

STRATEGIC OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

9th November 2010

Agenda Item 7

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Equalities Task Group – Notes/Actions

30th September 2010

The first meeting of the Equalities Task Group was held on the 30th September 2010. The following issues were discussed and actions agreed:

- Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy – Consider how plans to implement policy and provide Member training may cross refer on reporting of issues. **Discuss at next Task Group meeting.**
- Complaints Procedure – Public knowledge and perception of the complaints procedure was discussed and concerns raised regarding the process for reporting complaints of a sensitive and delicate nature. It was agreed to review the corporate complaints process relating to this issue, revise if necessary and promote externally and internally. A copy of the report to Standards Committee on the handling of complaints to be circulated with the notes from the meeting. **Completed.**
- The role of elected Members - Consider the role of Members in promoting and progressing equality objectives particularly through consultation and knowledge of the community. **At next meeting.**
- Equality Impact Assessment Toolkit – Launch and promote the new electronic toolkit. **Ongoing.**
- Equality Act 2010 – Following conclusion of the government's consultation consider and provide summary of the Equality and Human Rights and the Government Equalities Office guidelines on how we should be implementing the new Equality Duty. **At next meeting.**
- Employment – Report on new duties relating to employment, what we do now and the changes required. Some changes came into force on the 1st October. New reporting duties will come into force in April 2011. **Update at the next meeting.**
- Consider how age related discrimination is addressed. **Update at next meeting.**
- Benchmarking in Equality Practice - Consider how other authorities are implementing the new Equality Duty. **Update at the next meeting.**
- Buddies Gender Advisory Group – check if this group is still in operation and what support they can give us, particularly around consultation objectives. **Update Task Group Members when information is identified.**

Date for next meeting is to be arranged after the Disability Partnership Panel meeting in October 2010 as requested.

It is likely the next meeting will be scheduled for February to ensure the new codes of practice and guidelines have been published by the Equality and Human Rights Commission and the Government Equality Office.