

The Foundation focuses on where need exists and works to improve the wellbeing of individuals, families, and groups across our society. We do this by making grants to UK charities who support diverse groups and communities. Diversity is central to what we do – and we believe that diversity comes in many forms. We adopt a range of approaches to ensure multiple perspectives are embedded in our organisation, the way we work and our grant-making decisions. Our dedicated team members bring with them diverse experiences, backgrounds and voices, ensuring our grant-making process is fair and reaches the range of organisations across the country who most need our help. As an open and accessible national funder, our donations and the applications we receive reflect the wonderful diversity of the UK.

We are committed to inclusion in our society. We will continue to pursue this by finding more ways to overcome exclusion and disadvantage, reviewing our accessibility and being proactive where needed. We include a broad range of factors which are important to our work and our understanding of the issues affecting society – these include lived-experience and social and economic background and we recognise that diversity is not always visible or immediately evident.

The Foundation has the following active principles and ways of working to support our ongoing commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion and will continue to embed these across all areas of our work, both our internal and external facing activities and in our wider relationships.

Principles:

- We are **accessible and straightforward** – giving clear and consistent guidance to applicants and grantees, helping them to present their best case regardless of background or ability.
- We maintain a **transparent approach** to our grant-making with grants published online on a regular basis, all grants listed individually in our annual report and case studies to visibly highlight the breadth of our support across the UK for those who may not have applied before.
- We strive to **continuously learn and improve** – we question and educate ourselves to be as well informed as possible about the issues and challenges that individuals and communities deal with on a daily basis. We continue to learn from our charity partners.
- We ensure our **staff team is diverse** throughout the organisation, including at senior and managerial level, to allow multiple perspectives to thrive and inform our work.
- We actively **encourage debate and discussion** so that wide-ranging experiences and factors are taken into consideration when reviewing applications

Actions we are taking:

- Staff and Trustees are committed to inclusion; discussion on EDI is ongoing to ensure our commitment is embedded in our work on a daily basis, not just as a set of written policies.
- We work with specialist EDI consultants to review all our documentation, correspondence and communication and website and we continuously make improvements to be accessible and to account for new learning and standards as they emerge.
- We work with external specialists for staff and Board training to address important areas such as unconscious bias and to inform ourselves of key issues relating to our work.
- Inclusivity is embedded in our key documents and our practice, for example our *Weston Charter* which sets out our commitment to applicants and in our *Grant-making Philosophy* paper.
- We ask applicants to supply demographic information about their beneficiaries so we can develop insight into the Foundation's reach with marginalised communities.
- We ask applicants what patterns of inequality, exclusion, or marginalisation they have identified in the context of their work and what they are doing to tackle these. This helps us to understand how our charity partners are achieving diversity while also appreciating differences relevant to their work and location.
- We highly value the diversity of our staff team. Around 40% of the team are the first generation in their families to attend university and a third of staff at managerial level are from an ethnic minority background. Our team draws on wide-ranging life experiences and knowledge which is a source of understanding, inspiration and enjoyment.
- We have an EDI champion within the organisation who has knowledge and lived experience of inclusivity issues.