

OADBY & WIGSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

POLICY STATEMENT ON THE RECRUITMENT OF EX-OFFENDERS

Background Note

All individuals or organisations using the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) Disclosure Service to help assess the suitability of applicants for positions of trust and who are recipients of Disclosure information must comply fully with the CRB Code of Practice. This requires them to treat all applicants for positions who have a criminal record fairly and not to discriminate unfairly against the subject of a Disclosure on the basis of conviction or other information revealed. This obliges them to have a written policy statement on the recruitment of such individuals, which can be given to all applicants for positions where a Disclosure is requested and to ensure that a body or individual at whose request applications are countersigned has such a written policy. Also, if necessary, to provide a model for that body or individual to use or adapt for this purpose. In the case of the Council, such bodies or individuals will usually be its agents or contractors.

Policy Statement

- ◆ As an organisation using the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) Disclosure service to assess applicants' suitability for positions of trust, Oadby and Wigston Borough Council 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.
- ◆ Oadby and Wigston Borough Council 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 policy statement 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 who possess the essential mix of talent, skills and potential relevant to posts applied for, and welcome applications from a wide range of candidates, including those with criminal records. We select all candidates for interview based on their stated skills, qualifications and experience.
- ◆ A Disclosure is only requested after a thorough risk assessment has indicated that one is both proportionate and relevant to the position concerned. For those positions where a Disclosure is required, all application forms, job adverts and recruitment briefs will contain a statement that a Disclosure will be requested in the event of the individual being offered the position.
- ◆ Where a Disclosure is to form part of the recruitment process, we encourage all applicants called for interview to provide details of their criminal record at an early stage in the application process. We request that this information is sent under separate, confidential cover, to a designated person within Oadby and Wigston Borough Council and we guarantee that this information is only seen by those who need to see it as part of the recruitment process.
- ◆ Unless the nature of the position allows Oadby and Wigston Borough Council to ask questions about your entire criminal record we only ask about 'unspent' convictions as defined in the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

- ◆ We ensure that all Oadby and Wigston personnel who are involved in the recruitment process have been suitably trained to identify and assess the relevance and circumstances of offences. We also ensure that they are aware of the provisions and purpose of the relevant legislation relating to the employment of ex-offenders, e.g., the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.
- ◆ At interview, or in a separate discussion, we offer or may require discussion 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 you from working with us. This will depend on the nature of the position and the circumstances and background of your offences.