

The recruitment of ex-offenders

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.

The YMCA undertakes not to discriminate unfairly against any applicant on the basis of a criminal record or other information revealed. Criminal records and other information will be taken into account for recruitment purposes only when they are relevant.

We select all candidates for interview based on their skills, qualifications and experience.

We ask all applicants called for interview to provide details of their criminal record. Depending on the nature of the position applied for, the YMCA may request details of your entire criminal record or only of 'unspent' convictions as defined in the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

We request that this information is sent under separate, confidential cover to a designated person within the YMCA and we guarantee that this information is only seen by those who need to see it as part of the recruitment process. We would point out that, for the successful candidate, this information will be verified by requesting a Disclosure statement* from the Criminal Records Bureau before the appointment is confirmed.

Failure to reveal information that is relevant to the position sought could lead to withdrawal of an offer of employment or subsequent dismissal.

We ensure that all those in the YMCA 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 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.

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 matters that might be relevant to the position.

For those positions where a Disclosure is required, application forms and guidance notes will contain a statement that a Disclosure will be requested in the event of the candidate being made a conditional offer of employment.

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 any offences. However, we should make it clear that as the nature of the YMCA's work brings its workers into contact with children, young people** and/or vulnerable adults a criminal record or other information which makes the application unacceptable for a position of trust will render the applicant unsuitable.

As an organisation using the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) Disclosure service* to assess applicants' suitability for positions of trust, this policy complies with the CRB Code of Practice.

* Applicants for positions who are made a conditional offer of employment will be subject to a criminal record check from the Disclosure & Barring Service before the appointment is confirmed. This will include details of cautions, reprimands or final warnings, as well as convictions.

** young people are those under 18 years of age