

HR05

Equality of Opportunity Policy

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1.0 Policy Statement (Purpose / Objectives of the policy)

- 1.1 The Royal Wolverhampton Trust (The Trust) is an organisation that values diversity and promotes equality of opportunity for all its workforce, volunteers, candidates, and associates, regardless of any protected characteristics, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, marriage or civil partnership status, pregnancy or maternity.
- 1.2 The purpose of the policy is to promote equality and remove unlawful discrimination so that everyone can fulfil their full potential in an environment of fairness, dignity and respect where decisions are based on merit.
- 1.3 This policy will ensure that all aspects of employment are carried out with due regard to the following equality legislation and mandated reporting:
 - **Equality Act (2010) and Gender Pay Gap (GPG) Reporting Regulations** came into force on 1st October 2010 and subsequent GPG Regulations were introduced in 2017. The Equality Act brought together 116 separate pieces of legislation into one single Act. Combined, they make up an Act that provides a legal framework to protect the rights of individuals and advance equality of opportunity for all.
 - **The Public Sector Equality Duty** requires that the Trust has due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between different people when undertaking its activities.
 - **The Equality Delivery System 2 (EDS2)** is a toolkit to help NHS organisations improve the services they provide for their local communities, consider health inequalities in their locality and provide better working environments, free of discrimination, for those who work in the NHS. The purpose of the EDS2 is to drive up equality performance and embed it into mainstream NHS business.
 - **Workforce Race Equality Standard (WRES)** is a mandatory NHS standard which aims to ensure race equality and fair treatment for its Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) workforce. NHS organisations are required to report on 9 indicators and these then gauge the current state of race equality within the organisation and track what progress is being made to identify and promote talented BME staff as well as helping to eliminate wider aspects of discrimination in the treatment of BME Staff.
 - **Workforce Disability Equality Standard (WDES)** launched 31st March 2019 – is a mandatory NHS standard which aims to ensure equality in the workplace for those employees with a disability or long term medical condition as defined in the Equality Act (2010). The process of reporting and purpose of WDES is as above for WRES, but in respect of employees with a disability or long term medical condition.
- 1.4 In adhering to this Policy, all applicable aspects of the Conflicts of Interest Policy must be considered and addressed. In the case of any inconsistency, the Conflict-of-Interest Policy is to be considered the primary and overriding Policy.

2.0 Definitions

2.1 Protected Characteristic (PC) - there are 9 protected characteristics that are covered and protected in law by the Equality Act (2010):

- Age
- Disability
- Gender Reassignment
- Marriage and Civil Partnership Status
- Pregnancy and Maternity
- Race
- Religion or Belief
- Sex
- Sexual Orientation

2.2 Direct Discrimination is where someone is treated less favourably because of a Personal Protected Characteristic.

2.3 Indirect Discrimination is where there is a rule, condition or policy that applies to everyone but disadvantages a person with a particular protected characteristic.

2.4 Discrimination by Perception is **direct discrimination** where an individual is discriminated against because someone believes that they have a protected characteristic. It applies regardless of whether the person has that protected characteristic or not.

2.5 Discrimination by Association is the **direct discrimination** of someone because of their association with someone with a protected characteristic.

2.6 Harassment is unwanted conduct or behaviour related to a protected characteristic, which has the purpose or effect of violating an individual's dignity, or creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment for that individual.

2.7 Victimisation is where someone is treated badly or less favourably because they have either made or supported a complaint under the Equality Act (2010).

3.0 Accountabilities

3.1 The Trust Board has overall responsibility for ensuring the policy is implemented, ensuring that Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) is embedded in strategy and decision making.

3.2 The Chief People Officer has specific responsibility for monitoring the policy on behalf of the Trust and monitoring compliance and progress on EDI objectives.

