

MEETING OF THE EQUALITIES NETWORK

COMMITTEE ROOM 1, CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND

THURSDAY 11 JUNE 2015, 10AM
(refreshments will be available at start of meeting)

A G E N D A

1. Welcome from Chair and apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 20 November 2014 - attached
3. Matters Arising from the Minutes
4. Procurement and equality legislation – approach to meeting public sector duty requirements, identifying ways forward – development of an equality toolkit for SME businesses – **Rachel Archbold, Newcastle City Council**
5. Public Procurement and Human Rights – presentation by **Mark Wright, EHRC**, on a new project to strengthen respect for human rights in public procurement
6. Assessing the Impact of Budget Proposals
7. Any Other Business
8. Date of Next Meeting

Directions can be found at the following link
<http://www.sunderland.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=3410>

If you are using sat nav, you need to use the post code on this link as it is different to the postal address. There is a pay and display car park next to the Civic Centre but car parking spaces cannot be reserved.

Meeting of the Equalities Network

Thursday 21 November 2014

Action Notes

Attended

Darlington Borough Council – Deena Wallace
Durham County Council – Mary Gallagher
Durham County Council – Joanne Kelley
Durham and Darlington FRS – Marc Lawton
EHRC – Mark Wright
Gateshead Council – Richard Hall (on behalf of Jill Bench)
Hartlepool Borough Council – Catherine Grimwood
Newcastle City Council - Rachel Archbold
Newcastle City Council – Louise Crosby
Northumberland County Council/Northumbria Healthcare Trust – Keith Thompson
Stockton-On-Tees Borough Council – Satnam Singh
Sunderland City Council – Kirsty McNally
Tyne & Wear Fire & Rescue – Lynn Carter

Actions

1. **Welcome from Chair and Apologies for Absence** **No actions**

Cleveland FRS – Carly Poole
Cleveland FRS – Lynne Halls
Darlington Council – Helen Whiting
Durham County Council – Claire Holt
Durham County Council – Ruth Scott
Gateshead Council – Jane Bench
Middlesbrough Council – Ann-Marie Johnstone
NEREO – Jill Rouse
North Tyneside Council – Angela Melvin
North Tyneside Council – Anne Foreman
South Tyneside Council – Julie Young
2. **Minutes of Meeting held on 21 November 2014** **No actions**
The minutes were agreed.
3. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**
 - Group agreed that it would be good to have an update on the report that ANEC are producing on Welfare Reform – Jill Rouse to follow up.

4. **The provision of disabled access to Council Building**

- A discussion took place on organisations experiences of working with Disabled Go to provide detailed access information on buildings and the built environment. KT was reviewing NCC contract and wanted to hear about how other organisations managed their contract arrangements. Both NCC and DCC had had positive experiences but had both found it useful to remain involved in the process when identifying buildings for inclusion and in helping to determine which buildings should be revisited.
- SS said that this activity was facilitated in house by Building Control at Stockton.
- Both MG and RA said that they were happy to continue discussions outside of the meeting if needed.

5. **Assessing the impact of Budget Proposals**

- A discussion took place on the different approaches to analysing the impact of budget proposals. The group agreed that it would be useful to share information on potential areas where there may be a cumulative impact on different groups.

Action – keep on agenda as a standing item

- The recent judicial review at Salford was also discussed which related to travel to day centres for disabled people.

Action - It was agreed that the group would send out updates on any potential interesting cases.

6. **The Invisible Workforce – Employment Practices in the Cleaning Sector**

- Mark Wright provided background on the research that the EHRC had been doing around employment practices in the cleaning sector across the UK. A report on the findings 'The Invisible Workforce' would be published in mid-August - he encouraged the group to share the findings within their organisations.
- Key findings included: women predominantly employed in this area as p/t, casual workers, who were holding down a number of jobs going from one to another. Relatively short notice given on work availability in some instances, where if it wasn't taken then not given any further work. Direct impact on women who had caring responsibilities. This was prevalent in the North East.
- **Action - MW to send out details on how to access the reports to the group**

7. **Criminalisation of Forced Marriage**

- SS discussed work that was ongoing to tackle issues around forced marriage, FGM and honour based violence. He gave out a factsheet on forced marriage that has been produced for Registrars as well as guidance produced by the Government, which can be found at: www.gov.uk/forced-marriage which provides advice on how to support those who have been affected.

8. Any other Business

- A discussion took place on the various translation/interpreting services available. SS talked about the commission process that SCC had recently undertaken and highlighted the comparison in cost between different providers.

9. Date of Next Meeting – TBC

Now agreed as Thursday 11 June 2015, 10am, Civic Centre, Sunderland.