

**Commitment to Equality and Diversity**

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The Gaddum Centre is committed to providing services which embrace diversity and that promote equality of opportunity.

As an employer, Gaddum is committed to equality and valuing diversity within its workforce.

Our goal is to ensure that these commitments, reinforced by our values, are embedded in our day-to-day working practices with all our employees, volunteers, trainees, students, apprentices, job applicants, service users, suppliers, contractors and visitors, irrespective of any protected characteristics including; sex, race, disability, sexual orientation, religion or belief, age, gender reassignment/gender identity, pregnancy and maternity and marriage or civil partnership (this list is not exhaustive).

We will provide equality of opportunity and will not tolerate discrimination on grounds of gender, gender identity, marital status, sexual orientation, race, colour, nationality, religion, age, disability, HIV status, working pattern, caring responsibilities, trade union activity or political beliefs – or any other grounds.

We will demonstrate our commitment by:

* Promoting equality of opportunity and diversity within the communities in which we work and with all our partners and workforce.
* Aim to build a workforce which reflects our customer base, within the diverse communities in which we work, with the aim of having parity of representation across the workforce.
* Encouraging recruitment from groups currently under-represented across the organisation and projects we deliver and their career progression once employed.
* Treating our service users, colleagues and partners fairly and with respect.
* Promoting an environment free from discrimination, bullying and harassment, and tackling behaviour which breaches this.
* Recognising and valuing the differences and individual contribution that people make.
* Providing support and encouragement to staff to develop their careers and increase their contributions to the organisation through the enhancement of their skills and abilities.
* Building in legislative requirements and best practice to all our service delivery and employee policies and procedures, and supporting these with appropriate training and guidance.

Every person working for Gaddum has a personal responsibility for implementing and promoting these principles in their day-to-day dealings with everyone – including members of the public, other staff and employers and partners. Inappropriate behaviour is not acceptable.

We will measure and report on the effectiveness of our service delivery and employee policies and processes, in relation to these principles, by building performance monitoring and management information requirements into policy and product development. This information will be used to inform future policy and to enhance business processes.

**Staff learning and development**

We think it is important that all our people can contribute to the achievement of the department’s objectives. Staff have access to organisational equality and diversity training and also to other opportunities for development in partnership with local organsiations including, for example LGBT Foundation.

We have also committed to setting up a staff Equality Group with representation for age, disability, carers, gender, race, transgender, sexual orientation, work-life balance and wellbeing. The Equality Group will contribute directly to our organisational values by acting as a consultation forum for policy and operational colleagues, by raising concerns and promoting best practice.