

# **MANAGEMENT OF CHANGE POLICY**

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## REVIEWERS

This document has been reviewed by:

NAME	DATE	TITLE/RESPONSIBILITY	VERSION
Alice McGee	May 16	HR Lead	V2
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## APPROVALS

This document has been approved by:

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N.B: the version of this policy posted on the intranet must be a PDF copy of the approved version.

## DOCUMENT STATUS

This is a controlled document. Whilst this document may be printed, the electronic version posted on the intranet is the controlled copy. Any printed copies of the document are not controlled.

## RELATED DOCUMENTS

These documents will provide additional information.

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## **1.0 POLICY OVERVIEW**

### **1.1 Purpose**

The organisation aims to provide all employees with the highest possible level of employment and security; however service development and the need to continually improve organisational effectiveness will sometimes necessitate changes to staffing levels, structures, roles and ways of working. This policy will provide a clear process to follow when implementing change and the organisation is committed to ensuring the change is managed in a way that is sensitive, consistent, fair and in line with statutory requirements and best practice.

### **1.2 Who this Policy Applies to**

The policy applies to all staff that are employees of the organisation in either a permanent, fixed term or temporary post excluding agency workers.

### **1.3 Key Principles**

This document sets out the organisation's approach to the management of organisational change and the procedures that should be followed by managers wishing to implement major change.

The principles and procedures support the aim of managing strategic and operational change in a way that is both supportive to staff and enhances the aim of the highest quality provision of patient care.

In order to meet changing business needs more effectively, there may be occasions when managers need to implement relatively minor changes. Reasonable minor changes and adjustments to duties and working practices may be implemented without recourse to the formal procedures in this document but will require reasonable consultation with staff affected. Any situation which may lead to redundancy will not be deemed to be a minor change.

- The organisation will provide information about any proposed organisational change as appropriate, in accordance with good industrial relations practice to disclose to staff and the trade unions.
- Employees will receive notice of any organisational change which may affect their employment at the earliest opportunity.
- Employees will be treated as individuals with due regard to their personal and employment circumstances and their career aspirations at all stages of the change management procedure.
- Employees will have the right to be accompanied by a trade union representative or workplace colleague at meetings to discuss the organisational change.
- Requests by the employee for additional support at any individual meetings will be considered e.g. where disability is involved and familiarity with the impairment or the individual or specialist input would be beneficial.
- The organisation will consider all reasonably practicable steps to avoid compulsory redundancies.

- Employees will receive training and development, as appropriate, to meet new skill requirements and where appropriate to identify new career opportunities, with funding and time to attend training and development activities given.
- Trade unions play a vital role in advising and representing staff undergoing organisational change and in working with managers to ensure that organisational change is managed with the least disruption to services to patients and in accordance with the principle of avoiding compulsory redundancies wherever possible.
- The organisation will formally notify the trade unions of any proposed organisational changes and will undertake consultation with them in line with legal requirements.
- Employees are central to the achievement and success of organisational change. The organisation acknowledges that change can cause concern and uncertainty and should therefore be managed fairly and consistently in accordance with established good practice.
- The organisation recognises the need, wherever possible, to engage staff in any change management procedure.
- Managers should liaise with HR to ensure the organisation is not open to claims of discrimination as a result of a change management process.
- Staff are expected to play an active role during the pre-consultation and consultation stages, in the further processes of implementation and in identifying new career opportunities.
- Failure to engage in any management of change processes (including suitable alternative employment) may affect an employee's eligibility for redundancy

#### **1.4 Legal Considerations**

- The Employment Rights Act 1996
- Employment Relations Act 2004
- The Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (TUPE)
- NHS Terms and Conditions of Employment (Agenda for Change)

## 2.0 THE POLICY

### 2.1 What is Organisational Change?

As a Clinical Commissioning Group the organisation actively works together to manage local budgets and buy health services for patients direct with other NHS colleagues and local authorities. It manages its services so as to provide the most effective health care for patients and clients. The organisation recognises that as a result, changes may need to be made to the organisational design, workforce and system processes which may, from time to time affect staffing needs.

Organisational change is driven by the business needs of the organisation. Change can be triggered either by the external environment or by an internal review of service requirements. Examples of significant organisational change include the reorganisation, relocation, merger, expansion or closure of a service, competitive tendering or outsourcing, or a major change in working practice.

All such changes will be conducted in accordance with this policy which incorporates best practice and legal requirements and aims to provide a framework for common understanding for managers, staff and trade unions.