3.3 Line Managers are responsible for ensuring that all staff within their area are aware of their responsibilities as well as ensuring that their area and management practices comply with all aspects of the policy, promoting an inclusive workplace culture; taking action on discrimination, bullying and harassment and ensuring that fair recruitment, training and career development is adhered to.

- 35 **All Staff** have a responsibility to actively promote equality of opportunity, to treat all colleagues with dignity and respect, comply with the requirements of this policy and challenge or raise concerns about any behaviour or conduct that they feel contravenes this policy using the appropriate channels.
- 36 **Staff side and Trade Union representatives** will be familiar with this policy in order to provide advice and support to their members if requested to do so.
- 37 The **Human Resources department** is responsible for ensuring managers receive guidance in the use and application of this policy and any other associated policies
- 38 **Specific groups / committees** - the Trust has a number of special interest groups for staff and service users which support the promotion of the equal opportunities' agenda including the Equality Diversity and Inclusion Steering group and Staff Employee Voice groups.

4.0 Policy Detail

- 4.1 **All policies and procedures** – must be Equality Impact Assessed in line with **OP01** and adhere to the principles contained within this policy.
- 4.2 This overarching policy statement should be read in conjunction with the following policies:
- **HR01 Work life Balance / Family Friendly (Leave) Policy**
 - **HR 03 Disciplinary Policy**
 - **HR 06 Dispute Resolution in the Workplace**
 - **HR 08 Recruitment and Selection Policy**
 - **HR 13 Supporting and Managing Staff Attendance at Work Policy**
 - **HR 16 Freedom to Speak Up Policy**
 - **HR 18 Appraisal**
 - **HR 19 Performance Capability Policy**
 - **HR 32 Organisational and Workforce Change Policy**
 - **HR 48 Workplace Health and Wellbeing Policy**
 - **HR 51 Pay Policy**
- 4.3 The policy has been developed to support the People and Organisational Development Strategy

5.0 Financial Risk Assessment

1	Does the implementation of this policy require any additional Capital resources	No
2	Does the implementation revenue resources of this policy require additional	No
3	Does the implementation of this policy require additional manpower	No
4	Does the implementation of this policy release any manpower costs through a change in practice	No
5	Are there additional staff training costs associated with implementing this policy which cannot be delivered through current training programmes or allocated training times for staff	No
	Other comments	

6.0 Equality Impact Assessment

An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed demonstrating due regard to the general equality duty. The EIA has identified no adverse impacts of the policy on protected characteristic groups as identified by the Equality Act 2010.

7.0 Maintenance

The Policy will be kept up to date by the Head of Equality Diversity and Inclusion and any changes and recommendations will be agreed by the Group People Committee

8.0 Communication and Training

The Policy will be communicated through Trust wide communications and intranet. Mandatory equality and diversity training is in place for all staff in line with the Trust Induction and mandatory training policy OP 41.

9.0 Audit Process

The policy lead will be responsible for ensuring the policy is kept up to date and this will be reviewed through the HR Governance Group.

Criterion	Lead	Monitoring method	Frequency	Committee
Fair and consistent application of this policy	Head of Equality Diversity Inclusion /HR Advisory Department	Employee relations report, containing casework and lessons learnt information, presented to People Committee Workforce Race Equality Standard report outcomes Workforce Disability Equality Standard report outcomes.	Annually WRES report published annually WDES report published annually	Group People Committee

10.0 References - Legal, professional or national guidelines must underpin policies and be referenced here. Where appropriate cross references must be made to other policies.

