A Shropshire Cricket Charter is being launched for the game in the county to promote equality, diversity and inclusion in the game.

Posters have been produced which are being sent to all the clubs around the county to put up in their clubhouses and changing rooms.

The idea for the Charter came as a result of discussions held at the pre-season Captains Meetings held by the MSG Shropshire County Cricket League and Cricket Shropshire where the issues were discussed.

The charter says:

* Treat everyone with respect and dignity
* Acknowledge everyone in the game is an individual
* Not allow harassment or bullying behaviour
* Report inappropriate behaviour immediately
* Work together to ensure cricket is a game for everyone

The charter will be launched ahead of League games across the County on 2nd July 2022.

Cricket Shropshire Lead Officer Steve Reese said: “The issue of equality, diversity and inclusion has been a hot topic for cricket across the country for some time now, highlighted by issues in Yorkshire.

“We started discussing this within the Board in November 2020 well ahead of the Yorkshire story, we then broadened it out to talking to club chairs, Safeguarding Officers, then officials of the stakeholder groups in the County including Coaches Association, Officials Association, Shropshire Disability Club and the County League.

“It was further extended to the County Club and our County Clubs. All overwhelmingly backed the programme of education and workshops

“It was at the Captains Meetings before the start of the season that the idea of a Captains Charter was discussed. There were some emotional examples of the abuse and unacceptable behaviour that is experienced on and around the field in Shropshire which has not been reported in the past.

“Through these open forums we hope that people feel empowered to report any behaviours which fail to meet the standard of the Spirit of Cricket.

“The charter has since evolved and this is the result of that. Thanks to Lloyd Phillips of Frankton CC who came forward to offer to design the posters.

“We are also indebted to the support of **Edufit4Training** who provided experts in the field of EDI, CSE(Child Sexual Exploitation), CCE (Child Criminal Exploitation) and PREVENT which provided a wide ranging and at times hard hitting material delivery.

“There is a need to continue to have these discussions. We need to make cricket a game for everyone regardless of their religion, sexuality, disability, gender or age and aim to work together to drive any necessary changes in attitude.”

MSG Shropshire County Cricket League Vice-Chair, Jamie Dowley, said that cricket was a sport for everyone & fully supported this initiative.

All clubs in Shropshire will be asked to take a moment before their games on 2nd July 2022 and have a picture taken together with umpires and captains to promote the charter