***Cultural Competence and Diversity in the Community***

Communities are made up of a variety of people. These people are all different in many ways. A diverse community could be compared to a quilt made up of many pieces of different kinds of cloth and patterns all bound together to form a single unit. It is important to understand, manage and value diversity in the community.

Some diversities include:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Gender | Race | Sexual orientation |
| Age | Ethnicity | Physical abilities |

You may have found other diversities in people you have worked with or known.

Diversity education is not about “conforming” or all becoming like each other. It is about valuing diversity. Allowing, respecting and appreciating differences are all benefits that will enhance relationships in a work or community environment. Different perspectives can enhance lives and boost morale. We can learn from each other’s unique ideas and perspectives; we can all appreciate diversity.

Prejudice is not just about race. It is a natural human emotion. We all have a tendency to fear or distrust people and ideals that are different to us, or what we have grown accustomed to. It is important to learn ways of overcoming this fear so we can accept each other for who we are. We all have the right to be treated with respect and equality.

**Some good pointers for communication in a diverse community are:**

* **Openness**
* **Active listening**
* **Respectful language**
* **Sensitivity**

**I have read and understand the training on Cultural Competence and Diversity**

**Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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**My Employer is: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**