In order to meet a change in business need more effectively, there may be occasions when managers need to implement relatively minor changes. Reasonable minor changes and adjustments to duties and working practices may be implemented without recourse to the formal procedures in this document but will require reasonable consultation with staff affected. Any situation which may lead to redundancy will not be deemed to be a minor change.

### 2.2 Key definitions

**Ring-fencing** means the process by which staff at risk will be considered for a post in a new staffing or management structure which is similar to their current post and where there is more than one contender for that post.

**Slotting In** means the process by which staff at risk are confirmed into a post in a new staffing or management structure which is similar to their current post and where that individual is the only contender for that post. Slotting in may occur where a new post is in the same band as the individual's current post (or possibly a lower grade, in which case pay protection might apply) or where it remains substantially the same (usually defined as 70% the same) with regard to job content, responsibility, grade, status and requirements for skills, knowledge and experience.

**Staff at Risk** means staff whose posts may potentially be redundant as a result of organisational change if suitable alternative employment cannot be found.

**TUPE** means the Transfer of Undertaking (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006, which may be used when an employee transfers in or out of the organisation in the same role

### 2.3 The Purpose of Consultation

In accordance with legislation and the partnership working principles of the NHS, the organisation commits itself to conduct meaningful and appropriate consultation with trade unions and staff affected by the organisational change with a view to reaching agreement on

the way forward, although there will be times when organisational change will need to proceed without a consensus being reached on all issues. The timing and extent of consultation will be proportionate to the degree of proposed change, the number of staff affected and the impact on individuals.

The purpose of the consultation meetings with trade unions and staff will be:

- to receive and where possible address any questions on the consultation document
- to consider any comments or views on the consultation document including any alternative proposals and costings (which the organisation shall as far as practicable make available) before determining any final decision to proceed
- to clarify any change processes and timeframes specific to the proposed organisational change exercise under discussion.

## **2.4 The Consultation Procedure**

Managers shall prepare a consultation document on the proposed organisational change having gathered information to support the need for change and consulted with HR as appropriate.

The consultation document may include details of the following, as appropriate:

- current situation analysis including staffing structure
- impact on service/business
- impact on supplementary and ancillary services
- consideration of any relevant health and safety assessment
- the need for change and the rationale behind the change
- the options that have been considered
- the proposals for change including the proposed staffing structure(s) and any location change
- the financial, staffing and workload implications of the proposals
- the number and grades/bands of staff who may be at risk of redundancy as a result of the proposal
- proposed timescale for consultation and implementation of the proposed change
- the way in which staff will be selected for posts within the new structure or transferred
- if necessary, the selection criteria for redundancy
- the measures to be taken to avoid compulsory redundancies which may include natural wastage, redeployment with retraining, or voluntary early retirement or voluntary redundancy
- details of any suitable alternative employment which may exist
- details of how this information will be disseminated to staff
- description of the consultation process, including planned meetings, timetable, how staff and representatives can respond and the deadline

## **2.5 Time Periods for Consultation**

In all cases the organisation will allow sufficient time for meaningful consultation with staff and their representatives. In exceptional circumstances where changes need to be made very quickly, the trade unions will be briefed immediately and the verbal briefing will be followed by a written brief.

In a collective redundancy scenario, consultation will continue for a period of no less than the statutory timescales:

- where 20-99 redundancies are proposed consultation should commence at least 30 days before the first redundancy takes place
- where 100 or more redundancies are proposed then consultation should commence at least 45 days before the first redundancy takes place.

In an individual redundancy scenario, consultation will normally start at least 30 days before any individual notice of redundancy is given, however consultation may be for a shorter period, if jointly agreed by the parties.

Trade unions and staff may request additional information or an extension of time if this is necessary to enable them to understand and contribute to an informed discussion on the merits of the proposal. Such requests will not unreasonably be refused, and where they cannot be accommodated a reason will be given.

## **2.6 Consultation with the Trade Unions**

Early informal consultation with the trade unions is encouraged and should occur where possible. This is also known as pre-consultation. Meaningful pre-consultation often leads to an agreed shorter formal consultation time and greater staff satisfaction with the process.