- Equality Act (2010): <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/equality-act-2010-guidance>
- Workforce Race Equality Standard: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/about/equality/equality-hub/equality-standard/>
- Workforce Disability Equality Standard: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/about/equality/equality-hub/wdes/>
- NHS Equality Delivery System: [NHS England » Equality Delivery System](#)
- Public Sector Equality Duty: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-sector-equality-duty>
- Care Quality Commission: [Workforce equality, diversity and inclusion - Care Quality Commission](#)

Part A - Document Control

Policy number and Policy version: HR05 Equality of Opportunity Policy V6.0 July 2025	Policy Title Equality of Opportunity Policy	Status: Final		Author: Head of Equality Diversity Inclusion Chief Officer Sponsor: Chief People Officer
Version / Amendment History	Version	Date	Author	Reason
	1	April 2008	Term and Conditions Working Group	Original Policy
	2	May 2012	Divisional HR Manager	Policy Revision
	3	Sept 2015	Divisional HR Manager	Routine Review
	4	April 2019	HR Manager (Workforce)	Policy Review
	5	April 2022	Head of Equality Diversity Inclusion	Policy Review
	6	Feb 2025	Head of Equality Diversity & Inclusion	Policy Review
Intended Recipients: The policy is applicable to all staff working for the Trust including employees, contractors, volunteers, students, locum, bank and agency staff and honorary contract holders.				
Consultation Group / Role Titles and Date: Staff Side – February 2025 EDI Steering Group – July 2025				
Name and date of Trust level group where reviewed		Trust Policy Group - May 2025		
Name and date of final approval committee		Trust Policy Group – May 2025		
Date of Policy issue		July 2025		
Review Date and Frequency (standard review frequency is 3 yearly unless otherwise indicated – see section 3.8.1 of Attachment 1)		May 2028		
Training and Dissemination: Mandatory EDI Training is integral to the Trust Induction and Mandatory Training requirements				

Publishing Requirements: Can this document be published on the Trust's public page: Yes If yes you must ensure that you have read and have fully considered it meets the requirements outlined in sections 1.9, 3.7 and 3.9 of OP01, Governance of Trust-wide Strategy/Policy/Procedure/Guidelines and Local Procedure and Guidelines , as well as considering any redactions that will be required prior to publication.	
To be read in conjunction with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HR01 Work life Balance / Family Friendly (Leave) Policy • HR 03 Disciplinary Policy • HR 06 Dispute Resolution in the Workplace • HR 08 Recruitment and Selection Policy • HR 13 Supporting and Managing Staff Attendance at Work Policy • HR 16 Freedom to Speak Up Policy • HR 18 Appraisal • HR 19 Performance Capability Policy • HR 32 Organisational and Workforce Change Policy • HR 48 Workplace Health and Wellbeing Policy • HR 51 Pay Policy 	
Initial Equality Impact Assessment (all policies): Completed : No Full Equality Impact assessment (as required): Completed Yes / No / NA : YES	
Monitoring arrangements and Committee	Annual Equality Report Group People Committee
Document summary/key issues covered. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Royal Wolverhampton Trust (The Trust) is an organisation that values diversity and promotes equality of opportunity for all its workforce, volunteers, candidates, and associates, regardless of any protected characteristics or other marginalised groups; age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, marriage or civil partnership status, pregnancy or maternity. ○ The purpose of the policy is to promote equality and remove unlawful discrimination so that everyone can fulfil their full potential in an environment of fairness, dignity and respect where decisions are based on merit. ○ This policy will ensure that all aspects of employment are carried out with due regard to the following Equality legislation and mandated reporting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equality Act 2010 and Gender Pay Gap (GPG) Reporting Regulations • Public Sector Equality Duty • Equality Delivery System 2 • Workforce Race Equality Standard (WRES) • Workforce Disability Equality Standard (WDES) 	
Key words for intranet searching purposes	Equality Diversity Inclusion Discrimination

<p>High Risk Policy?</p> <p>Definition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contains information in the public domain that may present additional risk to the public e.g. contains detailed images of means of strangulation. • References to individually identifiable cases. • References to commercially sensitive or confidential systems. <p>If a policy is considered to be high risk it will be the responsibility of the author and chief officer sponsor to ensure it is redacted to the requestee.</p>	<p>Yes / No (delete as appropriate)</p> <p>NO</p>
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