

Recruitment of Ex-offenders

As an organisation using the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) Disclosure service to assess applicants' suitability for positions of trust, Longparish Playgroup complies fully with the CRB Code of Practice and undertakes to treat all applicants for positions fairly.

It undertakes not to discriminate unfairly against any subject of a Disclosure on the basis of a conviction or other information revealed.

Longparish Playgroup is committed to the fair treatment of its staff, potential staff or users of its services, regardless of race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, responsibilities for dependants, age, physical/mental disability or offending background. This written policy on the recruitment of ex-offenders is made available to all Disclosure applicants at the outset of the recruitment process.

We actively promote equality of opportunity for all with the right mix of talent, skills and potential and welcome applications from a wide range of candidates, including those with criminal records.

We select all candidates for interview based on their skills, qualifications and experience. Under the Children Act 2004 we are obliged to request a Disclosure for all applicants to work with children or on the premises at Longparish Playgroup. All application forms, job advertisements and recruitment briefs will contain a statement that a Disclosure will be requested in the event of the individual being offered the position. We encourage all applicants called for interview to provide details of their criminal record at an early stage in the application process. We guarantee that this information will only be seen by those who need to see it as part of the recruitment process.

We seek guidance and specific advice within the framework of the relevant legislation from TMG, the umbrella company used by Longparish Playgroup for processing the disclosure, to help us to identify and assess the relevance and circumstances of offences. We also seek advice and guidance from them on the relevant legislation relating to the employment of ex-offenders, e.g. the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act.

At interview, or in a separate discussion, we ensure 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.

We make every subject of a CRB Disclosure aware of the existence of the CRB Code of Practice and make a copy available on request.

We undertake to discuss any matter revealed in a Disclosure with the person seeking the position before withdrawing a conditional offer of employment. **Having a criminal record will not necessarily bar someone from working with us.** This will depend on the nature of the position and the circumstances and background of the offences.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of Longparish Playgroup held on

Signed on behalf of the Playgroup.....