

Blesma Values Statement

Blesma is dedicated to ensuring that our members flourish independently and are independent beyond service and life changing injuries. As part of this we all have a vital role in promoting and reinforcing British values and equality to our members allowing them to become well- rounded members of our local and wider community.

Blesma follows its Equal Opportunities Policy. These guiding principles are embedded into our everyday life:

- All members are of equal value.
- We recognise and respect difference.
- We foster positive attitudes and relationships and a shared sense of cohesion and belonging.
- We aim to reduce and remove inequalities and barriers that already exist.

The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent strategy as:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.

The examples that follow are some of the many ways that we seek to promote and embed these guiding principles and British values at Blesma.

Democracy

The principles of democracy are indeed vital to the functioning of Blesma, where the ethos and values are upheld through mutual support among members and the representation by staff. This collaborative spirit ensures that every member's voice is heard and valued, fostering an environment where freedom of speech is not just a principle but a practice. Such an approach not only strengthens the community within but also serves as a testament to the organisation's commitment to democratic values and the empowerment of its members.

The Rule of Law

Laws play a crucial role in maintaining the structure and order within communities, activities, and nations. Organisations like Blesma exemplify the reinforcement of legal principles, not only to encourage positive behaviour but also to educate on the rationale behind these laws. The annual training for staff on the 'Prevent' strategy highlights the protective nature of laws, the responsibilities entailed, and the repercussions of transgressions. Collaborative efforts with local police forces and connections with Adult and Children's boards further strengthen community ties. Participation in local "Community Voice" meetings, such as Health Watch, demonstrates a commitment to civic engagement and the betterment of community welfare. These multifaceted approaches ensure that the essence and importance of laws are ingrained in both the organizational culture and the wider community.

Individual Liberty

The Blesma Activities Programme exemplifies a commitment to fostering independence and empowerment among its members. With a diverse range of activities, including fishing, motorbiking, photography, and family events, the programme is designed to support the physical and social rehabilitation of amputee veterans. It's not just about the activities themselves, but the sense of community and support that comes with them. Members have the opportunity to engage in meaningful experiences, learn new skills, and build relationships, all while being supported by dedicated Blesma staff. This holistic approach to welfare ensures that members can confidently exercise their rights and personal freedoms, knowing they are in a safe environment that understands and respects their unique needs.

Mutual respect

Blesma is dedicated to supporting limbless veterans, has woven the fabric of respect deeply into its culture. This respect is not just a word, but an actionable value demonstrated through their activities, national welfare support, and partnerships. Encouraging our members to voice their opinions through various channels, including outreach officers and annual general meetings, Blesma fosters a democratic ethos. Blesma also champions restorative justice and mediation, further nurturing an environment where mutual respect is paramount.

This approach aligns with the broader British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and tolerance, as outlined in the government's Prevent strategy. By valuing each member equally, acknowledging diversity, and striving to overcome existing inequalities, Blesma exemplifies a commitment to these principles, creating a sense of unity and belonging among its members.

Tolerance of those of different Genders, faiths and beliefs.

We see all Members as being equal, embracing diversity and fostering tolerance are essential values in a modern, multicultural society. Recognising and respecting differences in gender, faith, and belief systems are fundamental to creating an inclusive community where every member feels valued.

By providing support through welfare, activities, engaging with external providers, and organising trips, organisations can enhance members' understanding of their roles within a diverse community. This approach not only promotes equality and shared belonging but also actively works to eliminate existing inequalities and barriers.

The British values outlined in the 2011 Prevent strategy:

- democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect, and tolerance.
- serve as guiding principles to ensure that every individual's rights are protected while fostering a culture of mutual respect and understanding.

These values are not just abstract concepts; they are actionable commitments that, when implemented, contribute to the strength and unity of society.