**5.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES POLICY**

**POLICY STATEMENT**

CHIPS aims to provide equality of opportunity for all children and young people. We want all of the children and young people that we support to achieve their full potential irrespective of gender, ability, race, religion, nationality, economic status or background.

We are committed to embracing the diversity of the communities which we support, through the opportunities we offer to children and young people. We strive to show that this diversity can be brought together in harmony to achieve positive and rewarding outcomes. We also insist on a zero-tolerance policy when it comes to any sort of discrimination or abuse amongst young people, staff and trustees.

CHIPS does not seek to differentiate between applications simply on the grounds of status and believes in equality of opportunity and access for all. CHIPS welcomes applications from all people irrespective of gender, parental status, sexual orientation, colour, race, ethnic origin, nationality, religion, disability or age.

Equality and Diversity is about accepting and embracing people’s differences and creating an environment in which all can thrive and contribute.

The procedures laid out in this policy are in line with legislation defined by the Equality Act 2010.