

The Public Sector Equality Duty (in force: April 2011)

1. A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:-
 - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
2. Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:-
 - (a) remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
 - (b) take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
 - (c) encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
3. The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.
4. Having due regard to need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it
Involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:-
 - (a) tackle prejudice, and
 - (b) promote understanding.
5. Compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others; but that it not to be taken as permitting conduct that would otherwise be prohibited by or under this Act.
6. The relevant protected characteristics are:-
 - age;
 - disability;
 - gender reassignment;
 - pregnancy and maternity;
 - race;
 - religion or belief;
 - sex;
 - sexual orientation.