



three Cs

Supporting @ Three Cs

Equal Opportunities Policy

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Equal Opportunities Statement

Three Cs is committed to building an organisation that makes full use of the talents, skills, experience and different cultural perspectives available in a multi-ethnic and diverse society, and where people feel they are respected and valued, and can achieve their potential regardless of age, disability, sex, race, religion and belief, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, sexual orientation and gender reassignment.

Three Cs will follow the recommendations and guidance of the Equality and Human Rights Commission, in all our employment policies, procedures and practices, and in dealing with customers and members of the public.

Equal Opportunity Policy

The aims of the policy are to ensure that:

- No-one receives less favourable treatment, on grounds of any protected characteristic (including age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage/civil partnership, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/belief, sex and sexual orientation); or is disadvantaged by any conditions, requirements, provisions, criteria, procedures or practices that cannot be justified on any other grounds.
- No-one receives less favourable treatment or is discriminated against because they associate with another person who possesses a protected characteristic i.e. associative discrimination.
- No-ones receives less favourable treatment or is discriminated against because people think they possess a particular protected characteristic i.e. discrimination by perception.
- No-one is victimised for taking action against any form of discrimination or harassment, or instructed or put under pressure to discriminate against, or harass, someone on the above grounds.
- The organisation is free of unwanted conduct that violates the dignity of workers or creates an intimidating, hostile, degrading, offensive or humiliating environment.
- Opportunities for employment, training and promotion are equally open to male and female candidates, candidates from all racial groups, candidates with or without disabilities, and candidates of any age, and of any sexual orientation, religion or belief.
- Selection for employment, promotion, transfer, training, and access to benefits, facilities and services, will be fair and equitable, and based solely on merit.

This policy applies to all aspects of employment, from recruitment to dismissal and former employees' rights.

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We will take the following steps to put the policy into practice and make sure that it is achieving its aims:

1. The policy will be a priority for the organisation.
2. *Margaret Spiers, Head of Human Resources and Workforce Development, Alison Love, Director of Services* will be responsible for the day to day operation of the policy.
3. The policy will be communicated to all staff and job applicants, and will be placed on the company's website.
4. Staff and their representatives and trade unions will be consulted regularly about the policy, and about related action plans and strategies.
5. All staff will be trained on the policy, on their rights and responsibilities under the policy, and on how the policy will affect the way they carry out their duties. No-one will be in any doubt about what constitutes acceptable and unacceptable conduct in the organisation. Unacceptable conduct includes discrimination and harassment at work-related social functions.
6. Managers and staff in key decision-making areas will be trained on the discriminatory effects that provisions, practices, requirements, conditions, and criteria can have on some groups, and the importance of being able to justify decision to apply them.
7. Complaints about discrimination or harassment in the course of employment will be regarded seriously, and may result in disciplinary sanctions, and even dismissal. The grievance procedure will be published in a form that is easily accessible.
8. Opportunities for employment, promotion, transfer and training will be advertised widely, internally and externally, and all applicants will be welcomed, irrespective of race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origins, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, religion or belief.
9. All staff will be encouraged to develop their skills and qualifications, and to take advantage of promotion and development opportunities in the organisation. All employees carrying out work of 'equal value' will receive equal pay, regardless of their sex, race or any other protected characteristic, and equal pay audits will be carried out as necessary.
10. Selection criteria will be entirely related to the job or training opportunity.
11. We will make "reasonable adjustments" to prevent disabled staff being put at a disadvantage compared to non-disabled people in the workplace for example, adjusting work hours or using technology or equipment to assist tasks.

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12. We will make reasonable adjustments to enable our disabled customers to access our services.
13. We will take a flexible approach to working arrangements. We will consider requests for changes carefully and objectively, and will accommodate them unless it would cause significant difficulties to the people we support, our business or employees.
14. Information on the ethnic and racial background, gender, disability, and age of each employee and applicant for employment will be collected and analysed, to monitor each stage of the recruitment process. The information will be held in strictest confidence and will only be used to promote equality of opportunity. Information about the religion/belief and sexual orientation of employees may also be monitored. We may monitor promotion and training if necessary.
15. If the data shows that people from particular groups are under-represented in particular areas of work, lawful positive action training and encouragement will be considered for workers and others from that group, to improve their chances of applying successful for vacancies in these areas.
16. Grievances, disciplinary action, performance assessment, and terminations of employment, for whatever reason, may also be monitored by gender, racial group, age, disability, religion/belief and sexual orientation if necessary.
17. Requirements, conditions, provisions, criteria and practices will be reviewed regularly, in the light of the monitoring results, and revised if they are found to, or might, unlawfully discriminate on any of the above grounds. We will also regularly review advertising, recruitment and application materials and processes, and this policy.
18. All contracts between Three Cs and contracts to supply goods, materials or services will include a clause prohibiting unlawful discrimination or harassment by contractors and their staff, and by any sub-contractors and their staff. The clause will also encourage contracts and potential contracts to provide equality of opportunity in their employment practices.
19. The effectiveness of the policy will be monitored regularly. A report on progress will be produced each year and an annual report will be made to the Board.
20. Customers and people we support will be made aware of the policy, and of their right to fair and equal treatment, irrespective of race, colour, nationality, national or ethnic origins, sexual orientation, gender, religion/belief, disability or age.
21. Fair and equal treatment will be given to people we support, customers, volunteers and members of the public by all staff. The organisation will investigate any complaints from staff that they are being harassed by a customer, or from customers that they are being harassed by staff for reasons linked to protected characteristics, and take suitable action to prevent further

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incidents.

22. The organisation will take all necessary steps to ensure that employees are legally entitled to work in the UK, making sure that employees from outside the EU have permission to work here by checking the validity of documents and keeping copies of them for two years after the employment has come to an end.
23. With the exception of those parts of this policy which, by reason of employment or immigration law, apply to employees only (e.g. entitlement to work in the UK), the spirit, principles and commitments in this policy apply equally to volunteers, including voluntary Trustees on Three Cs Board.
24. The organisation will draw up an Action Plan detailing how this policy will be implemented in practice. A report on the action plan will form part of the annual report on equal opportunities to the Board.

This policy has been endorsed by John Crawford, Chief Executive and has the full support of the Executive Management Team and Board.

Overall responsibility for the effectiveness of the policy lies with John Crawford, Chief Executive. For more information, please contact this person:

John Crawford
 Chief Executive
 Three Cs Support
 82-84 Childers Street
 Deptford
 London SE8 5FS



Position: Chief Executive

Date: 16th November 2021

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