

Notes of the EDDC External Equalities Forum held on Tuesday 13th July 2010

Present:

Peter Jeffs	Corporate Director, EDDC
Anderson Jones	Diversity Officer, EDDC
Jamie Buckley	Engagement and Funding Officer, EDDC
Gerry Moore	Mid & East Devon Community Safety Partnership
Debbie Williams	Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service
Tom Roncerelli	Stallcombe House, Woodbury Salterton
Carol Pilley	Exeter Community Initiatives (Planet Rainbow)
Melanie Stiles	NHS Devon

1. Introductions

2. **Apologies** – David Wright, Lynne Robertson, Penny Dane, Rev. Peter Brain, and Emma Stacey

3. Summary of last meeting's purpose

4. **Notes of last meeting** – agreed

5. Matters arising

- Information had been fed back from last meeting.
- Issue of action upon poor standards in certain residential homes had been investigated and details forwarded.

6. Single Equalities scheme – PJ explained background, summarised content of document (previously distributed) and went through action plan in detail. A number of typos were corrected and repetitions removed. Various questions were raised for clarification of Council approach. Suggestions for change included:

- Ensure EINA information on website explains the prioritisation process
- Gender – Domestic Violence work to spread out from internally dominated policy to external perspective as well
- Consideration of availability of both genders of staff for interviewing/counselling where this is likely to be a sensitive issue
- Race – different migrant workers have different sets of rights. How do we cater for these? Links to migrant worker hubs (funding drying up) and C.C.D. and proposed Sahara project. (Noted that DREC work was limited by their capacity)
- Disability – need to consider BSL, deaf awareness and appropriate formats for people with learning disability (several possible sources of help suggested).
- Can 'other formats' box go on certain key letters e.g. Benefits and Homelessness – these sometimes contain prescribed but complex wording.
- Age – work with UK Parliament to mention
- Sexuality – Stonewall's "standards" could be used.

7. Peer Challenge

PJ gave update and will send out self assessment for information
AJ asked for volunteers – TR agreed, others suggested.

8. **LDF feedback**

JB introduced her paper and asked for other issues. Several housing matters were raised and noted. Equalities proofing of the next stage document was suggested.

9. **AOB**

Stallcombe House open day (17th July – 11 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.)

The work of the East & Mid Devon Diversity Group (Community Safety) was outlined (GM)

10. **Date of next meeting**

21st September 2 p.m.