribunal; or has acted as a witness in a discrimination or harassment case. Protection against victimisation will not apply if allegations are false and not made in good faith.
HARASSMENT AND BULLYING
Harassment and bullying are defined in many ways. For instance, unwanted remarks, inappropriate jokes or ridicule, unwelcome physical contact, suggestions or demands for sexual favours, racial shunning or segregation. In general terms behaviour which affects the recipient's dignity, relating to age, gender, race, nationality, disability, religion, sexual orientation or any personal characteristic of the individual. This can include an isolated incident or a series of incidents.

Ur	nacceptable behaviour might include the spreading of malicious rumours;
	sulting an individual; circulating emails or memoranda containing critical onfidential information; picking on someone; setting up an individual to
1 1	il; victimisation; unfair treatment; circulating offensive material; constantly
1 1	ndermining and criticising a competent worker; preventing promotional
	oportunities.
1 1	exual harassment is unlawful under the Equality Act. This constitutes
	nwanted behaviour of a sexual nature, or other behaviour with a sexual ference, which affects the dignity of men and women at work.
Ro	acial harassment is unlawful under the Equality Act. This constitutes
1 1	nwanted behaviour of a racial nature, or other behaviour based on racial rounds, which affects the dignity of men and women at work.
1 1	arassment on the grounds of religion or belief, or sexual orientation, is here unwanted conduct causes a violation of one's dignity or creates an
1 1	timidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment.
1 1	hen the Organisation considers it appropriate to do so, alleged harassers
m	ay be the subject of the Organisation disciplinary procedures.
11. R	ELEVANT LEGISLATION
1 1	Equality Act 2010 simplifies equality legislation as it replaces all previous quality laws in a bid to harmonise the law. The act has 9 protected
1 1	naracteristics which employers must follow and requires employers to
1 1	ave a positive duty which requires them to pre-empt unlawful
di	scrimination before it occurs.
Th	ne protected characteristics are:
•	Age
•	Disability
	Gender reassignment Marriage and Civil Partnership
	Pregnancy and maternity

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	gion and belief		
• Sex	und existentia a		
• Sexu	Sexual orientation		
elimina workplo The org	The Umbrella Hub Community CIC as an employer has a responsibility to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation in the workplace and foster good relations between people from different groups. The organisation also has an obligation to not discriminate against its clients under the Equality Act.		
work v	nave any questions relating to how the Equality Act 2010 affects your vith The Umbrella Hub Community CIC please contact Annie nts, CEO.		
11.1	Age		
	The Equality Act 2010 says that organisations cannot discriminate		
	against the age of an employee unless there is an GOR.		
11.2	Disability		
	The Equality Act defines someone as having a disability if the person has a physical or mental impairment and the impairment has a substantial long term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day to day activities. The term disability also refers to a non visual (hidden) disability that includes Autism, ADHD and Mental Health.		
	The Umbrella Hub Community CIC provides reasonable adjustments to make sure that the services that it provides to its clients, staff and external visitors meets their accessibility needs.		
11.3	Gender Reassignment		
	Gender reassignment is defined under the act as someone who is proposing to undergo or has undergone the gender reassignment		

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		process for the purpose of reassigning the person's sex by changing physiological or other attributes of sex.
		Under the act organisations must make reasonable adjustments for people undergoing the gender reassignment process. They must also not discriminate against people who are or have been through the gender reassignment process unless there is a GOR.
	11.4	Marriage and Civil Partnership
		Under the act marriage and civil partnership only applies if someone is married or is a civil partner. Employees must let their organisation know in advance for time off for a marriage or civil partnership ceremony. Employers must not discriminate against people who are married or in a civil partnership unless there is a GOR.
	11.5	Pregnancy and Maternity
1		
		Pregnancy and maternity is covered under the Equality Act and employers must not discriminate against a woman who is pregnant or on maternity leave. For more information please refer to the organisation's maternity policy.
		employers must not discriminate against a woman who is pregnant or on maternity leave. For more information please refer to the
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		employers must not discriminate against a woman who is pregnant or on maternity leave. For more information please refer to the organisation's maternity policy. Race Under the act race includes colour, nationality and ethnic or national origins. Employers must not discriminate against a person on any other these racial grounds unless there is a GOR.

