



CPSC equality, diversity and inclusion policy

Community Pharmacy South Central (aka Hampshire and Isle of Wight LPC) is committed to encouraging equality, diversity and inclusion among our employees and committee members, and eliminating unlawful discrimination.

The aim is for our committee and employees to be truly representative of all sections of society and our contractors, and for each person to feel respected and able to give their best.

CPSC - in providing goods and/or services and/or facilities - is also committed against unlawful discrimination of customers or the public.

The policy's purpose is to:

- provide equality, fairness and respect for all in our employment and membership, whether temporary, part-time or full-time
- not unlawfully discriminate because of the Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race (including colour, nationality, and ethnic or national origin), religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation
- oppose and avoid all forms of unlawful discrimination. This includes in pay and benefits, terms and conditions of employment, dealing with grievances and discipline, dismissal, redundancy, leave for parents, requests for flexible working, and selection for employment, promotion, training or other developmental opportunities

CPSC commits to:

- Encourage equality, diversity and inclusion in the workplace as they are good practice and make business sense
- Create a working environment free of bullying, harassment, victimisation and unlawful discrimination, promoting dignity and respect for all, and where individual differences and the contributions of all staff and members are recognised and valued.

This commitment includes training members and all employees about their rights and responsibilities under the equality, diversity and inclusion policy. Responsibilities include staff and members conducting themselves to help the organisation provide equal opportunities in membership and employment, and prevent bullying, harassment, victimisation and unlawful discrimination.

All staff and committee members should understand they can be held liable for acts of bullying, harassment, victimisation and unlawful discrimination, in the course of their employment or membership, against fellow employees, fellow committee members, customers, suppliers and the public.

- Take seriously complaints of bullying, harassment, victimisation and unlawful discrimination by fellow employees, fellow committee members, customers, suppliers, visitors, the public and any others in the course of CPSC's work activities.

Such acts will be dealt with as misconduct under CPSC's grievance and/or disciplinary procedures, and appropriate action will be taken. Particularly serious complaints could amount to gross misconduct and lead to dismissal without notice.

Further, sexual harassment may amount to both an employment rights matter and a criminal matter, such as in sexual assault allegations. In addition, harassment under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 – which is not limited to circumstances where harassment relates to a protected characteristic – is a criminal offence.

- Make opportunities for training, development and progress available to all employees and members, who will be helped and encouraged to develop their full potential, so their talents and resources can be fully utilised to maximise the efficiency of CPSC.
- Decisions concerning employees and members being based on merit (apart from in any necessary and limited exemptions and exceptions allowed under the Equality Act).
- Review employment practices and procedures when necessary to ensure fairness, and also update them and the policy to take account of changes in the law.
- Monitor the make-up of the employees and committee regarding information such as age, sex, ethnic background, sexual orientation, religion or belief, and disability in encouraging equality, diversity and inclusion, and in meeting the aims and commitments set out in the equality, diversity and inclusion policy.

Monitoring will also include assessing how the equality, diversity and inclusion policy, and any supporting action plan, are working in practice, reviewing them annually, and considering and taking action to address any issues.

The equality, diversity and inclusion policy is fully supported by the committee members and has been agreed with the Chief Officer as the employee representative.

Details of CPSC's grievance and disciplinary policies and procedures can be found in the Employee Handbook and the LPC Governance statement and undertakings document. This includes with whom an employee or committee member should raise a grievance

Use of CPSC's grievance and/or disciplinary procedures does not affect an employee's right to make a claim to an employment tribunal within three months of the alleged discrimination.