

EQUALITY

This Equality Scheme is an important document in that it is a statement of Fold's commitment to fulfilling the statutory obligations in compliance with Section 75 and Schedule 9 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. The Act places new duties on public authorities to promote equality of opportunity and good relations.

The Scheme is also important because it outlines a plan for the more effective mainstreaming of equality issues, thus ensuring that they are central to the whole range of policy decision-making within Fold.

Fold recognises the importance of the statutory duties placed upon it and has impressed upon staff the need for compliance. The priority attached to the Scheme is also reflected in Fold's commitment to the allocation of necessary resources to ensure that the statutory duty is complied with and that the Scheme is drawn up and implemented effectively and on time.