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Religious Observance
Generally the Organisation imposes no dress code on staff. However, there are some requirements as listed below:
 Health and safety requirements may mean that for certain tasks specific items of clothing such as overalls, protective clothing, etc. need to be worn. Where wearing such items conflicts with a religion or belief, the issue will be sympathetically considered by the line manager, with the aim of finding a satisfactory but safe compromise. Dress should conform to the current majority view in our society of what constitutes decency. Wearing clothing with slogans which are considered discriminatory is not permitted.
Religious activities during work time
All staff, regardless of their religious belief or non-belief, are required to work in accordance with their contract. The Organisation will, however, treat sympathetically requests from staff who require flexibility over how the hours are worked. This may relate, for example, to staff who need to pray at certain times of the day, or who may require an extra hour at midday on a Friday.
Special Festivals The Organisation acknowledges that owing to current bank and public holidays those of Christian faith are guaranteed time off at Christmas and Easter. In the interests of equality, the Organisation will support and consider favourably requests from those of other religions to book up to three days of their holiday entitlement to enable them to celebrate their own special religious festival(s). Staff, must provide as much notice as is reasonably practicable, ie. if the dates are known in advance, requesting the leave as soon as the date of the festival becomes officially known. Where the date of the festival does not become clear until quite close to the actual date of the festival and work commitments or other staff's leave

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	arrangements cause problems in granting the holiday, the Organisation will, by discussion, seek flexibility from all those
	affected in an effort to find a mutually acceptable compromise
	which balances the needs of the business and those of the
	employees. Where staff can show they are bona fide adherents of
	any religion or belief and that they require time off for the purposes
of a festival relating to that religion or belief, the Board will allow	
	to two additional days' paid leave per year. Further requests, but from annual leave entitlement will be treated sympathetically.
	Extended Leave
	Requests for extended leave for the purpose of pilgrimages, or visiting relatives abroad for weddings, births or deaths will be treated sympathetically. The needs of the business, and extra
	burden placed on other workers, will be taken into account when considering extended leave requests. If extended leave extends
	beyond the annual leave entitlement, the granting of any excess
	days will be on an unpaid basis.
	<u>Dietary Requirements</u>
	Staff who have specific dietary requirements and who bring food in
	to the work place, where such food needs to be stored or heated,
	should raise any difficulty they may have with their line manager.
	Acceptable solutions to any such difficulties will be agreed locally within the department or with staff who may also use the necessary
	facilities on a joint use basis.
11.8	Sex
	In the Equality act sex refers to a man or woman. The act states
	that men and women should have equal pay and rights when in the workplace. The Umbrella Hub Community CIC provides a fair
	and equal workplace for all its employees. If you have any
	questions about equal pay please speak to your line manager or Annie Clements, CEO.

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11.9	Sexual Orientation
	Sexual orientation under the Equality act refers to a person's sexual orientation towards a person of the same sex, person of the opposite sex or a person of either sex.
11.10	Human Rights
	Human Rights Act 1998 incorporates a substantial part of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. The articles of convention which could have an impact on employment law in the United Kingdom are:
	Article 8: The right to respect for private and family life; Article 9: Freedom of thought, conscience and religion Article 10: Freedom of expression
	Article 11: Freedom of assembly and association
	It is important to be aware of and not to breach the Human Rights of individuals as this also can result in tribunal proceedings.
11.11	The Rehabilitation of Offenders
	People with criminal records are protected by the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 , which makes it unlawful for an employee to take account of (or be informed of) a person's previous offending history once the conviction has become spent. However, some sentences can not be spent, and others may be 'spent' but still have to be declared if the employment involves social work, working with children in care or people with learning difficulties, handling money.
	The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) was introduced by The Police Act 1997 . This gave rise to employees and applicants in sensitive jobs having to give consent to a search being made for details of any previous or current convictions and for employers to be

