

## **Recruitment of Ex-offenders Policy**

1. As an organisation assessing applicants' suitability for positions which are included in the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order using criminal record checks processed through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), Horsham Matters complies fully with the code of practice and undertakes to treat all applicants for positions fairly
2. Horsham Matters will not discriminate unfairly against any person subject to a criminal record check on the basis of a conviction or other information revealed
3. Horsham Matters can only ask an individual to provide details of convictions and cautions that Horsham Matters are legally entitled to know about, where a DBS certificate at either standard or enhanced level can legally be requested (where the position is one that is included in the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975 as amended, and where appropriate Police Act Regulations as amended)
4. Horsham Matters can only ask an individual about convictions and cautions that are not protected
5. Horsham Matters 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 dependents, age, physical/mental disability or offending background
6. This policy is made available to all applicants who will DBS checked at the start of this process.
7. Horsham Matters actively promotes 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
8. Horsham Matters select all candidates for interview based on their skills, qualifications and experience
9. An application for a criminal record check is only submitted to DBS after a thorough risk assessment has indicated that one is both proportionate and relevant to the position concerned. For those positions where a criminal record check is identified as necessary, all application forms, job adverts and recruitment briefs will contain a statement that an application for a DBS certificate will be submitted in the event of the individual being offered the position

10. Horsham Matters ensures that all those in Horsham Matters who are involved in the recruitment process have been suitably trained to identify and assess the relevance and circumstances of offences

11. Horsham Matters also ensures that they have received appropriate guidance and training in the relevant legislation relating to the employment of ex-offenders, e.g. the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974

12. At interview, or in a separate discussion, Horsham Matters ensures 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

13. Horsham Matters will ensure that any individual subject to a criminal record check submitted to the DBS is made aware of the DBS Code of Practice and that a copy is available upon request.

14. Horsham Matters undertakes to discuss any matter revealed on a DBS certificate with the individual seeking the position before withdrawing a conditional offer of employment

**Other relevant policies/procedures to be referred to:**

Safeguarding Policy

Code of Practice for Disclosure and Barring Service Registered Persons