Formal consultation with the trade unions will commence within the minimum timescales above once any informal comments have been considered and the consultation document has been finalised. This will take the form of:

- on-going discussions with the local accredited representatives
- trade unions representing staff affected by the change being invited to the first meeting with all affected staff and given reasonable notice to attend

In a redundancy scenario, the information provided in writing to the trade unions shall include the following:

- the numbers and descriptions of employees whom it is proposed to dismiss as redundant
- the total number of employees of any such description employed by the organisation at the establishment in question
- the proposed method of selecting employees who may be dismissed
- the proposed method of carrying out the dismissals, with due regard to any agreed procedure, including the period over which the dismissals are to take effect
- the proposed method of calculating the amount of any redundancy payments to be made (over and above the statutory redundancy payment) to employees who may be dismissed.

During a period of change, management will ensure that trade unions are kept informed of developments and will meet with the trade unions as appropriate.

## **2.7 Consultation with Individual Staff**

A meeting will be held with all staff affected by the organisational change to announce the proposed change and explain the consultation process which will follow.

Each member of staff affected by the organisational change will be provided with a copy of the consultation document. Staff who are absent from work for any reason including maternity leave, sickness absence, secondment to another organisation or career breaks will

be sent a copy of the consultation document at their home address/other suitable address so that they can participate in the consultation process.

Each member of staff will be offered the opportunity of at least one individual meeting with their manager at which they have the right to be accompanied by a trade union representative or workplace colleague. HR advisory support will also be provided.

At the meeting, each member of staff will be invited to comment and respond to the proposals, including how they may impact on their personal circumstances. It is recognised that staff may require time to respond and may not be able to do so at that particular meeting.

Regular updates and frequently asked questions may be circulated to staff throughout the formal consultation period where required. Throughout this period staff should be encouraged to discuss their concerns and queries with their line manager and trade union.

In addition to the individual consultation meetings, staff can be kept informed by management, team meetings and briefings, newsletters, trade union meetings, email and other written communication and information supplied by the trade unions.

## **2.8 The End of Consultation**

At the end of the consultation period the manager will give full consideration to all comments received from staff and the trade unions and will make a decision on the way forward. An end of consultation meeting may also be held if necessary. If significant changes to the proposed changes have been made a written report may be provided to the staff and trade unions covering the change process to be followed and the timeframe. The report may include:

- the reasons for the decision
- an explanation where the management decision is in conflict with the views of the trade unions representatives and staff or where the proposal has changed as a result of consultation
- identification of posts which are the same or substantially the same in the old and new structures
- arrangements for filling posts via Slotting In or Ring-fencing
- selection arrangements for posts within the new structure
- measures that will be taken to avoid compulsory redundancies
- arrangements for seeking suitable alternative employment
- reference to the organisation's protection arrangements and how these will apply
- support for staff who are affected by the change and reasonable time off to seek other employment or undertake training
- proposed timescales for each stage of the change process.

Where redundancies are inevitable the organisation will set selection criteria for inclusion in the conclusions to consultation. These criteria should be objective, clearly defined, measurable and non-discriminatory. Managers should seek advice from HR on the selection criteria to be used to ensure the organisation is not open to legal challenge. Selection criteria will be discussed, and where possible agreed, with trade unions.

Under normal circumstances, staff will be selected on the basis of their relevant skills, experience and qualifications to undertake the remaining jobs, as assessed through formal interviews held in accordance with the organisations selection procedures. However there

may be occasions where alternative selection criteria are agreed with the trade unions during the consultation process such as, for example,

- Conduct and performance (as evidenced through the disciplinary and performance review records)
- Attendance records (due regard will be given to the causes of absence)

In considering any measures to avoid compulsory redundancies, including requests for voluntary redundancy or early retirement, operational efficiency and service needs must be taken into consideration. If a member of staff volunteers for redundancy or early retirement, approval of the request will be subject to the needs of the service and the cost implications. Care must be taken to ensure that decisions are based on sound organisational reasons and do not breach equality legislation.

## **2.9 Support for Staff**

All staff affected by the organisational change will be encouraged to seek the advice and support of their trade union. Relevant support will be provided by the organisation and may include:

- help with the production of CVs/application forms (including assistance with NHS Jobs)
- help with preparation for interviews
- careers advice
- time to meet with recognised trade union representatives to discuss the change
- reasonable time off to seek other employment or undertake training
- placement on the organisation's at risk register
- coaching

Even after the change has taken place, the organisation acknowledges that staff may take some time to adjust to the change itself. Managers should remain available to staff to manage any issues that arise and support staff through the transition.