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	advised of the outcome by way of a Disclosure service.
	The Disclosure and Barring service provides a means for The Umbrella Hub Community CIC to carry out checks through the DBS on staff or applicants and allows for decisions to be made about recruiting staff who have a criminal record.
	Applicants are offered equal opportunities when going through the recruitment process. They are informed at the outset that they have the opportunity to discuss criminal convictions, 'spent' or 'unspent', in confidence with the Chief Executive.
	All posts at The Umbrella Hub Community CIC are subject to the discretion of the Chief Executive when they fall into the category where they require either a Standard or Enhanced Disclosure check. Therefore, anyone who applies to work at The Umbrella Hub Community CIC will be expected to declare any convictions 'spent' or 'unspent' and will be subject to consideration of suitability for appointment in accordance with the Organisation's policies and procedures.
	Please refer to the College's Disclosure Policy, Recruitment of Ex Offenders Policy and the Disclosure: Secure Storage, Handling, Use, Retention & Disposal of Disclosures and Disclosure Information Policy, which refer to the College's use of the Disclosure service, how job applications from ex-offenders are considered and how Disclosure information is to be dealt with.
11.12	Data Protection
	Please see The Umbrella Hub Community CIC's Data protection policy for more information.
12. WORK L	
The Org	l ganisation has a commitment to work life balance.

12.1 Maternity 12.1 Maternity The Organisation administers not only the statutory maternity scheme but also an occupational maternity scheme. The amount of pay and leave which can be granted under the respective schemes differ from one case to another. For more information of entitlements please refer to the Organisations Maternity Policy. 12.2 Paternity Leave 12.2 Paternity Leave 12.2 Paternity Leave To be entitled you will have worked at the Organisation for 26 weeks or more by the 15th week before the child is expected to be born. You will be eligible for 2 weeks in a 1 or 2 weeks' block at any one time. The entitlement to pay is 2 weeks' full pay if you meet the requirements. For more information please refer to the Organisations Paternity Policy 12.3 Adoption Leave 12.4 Parental Leave You must have at least one year's service at the Organisation to be entitled to leave and pay. For more information please see the Parental Leave Policy.	2002 (v flexibilit entitled Friendly	ployment Relations Act 1999 and the subsequent Employment Act which introduced new changes to the former), allow for greater y in the workplace. Staff at The Umbrella Hub Community CIC are I to flexibility in the following areas which are covered by the Family Policy, Procedure and Guidance Document (please refer to this for information)
Image: A set of the set of the set of the image: A set of the image: A set of the image: A set of the set of the set of the image: A set of the image: A set of the image: A set of the image: A set of the image: A set of the set o	 12.1	Maternity
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You must have at least one year's service at the Organisation to be entitled to leave and pay. For more information please see the Parental Leave Policy.	 124	Parental Leave
		You must have at least one year's service at the Organisation to be entitled to leave and pay. For more information please see the
105 Dependent Legue	 12.5	Dependent Leave

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		There is no length of service requirement for staff to be entitled to dependency leave. Please see the Organisations Time off for Dependants Policy.
	12.6	Flexible Working
		You must have 26 weeks' continuous service with the Organisation at the date of your application to be eligible to apply. For more information please see the Flexible Working Policy.
	12.7	Flexi Scheme
		The Organisation has a number of methods of flexible working for which staff can apply for. These methods include a 9-day fortnight working pattern, term-time working, annualised hours, or working from home. This enables many staff to work more flexibly as per local arrangements agreed by the chief executive.
13.	DECDU	
1 1.5		
10.	RECKUI	TMENT AND SELECTION
	The Org procect ways t individu the va determ	ganisation has a Recruitment and Selection Policy which sets out the dure to be followed. Vacant posts are advertised in a number of to attract a wide variety of applicants. All advertisements are ualised to focus on the key criteria required to meet the essentials of acancy. Job Descriptions are designed to enable applicants to hine whether they wish to apply. To assist applicants further, ation about the vacancy may be requested at any stage.
	The Org proced ways t individu the va determ informa The sel that a criteria	ganisation has a Recruitment and Selection Policy which sets out the dure to be followed. Vacant posts are advertised in a number of to attract a wide variety of applicants. All advertisements are ualised to focus on the key criteria required to meet the essentials of locancy. Job Descriptions are designed to enable applicants to nine whether they wish to apply. To assist applicants further,
	The Org procect ways f individu the va determ informa The sel that a criteria who ha	ganisation has a Recruitment and Selection Policy which sets out the dure to be followed. Vacant posts are advertised in a number of to attract a wide variety of applicants. All advertisements are valised to focus on the key criteria required to meet the essentials of locancy. Job Descriptions are designed to enable applicants to hine whether they wish to apply. To assist applicants further, ation about the vacancy may be requested at any stage. ection process for invitation to interviews is carried out by ensuring oplicants meet the essential criteria and, if possible, the desirable . The Organisation has a commitment to interview all applicants

