

# Member Briefing

Number: 1136

**Title:** Stonewall Workplace Equality Index Top 100

**Summary:** Cheshire West and Chester Council retain a place in Stonewall's Top 100 lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) friendly organisations for the second year.

---

Cheshire West and Chester Council takes part in Stonewall's annual Workplace Equality Index to measure and drive work on equality and inclusion. The index assesses public, private and third sector organisations from across the country, including some of the UK's (and the world's) largest and most successful firms. Stonewall is a national organisation that works to achieve equality for LGBT people, and the Council has been part of its Diversity Champions Programme since 2012.

The index is fully revised every three years, and 2018 marks the first year of new and even more challenging criteria, including being fully trans-inclusive, which meant retaining a Top 100 place against the 434 submissions to the index this year was a significant achievement. The Council achieved 84<sup>th</sup> place (against 75<sup>th</sup> last year) but, given the significant changes to the criteria, this is a strong performance, and we are also well within the top 10 local authorities in the country – further details are awaited.

Key officers and Councillor Paul Donovan, as the Cabinet Member for Equality and Diversity, are attending a detailed feedback session from Stonewall on 21 February, which will provide details of areas which could be improved still further. The Council welcomes external feedback on our equality performance, as this demonstrates how well we are meeting our objective to maintain excellence and highlights key areas for improvement. It also links to the corporate priorities, particularly the three under thriving residents.

This accreditation reflects a great deal of hard work by our elected members and staff who are committed to ensuring that all colleagues feel able to be themselves at work and help to make our communities more inclusive. It reflects the progress we have made around LGBT equality, which means the organisation is better placed to respond to the issues faced by its employees and the LGBT community.

**For further information contact:** Angela Doe/Rob Jones, Equality and Diversity Managers

**Telephone:** (01244 9)76008

**Email:** [equalities@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:equalities@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

**Responsible Committee, Cabinet Member:** Councillor Paul Donovan

**Date:** 1 February 2018