## **2.10 The Process for Filling Posts in the New Structure**

There will be two stages in the process for filling posts in a new structure:

- Stage One takes place amongst the staff that are affected by the change. Posts in the new structure are filled either by slotting in or by ring-fencing
- Stage Two is where wider competition takes place for any posts that remain vacant in the new structure following slotting in or ring-fencing. The post can then be opened up to access by any Staff At Risk on the organisational at risk register for whom the post is considered suitable alternative employment or to open competition internally and externally, in line with the normal recruitment process, where there are no such applicants.

The two stages may run in parallel, but all reasonably practicable steps will be taken to avoid compulsory redundancies.

The selection criteria for appointing to roles within ringfencing, slotting in or suitable alternative employment can vary, but will be defined during the staff consultation.

Job descriptions and person specifications will be produced for new posts. Jobs will be matched or evaluated in accordance with applicable national or local systems. Staff who are offered posts will be deemed to have been offered suitable alternative employment by the organisation. This will be confirmed in writing by the manager.

Employees should only be turned down for posts where they fail to meet the essential criteria or where others in the at risk pool are considered to meet the requirements better. Any member of staff who is not appointed to a post in the new structure will be offered post-interview feedback, coaching or training where appropriate and has the right to appeal via local grievance procedures.

Once an At Risk member of staff has been appointed to a role, they shall no longer be classed as At Risk.

## **2.11 Staff at Risk**

When changes in staffing levels or skill mix are proposed which will lead to a reduction in the numbers of staff employed in particular grades, occupational groups or specialties, management will identify the positions, individual staff or pool of staff who are at risk of redundancy as a result of the changes. Staff who are acting up will be placed in the pool relating to their substantive post.

The identification of being at risk of redundancy is not a notice of redundancy. Staff At Risk will be invited to a meeting(s) with their manager and trade union representative or work colleague to:

- discuss how the proposed changes affect the individual
- explain why the individual is at risk of redundancy
- discuss ideas for avoiding redundancy dismissals, reducing the number of staff at risk who are made redundant and mitigating the consequences of any redundancy dismissals
- explore the possibility of Redeployment
- explain the process for Redeployment
- explain the arrangements for protection of pay and terms and conditions where applicable
- offer support and assistance
- discuss any other relevant issues and processes which may include providing a redundancy payment estimate if requested

Following the meeting, staff at risk will be given a letter within five working days to confirm their at risk status and the key points discussed at the meeting including answers, wherever possible, to questions raised at the meeting for which there were no immediate answers available at the time.

Staff at risk will be given prior consideration for posts within the new structure where they meet the selection criteria, under Stage One of the process. Where they are selected for a new post they will normally be given the offer in writing within seven working days of the interview. Any training required will be discussed with the member of staff as part of the offer process. The appointment will be subject to a trial period.

In the case of significant change which spans a number of NHS organisations, the organisation will endeavour to reach an agreement with those organisations regarding the establishment of job redeployment opportunities. The agreement will contain a commitment

to equality of opportunity for all staff who will then have the same access to opportunities and vacant posts with any of the organisations.

Staff who are not selected for a post in the new structure will be formally declared at risk of redundancy and given notice of redundancy in accordance with the contract of employment. They will continue to be listed on the organisation's at risk register.

There may be situations where it is necessary to give notice of redundancy in accordance with the contract of employment at the end of the consultation process. Staff at risk will be required to register with NHS Jobs and apply for posts via that medium. In addition, the HR Department should wherever possible notify staff of potential opportunities. The HR Department will use the full functionality of NHS Jobs (including "internal only" and "restricted vacancy" functionality) to support redeployment of staff at risk.

Staff at risk will be given prior consideration for other posts that are or become vacant in the organisation during a specific organisational change and, subject to the arrangements regarding suitable alternative employment and trial periods, they will remain on the register until their last day of service.

Special provision is made in law where an employee's job becomes redundant while he or she is absent on maternity or adoption leave; the employee is entitled to be offered any suitable alternative vacancy before the existing contract ends, in preference to employees who are not absent on such leave.

## **2.12 Definition of Redundancy**

A member of staff may become redundant if they are dismissed and the reason for the dismissal is wholly or mainly due to:

- the fact that the organisation has ceased, or intends to cease, to carry on the activity for the purposes of which the individual was employed, or has ceased, or intends to cease, to carry out the activity in the place where the individual was employed OR
- the fact that the requirements of the organisation for staff to carry out work of a particular kind in the place where they were so employed, have ceased or diminished or are expected to cease or diminish.

## **2.13 Suitable Alternative Employment**

Suitable alternative employment is work within the organisation that is on broadly similar terms and within the same range of skills required as the current employment where the individual meets the essential criteria of the person specification. It may be on any site operated by the organisation subject to travel considerations. Staff at risk will be given prior consideration for suitable posts in line with their skills, experience and capabilities and where appropriate will receive protection of pay.