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All applicants are asked to complete a Recruitment Monitoring Form. This requests information about the applicant's age, disabilities, ethnicity, marital status, dependants, convictions, religion or belief and sexual orientation. This information is kept confidential and is separated from the application form. The information is not disclosed to the interview panel, but it allows the Organisation to put in place any special requirement, before, during and after the successful candidate has been selected. The information on the Monitoring Form can assist in a number of ways, such as: to make any special considerations for applicants with a disability; to give an applicant with a conviction an opportunity to discuss the circumstances of this conviction; to allow consideration for staff with religious beliefs; and to support staff with the Family Friendly Policy. The Monitoring Form also allows for data to be collated for statistical and monitoring reasons. Some data is required by law while other data highlights opportunities to redress the balance and ensure a workforce that represents the diverse community it serves.

Please refer to the Organisations Recruitment and Selection Policy for further information regarding this process.

14.	PROMOTION AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT
	The Organisation, where possible, will offer promotional and career development opportunities for existing staff. To ensure equality and a fair process the recruitment and selection procedure of the Organisation is operated.
15.	TRAINING
	All staff are entitled to receive training. This might be qualificatory or non qualificatory, compulsory as part of the role, continuing professional development, or other training. All requests are considered on the basis of the need and relevance to the job being undertaken by the employee. There may be times when a request must be declined, postponed or offered on a conditional basis for legitimate business reasons. There may be occasions where the delivery method or day of training might coincide with a personal event, ie. a religious festival. Where possible, considerations

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	will be made on the basis of any request received by the line manager.
	Please refer to the Organisations Staff Development and Training Policy for
	further information.
16.	MENTORS
	The Organisation has a Mentor Scheme, whereby a mentor is offered to a new member of staff. This mentor will be an experienced member of staff whose primary role is to support and to be a source of information to the mentee. This is a valuable resource in the Organisation and is encouraged.
17.	MONITORING
	The Organisation monitors the diversity of its workforce and reports this
	information annually to the Board.
18.	SOURCES OF HELP AND INFORMATION
	Staff can always seek support from Annie Clements, Chief Executive or their
	line manager. Also attached is a list of useful websites.

Approved by	
Please Print	
Position	
Date	

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APPI	ENDIX 1
	List of rolative policies
	List of relative policies
	Data Protection Policy Disciplinger (Delicy)
	Disciplinary Policy Second Action and Action and Action and Action and Action
	Family Friendly Policy (Including Maternity, Paternity, Adoption,
	Parental Leave, Time Off for Dependants, Flexible Working)
	Fixed Term Working
	Flexi Scheme
	Grievance Procedure
	Harassment Policy
	Mentor Scheme
	Part time Working Policy
	Pay Policy
	Race Equality Policy
	 Recruitment of Ex Offenders Policy
	 Recruitment and Selection Procedure
	Religion and Belief Policy
	 Sexual Orientation Policy
	 Special Leave Policy
	 Staff Handbook
	Staff Development and Training Policy
APPI	ENDIX 2
	Religions or beliefs recognised by staff of The Umbrella Hub Community CIC
	made known to them:
	Agnostic
	Anglican
	Anglo Catholic
	Atheist
	Baptist
	Buddhist
	Catholic
	Christian
	Church of England

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Eckankar
• Hindu
Methodist
Mormon
Muslim
Orthodox
Pagan
Pantheist
Pentecostal
Presbyterian
Protestant
Roman Catholic

APF	APPENDIX 3			
	<u>Useful websites</u>			
	 www.acas.org.uk 			
	 www.cre.gov.uk 			
	 www.disability.gov.uk 			
	 www.employersforwork-lifebalance.org.uk 			
	 www.homeoffice.gov.uk 			
	 www.statistics.gov.uk 			

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