**Equal Opportunities**

**Introduction**

**The Freeman Heart & Lung Transplant Association (FHLTA)**

**ACCEPTS** that in society certain groups or individuals are denied equality on the grounds of race, gender, marital status, caring responsibilities, disability, gender re-assignment, age, social class, sexual orientation and religion/belief or any other factor irrelevant to the purpose in view.

**WELCOMES** the statutory requirements laid down in:

* the Equal Pay Act 1970.
* the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.
* the Sex Discrimination Act 1975.
* the Race Relations Act 1976 and the Race Relations Amendment Act Feb 2000.
* the NHS Community Care Act 1990.
* the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.
* the Asylum & Immigration Act 1996.
* the Human Rights Act Nov 1998.
* the Employment (Religion or Belief) and (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2003.
* Equality act 2010

**RECOGNISES** that it has moral and social responsibilities that go beyond the provisions of the above-mentioned Acts and Regulations, and that it should support and contribute to the wider process of change through all aspects of its work and practices in order to eliminate discrimination and promote equality and diversity.

**IS COMMITTED** to taking positive steps to ensure that:

* all people are treated with dignity and respect, valuing the diversity of all.
* equality of opportunity and diversity is promoted.
* services are accessible, appropriate, and delivered fairly to all.
* the mix of its Trustees, volunteers and management committees reflects, as far as possible, the broad mix of the population of its local community.
* traditionally disadvantaged sections of the community are encouraged to participate in policy decisions about, and the management of the services provided.

# Policy

This policy applies to all Trustees, members, volunteers, service users and the general public.

## Commitment

Equality and diversity are central to the work of the FHLTA.

FHLTA will treat all people with dignity and respect, valuing the diversity of all.  It will promote equality of opportunity and diversity.  It will eliminate all forms of discrimination on grounds of race, gender, marital status, caring responsibilities, disability, gender re-assignment, age, social class, sexual orientation, religion/ belief, irrelevant offending background or any other factor irrelevant to the purpose in view.

It will tackle social exclusion, inequality, discrimination, and disadvantage.

For this policy to be successful, it is essential that everyone is committed to and involved in its delivery.  The FHLTA's goal is to work towards a just society free from discrimination, harassment, and prejudice.  The FHLTA aims to embed this in all its policies, procedures, day-to-day practices, and external relationships.

## Aims

FHLTA aims to:

* Provide services that are accessible according to need.
* Promote equality of opportunity and diversity in volunteering and development.
* Create effective partnerships with all parts of our community.

## Objectives

FHLTAs objective is to realise its standards by:

* Sustaining, regularly evaluating, and continually improving its services to ensure equality and diversity principles and best practice are embedded in our performance to meet the needs of individuals and groups.
* Working together with the community to provide accessible and relevant service provision that responds to service users’ needs.
* Ensuring Trustees, members and volunteers are representative of the community served and that policies are fair and robust.
* Responding to volunteer’s needs and encouraging their development to increase their contribution to effective service delivery.
* Recognising and valuing the differences and individual contribution that all people make to FHLTA.
* Challenging discrimination.
* Providing fair resource allocation.
* Being accountable.

## Why have this policy?

FHLTA recognises, respects and values diversity in its Trustees, members, volunteers and service users.

FHLTA has this policy because it is a people-led organisation that must always ensure it meets the needs of the community through fair development of the people who work with and volunteer for FHLTA.

# PROCEDURES

## Responsibility for Implementation

This policy covers the behaviour of all people volunteering in FHLTA or using the services and sets out the way they can expect to be treated in turn by FHLTA. The overall responsibility for ensuring adherence to and implementation of this policy lies with the Trustees management committee.

## Method of Implementation

FHLTA intends to implement this policy by:

Ensuring that Trustees, members, volunteers, and service users are made aware, understand, agree with, and are willing to implement, this policy.  All Trustees, members, volunteers and service users will be given sight of this policy, provided with a paper or electronic copy of this policy.

Actively encouraging Trustees and volunteers to participate in anti-discriminatory training and making time and resources available for such training.

Monitoring the services, publicity and events provided by FHLTA, to ensure that they are accessible to all sections of the population and do not discriminate and taking active steps to ensure that participation is representative.

## Monitoring and Reviewing

FHLTA has declared its commitment to establishing, developing, implementing, and reviewing a policy of equality of opportunity. Effective record keeping and monitoring, and acting on information gathered, are essential in order to measure effectiveness and plan progress. The Board of Trustees will review the policy annually and inform of any changes made.

# Change Record

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| **Date of Change:** | **Changed By:** | **Comments:** |
| Jan 2021 | New | Policy approved by the Trustees |
| 14/01/2021 | AL  | Approved by Chairperson |
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