

# STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

## Questions to Portfolio Holders

### Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel Monday, 27 July 2020

#### 1. Question received from Councillor Hoptroff

“What personal responsibility do District Councillors have under the Equality Act 2010 to counter racism and promote diversity in their actions, statements and behaviour?”

#### **Response:**

The Equality Act 2010 Act provides the basic framework of protection against direct and indirect discrimination, harassment and victimisation in services and public functions; premises; work; education; associations, and transport.

The general equality duty set out in the Equality Act as it relates to the Council (as a corporate body) says that it must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

These are sometimes referred to as the three aims or arms of the general equality duty. The Act explains that having due regard for advancing equality involves:

- Removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics.
- Taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people.
- Encouraging people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low

The Equality Act duty is placed on the Council rather than individual councillors. However, the Council's code of conduct is consistent with the seven principles of public life and requires councillors, when acting in their capacity as a Member of the Council, to:

- Provide leadership to the authority and communities within its area, by personal example and
- Respect others and not bully (including any unwanted behaviour that makes someone feel intimidated, degraded, humiliated or offended) any person

## 2. Question received from Councillor Yates

“Since 2015 it has been mandatory for Police Authorities to collect data on hate crimes. Hate crimes are defined as acts of hostility or prejudice the victim believes is directed against them by reason of disability, race, religion, transgender identity or sexual orientation. What data exists between 2015 to 2019 for Staffordshire Police Authority and what data exists pertaining to the Staffordshire Moorlands area?”

### Response:

The following information has been received from Staffordshire Police:

	Number of Reported Hate Crimes	
	Staffordshire	Staffordshire Moorlands
2015	1,055	56
2016	1,361	62
2017	1,673	61
2018	1,578	66
2019	1,493	59
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,160</b>	<b>304</b>