Where there are insufficient numbers of vacant posts within the organisation, the HR team will endeavour to identify suitable redeployment opportunities within the wider NHS and draw these to the attention of the staff.

Staff are reminded that under Agenda for Change terms and conditions an unreasonable refusal to accept suitable alternative employment offered by the organisation, or another NHS employer, will mean that they are not entitled to a redundancy payment.). A post may be considered as suitable alternative employment if it is banded on the same band as the staff member's current post, or the next higher or lower band. Where a higher band has

been identified a selection process must be undertaken to ensure the individual has the competencies to undertake the higher banded role.

Following identification of potentially suitable posts individual staff at risk will be offered the position in writing and be given a copy of the job description/person specification and a deadline of at least five working days within which to apply. In some circumstances e.g. annual leave and other types of leave, this period may be appropriately extended. During this period the individual may meet with the appropriate manager informally to discuss their interest.

If the individual is offered the post, this will be treated as an offer of suitable alternative employment and a trial period will apply. Staff who unreasonably refuse an offer of suitable alternative employment may lose their right to a redundancy payment.

#### **2.14 Trial Periods and Training**

A trial period will only apply to staff at risk and where a formal offer of suitable alternative employment has been made. The purpose of a trial period is for both the manager and the individual to assess the suitability of the post as alternative employment.

Where staff have the potential ability but not the immediate experience to undertake full duties of the role, they will be provided with appropriate skills development/training. This will be provided when it is reasonable, practical and cost effective and where the member of staff demonstrates a willingness to learn and can apply the new skills within an agreed timeframe.

The trial period will normally last for four weeks but may be extended by mutual agreement where a member of staff requires additional training and development or for any other reason.

If the trial period is unsuccessful, as determined by the individual and/or the manager concerned, redundancy arrangements will apply as from the date when the original contract of employment will terminate. Until the end of their notice period staff at risk will be considered for other suitable alternative employment if available which will be subject to the same arrangements including a trial period.

#### **2.15 Change of Location**

If, as a result of organisational change, there is a requirement to move staff from their normal of work to another location resulting in increased travel costs to and from work, staff may be reimbursed their extra daily travelling expenses in accordance with the CCG policy for Pay Protection, including the lower limits for claiming additional mileage due to a change in base and the timeframe for claiming additional travel expenses.

#### **2.16 Redundancy Arrangements**

A member of staff will have their contract of employment terminated on the grounds of redundancy if no suitable alternative employment can be found or if a trial period is unsuccessful. The terms under which a redundancy payment and/or early retirement benefit are payable are summarised below.

To qualify for a redundancy payment/early retirement benefit the individual must have:

- a contract of employment with the organisation
- at least 2 years' (104 weeks) Continuous Service within the NHS

- a redundancy payment takes the form of a lump sum, dependent on the employee's Reckonable Service at the date of termination of employment
- the lump sum is calculated on the basis of one month's pay for each complete year of Reckonable Service, subject to a minimum of 2 years' Continuous Service and a maximum of 24 years Reckonable Service (i.e. the maximum payable is 24 months)
- early retirement on the grounds of redundancy is available, subject to the employee:
  - being a member of the NHS Pension Scheme
  - having at least 2 years' Continuous Service and 2 years' pensionable membership
  - having reached the minimum pension age in accordance with the relevant NHS Pension Scheme arrangements

In 2016 legislation was passed limiting the upper limit of exit payments for public sector staff to £95,000. For those staff where Section 16 of Agenda for Change: NHS Terms and Conditions would result in a higher redundancy payment the statutory upper limit of £95,000 will be applied.

Staff will not be entitled to redundancy payments/early retirement on the grounds of redundancy if they:

- are dismissed for reasons of misconduct
- at the date of the termination of the contract have obtained without a break, or with a break not exceeding four weeks, suitable alternative employment with the organisation or other NHS employer
- unreasonably refuse to accept suitable alternative employment with the organisation or another NHS employer
- leave their employment before expiry of notice, except if they are being
  - released early
  - are offered a renewal of contract with the substitution of a new employer for the organisation
  - Staff whose employment is subject to TUPE or Retention of Employment Model (ROE) transfer will not be redundant and therefore will not be entitled to redundancy payments/early retirement on the grounds of redundancy.

