NORTH PETHERTON COMMUNITY CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
CHARITY NUMBER: 291048

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES POLICY

The North Petherton Community Centre Management Committee acknowledges 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 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 Committee intends to take to combat direct and indirect discrimination in employment policy, management of organisation, relationships with other bodies, and the services it provides to the community, community organisations and individuals.

The Committee is committed to providing equality of opportunity in all areas of its work. It aims to overcome discrimination on the grounds mentioned above. The Committee recognises 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.

The Aims of the Committee

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

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

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

Data Protection

Anywhere North Petherton Community Centre uses personal data for the purposes of managing the hall, its bookings and finances, running and marketing events at the hall, staff employment and its fund raising activities data may be retained for up to 7 years for accounts purposes and for longer where required for our insurers. If you would like to find out more or want to see a copy of information about you that we hold please contact the Hall Secretary.

See the next page for “**Equal Opportunities Policy and Code of Practice”**

Equal Opportunities Policy and Code of Practice

Legislation

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

The Committee gives the following specific commitments.

Disabled

The Committee recognises that the legislation also applies to persons who are not apparently disabled or ill but who state that they have a disability.

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

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 Committee will undertake investigations of any complaints quickly, impartially and thoroughly.