

LEVENS VILLAGE HALL (Charity No. 1192940)

Equal Opportunities Policy

Levens Village Hall Trustees (hereafter named 'the Trustees') acknowledge that the United Kingdom is diverse in culture, race, beliefs and religion and believes 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, cultural heritage, disability, marital status, social background, sexual orientation or geographical location. The Trustees acknowledge 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 Trustees intend 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.

The Trustees are committed to providing equality of opportunity in all areas of its work. It aims to overcome discrimination on the grounds mentioned above. The Trustees recognise that positive steps need to be taken to ensure equality of provision in areas of representation, service provision, membership and access and will take action to make this policy effective.

Aims of The Trustees

Our aim is to ensure that we become aware of discrimination and the problem it causes.

The Trustees will challenge practices, legislation and institutions, which seek to discriminate against or deny the rights of individuals or groups in any form.

The Trustees will seek to take positive action to address the inequalities in our society.

The Trustees are committed to the equal opportunities policy set out in this document and will work to develop, improve and monitor it.

The Equal Opportunities Policy and Code of Practice

The Trustees acknowledge the definitions of various groups of people who are vulnerable to discrimination as set out in the relevant legislation. The Trustees 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 and duties are performed.

The Trustees give the following specific commitments.

The Trustees will:

- Where reasonably practical widen accessibility by removing barriers which make it difficult for people with disabilities to use the hall.
- Provide facilities for people with disabilities to enable them to participate in activities e.g. the installation of an induction loop.
- Ensure that the design of publicity and information take account of the needs of people with disabilities e.g. language used, print size.
- Deal with any complaints of discrimination promptly, impartially, thoroughly and confidentially.
- Ensure all staff, hirers and committee members are aware of hall's policy on equality.
- Ensure that the equal opportunities policy is monitored and reviewed annually.
- Challenge racism in any form and encourage its users to do the same.
- Challenge sexist policies, practices and attitudes (including policies, practices and attitudes which may relate to sexual orientation and gender re-assignment) and encourage users to do the same.
- Challenge age discrimination in policies, procedures and attitudes
- Endorse the right of each individual to his or her own religious belief or the absence of a belief.
- Encourage people from underrepresented groups to attend and participate in the activities of the hall.

The Code of Conduct

1. People will be treated with dignity and respect regardless of the group to which they belong.
2. People's feelings and views will be valued and respected. Language or humour that people find offensive will not be used or tolerated, e.g. racist jokes or derogatory terminology.
3. No one will be harassed abused or intimidated on the ground that they belong to a vulnerable group. Incidents of harassment will be taken seriously, and the Trustees will undertake investigations of any complaints quickly, impartially and thoroughly.

Review of Equal Opportunities Policy

The Trustees will review this policy every three years, as detailed in the Policy Review Schedule-

Policy last reviewed: October 2024