



## **Using the Discussion Forums**

To begin with, there will be just one forum, *Chatterbox*. This will be for two purposes: (i) for members to introduce themselves (as little or as much information you wish to give); and (ii) for general discussions, whether personal or professional. I am proposing that, once we get into the swing of things, we develop further forums, such as social work/social care; leadership; and education and training.

In view of my background in social work, it is inevitable that social care issues will arise in the Centre, but please do bear in mind that not all members will have a social care background. Please also bear in mind that we are using the idea of 'leaders of all kinds', so membership is not limited to managers. Nor should we assume that members are from the UK – this is an international Centre.

To access the forum(s): sign in and click the link to the Care Portal. You should then see a menu item 'Forums'. Clicking that will bring you to the forum(s). We will explore together the other menu items on that page at a later date, so ignore them for now.

Only other Centre members will see anything you post.

I am proposing the following rules:

1. All posts must reflect the values of equality, diversity and inclusion.

2. It is acceptable to disagree, but this must be done respectfully and constructively.
3. Any information shared in the forums is confidential and should not be shared with anyone outside the Centre.
4. There are no 'ranks' in the group – everyone has the right to contribute to discussions and be listened to, whatever their background, job role, discipline or level of experience.

I am also proposing that any breach of the rules evokes a formal warning and any subsequent breach results in the member being excluded from the Centre.

When all is settled, this information will be incorporated into an updated version of the member handbook.