

Parish of St Matthew with St Paul, Winchester

Policy statement on recruitment of ex-offenders

- 1 As an organisation which assesses applicants' suitability for positions that are included in the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order using criminal record checks processed through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), the Parish of St Matthew with St Paul complies fully with the code of practice at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dbs-code-of-practice> and undertakes to treat all applicants for positions fairly.
- 2 The Parish of St Matthew with St Paul undertakes not to discriminate unfairly against any person subject of a criminal record check on the basis of a conviction or other information revealed.
- 3 The Parish of St Matthew with St Paul can only ask an individual to provide details of convictions and cautions that the parish is legally entitled to know about, where a DBS certificate at either Standard or Enhanced level can legally be requested (where the position is one that is included in the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975 as amended and, where appropriate, Police Act Regulations as amended).
- 4 The Parish of St Matthew with St Paul can only ask an individual about convictions and cautions that are not 'protected'.
- 5 The Parish of St Matthew with St Paul is committed to the fair treatment of its staff (paid and voluntary), potential staff/officers or users of its services, regardless of race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, responsibilities for dependents, age, physical/mental disability or offending background (subject to points 3, 4 and 11).
- 6 The Parish of St Matthew with St Paul will make this written policy on the recruitment of ex-offenders available to all applicants at the start of the recruitment process.
- 7 The Parish of St Matthew with St Paul actively promotes equality of opportunity for all with the right mix of talent, skills and potential, and welcomes applications from a wide range of candidates, including those with criminal records.
- 8 The Parish of St Matthew with St Paul selects all candidates for interview based on their skills, qualifications and experience (excepting where there is an 'occupational requirement' as laid out under the terms of the Equality Act 2010).
- 9 An application for a criminal record check is only submitted to DBS after a thorough assessment has indicated that one is both proportionate and relevant to the position concerned. For those positions where a criminal record check is identified as necessary, all application forms, role/job adverts and recruitment briefs will contain a statement that an application for a DBS certificate will be submitted in the event of the individual being considered for the position.
- 10 The Parish of St Matthew with St Paul ensures that those in the parish who are involved in the recruitment process have been suitably trained to identify and assess the relevance and circumstances of offences under the guidance of the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.
- 11 Any disclosure of a caution or conviction, whether for a serious violent and/or sexual offence or a conviction resulting in a custodial offence (whether or not suspended), or other intelligence information disclosed, will be referred to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team for an initial assessment and they will consult as appropriate with the individual responsible for the recruitment process as to whether the disclosure may affect suitability for the role.
- 12 At interview, or in a separate discussion, the Parish of St Matthew with St Paul ensures that an open and measured discussion takes place on the subject of any offences or other matter that might be relevant to the position. Failure to reveal information that is directly relevant to the position sought could lead to withdrawal of an offer of employment.

- 13 The Parish of St Matthew with St Paul makes every person subject of a criminal record check submitted to DBS aware of the existence of the code of practice and makes a copy available on request.
- 14 The Parish of St Matthew with St Paul undertakes to discuss any matter revealed on a DBS certificate with the individual seeking the position before withdrawing a conditional offer of employment.
- 15 The Parish of St Matthew with St Paul will apply this policy to employed/paid and volunteer roles.

Approved by PCC meeting of 28 September 2022

Next review date: September 2023