For further information please refer to Part 3, Section 16, of Agenda for Change: NHS Terms and Conditions of Service Handbook and the NHS Pension Scheme early retirement booklet or seek further advice from the organisation's HR department or your trade union.

The manager will liaise with HR in order to obtain details of redundancy entitlements and other aspects of the redundancy process. The manager will provide, in writing, the individual and their trade union representative with the following details:

- the number of weeks' notice, in accordance with the contractual notice period
- the effective date of the redundancy, which will also be the last day of service
- the number of days' outstanding annual leave, where applicable, to be paid in lieu
- the amount of redundancy payment/enhanced pension benefits that will be paid, where applicable
- what efforts will be made to assist the individual in seeking suitable alternative employment during the notice period
- what support is offered during the notice period e.g. help with job search, CV and interview preparation
- what work the individual will be expected to undertake during their notice period
- that reasonable time off with pay will be given to seek and prepare for alternative work

- that early release will normally be given, unless there are compelling service reasons to the contrary, if the individual is successful in obtaining other employment outside the NHS and wishes to take this up during the notice period; the date of early release will then become the revised date of redundancy for the purpose of calculating any entitlement to a redundancy payment
- the right of appeal against selection for redundancy or the terms of the redundancy

## 2.17 Protection Arrangements

Protection of Pay provisions will be put in place in order to support staff who, as a result of organisational change, are required to move to a new post which would entail a reduction in earnings and certain terms and conditions of employment.

These arrangements provide for:

- short term protection of certain conditions of employment where they have been a regular requirement of the previous post, e.g. overtime, shift work, hours of work, annual leave
- long term protection of basic pay, including high cost area supplement.

Pay protection will apply for the agreed periods as set out below or until the member of staff moves voluntarily to a new post within the organisation.

<b>Years of Continuous NHS Service</b>	<b>Period of Protection</b>
Under 1 year	1 month
1 - 2 years	6 months
2 - 3 years	1 year
3 - 4 years	18 months
4 years +	2 years

## 2.18 TUPE - Transfers of Services and Staff

Where there is a proposal to transfer services and staff to a different employer, there will be consultation with the trade unions at the earliest opportunity.

When services are transferred from one organisation to another in line with TUPE the employment of staff who are assigned to the services which are being transferred will transfer to the new organisation. TUPE applies in contracting out scenarios, retendering and where the services are brought back into the NHS.

All the terms and conditions within the transferring employee's contract of employment (including relevant policies and procedures) will transfer with them and should not be changed as a consequence of the transfer.

Where staff have responsibilities spanning more than one NHS organisation or more than one service, discussions will take place with the individual, their trade union representative and the organisations concerned to determine if their employment should transfer. The options in this situation might be that the individual will transfer to one organisation with an agreement to provide services to the other(s), or have more than one contract of employment, or, in exceptional circumstances, to be declared at risk.

In all of these circumstances, for the purposes of the consultation that will be carried out, the manager will identify the services, posts and individual staff that will transfer or be affected in

accordance with the obligations of TUPE and shall write to the staff affected and the trade unions informing them of the intention that staff will transfer, the implications of the transfer and any measures which will be taken in connection with the transfer.

The manager will then hold one-to-one meetings with individual staff and their trade union representative to discuss the implications of the transfer, measures to be taken in connection with the transfer, answer any concerns or queries, discuss possible options if appropriate and consider personal circumstances. Every possible support will be given to staff to understand the reasons for and implications of the transfer and to ensure they have the necessary information with which to prepare themselves.

Formal notice of a transfer will be issued as long before the date of the transfer as possible in order to comply with the obligations of TUPE and this policy. The organisation will make every effort to give up to 3 months' notice of a transfer, where possible. Where 3 months' notice is not possible because, for example, of the timing of external announcements or decisions of approval, a shorter notice period will be provided.

### **2.19 Appeals, Complaints and Joint Agreements**

Appeals against the selection criteria for redundancy or the decision to dismiss an employee by reason of redundancy should be made in writing to a member of the senior management. The decision of the appeal will be a final one and there will be no further opportunity for recourse.

In the event of a complaint about misapplication of the change management policy in the way that the consultation or redeployment processes have been handled will be dealt with in accordance with the organisation's grievance policy.

### **2.20 Equality Statement**

In applying this policy, the organisation will have a due regard for the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and provide for good relations between people of diverse groups. In particular on the grounds of the following characteristics protected by the Equality Act (2010); age, disability, gender, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, in addition to offending background, trade union membership or any other personal characteristic.