

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

Draft Terms of Reference as outlined in the Equality & Diversity Strategic Review

The Partnership will hold the lead policy responsibility for addressing Equality & Diversity and Social Inclusion issues within the Region and be responsible for advising the West Midlands Regional Assembly on these matters.

Within this, the Partnership will:

1. Bring together regional strategy makers and representatives of networks from different sectors, themes and geographical areas to identify barriers and solutions in addressing Equality & Diversity and Social Inclusion issues.
2. Act as a Regional Hub to enable the exchange of information and learning on Equality & Diversity and Social Inclusion issues.
3. Provide a meeting place where issues and concerns in these areas can be raised by all parties in an open and transparent way and where Chatham House Rules apply.
4. Contribute to the development and revision of regional strategies and policies to ensure that Equality & Diversity and Social Inclusion issues are embedded at an early stage.
5. Work to support and influence regional partners and key stakeholders in addressing related issues.
6. Work with Sustainability West Midlands (SWM) to develop the areas of Equality & Diversity and Social Inclusion within the Regional Sustainable Development Framework (RSDF) and support and encourage its effective use within the region.
7. Share information about both good practice and lessons learnt and in doing so building upon collaborative learning with regional partners and key stakeholders across the region.

- 8.** Assess the impact of Equality & Diversity and Social Inclusion activities (as far as reasonably possible) within the region.
- 9.** Hold regional organisations and leaders to account for their contribution to achieving the regional Equality & Diversity and Social Inclusion agendas.
- 10.** Support and work with the West Midlands Regional Assembly's Equality & Diversity Director to develop and lead the implementation of a Regional Work-Plan with measurable outcomes and milestones for the period April 2006 - March 2009.
- 11.** Work with, and develop, appropriate officer groups, such as an Equality & Diversity Local Authorities Network, to ensure a coherent regional approach.
- 12.** Contribute to the West Midlands Regional Assembly's scrutiny and strategic review process.
- 13.** Provide a mechanism to influence the national [European and inter-national] development of policy in the areas of Equality & Diversity and Social Inclusion.
- 14.** Contribute to the planning, and assist in the roll-out, of national government initiatives within the region. Ensure that national government time-scales are encompassed appropriately within the Partnership's work-plan.
- 15.** Evaluate and review progress at the end of each 12-month period and amend the Regional Work-Plan accordingly.

The Partnership will:

- 1.** Be chaired by a full West Midlands Regional Assembly Member.
- 2.** Meet quarterly with additional meetings as required.
- 3.** Report activity and progress to the West Midlands Regional Assembly on a quarterly basis.
- 4.** Place minutes on the West Midlands Regional Assembly website within 4 weeks of the meeting.
- 5.** Be supported by a secretariat provided by the West Midlands Regional Assembly and, where possible, other regional partners.
- 6.** Be task orientated identifying clear goals and milestones.

Members should:

1. Be bound by the West Midlands Regional Assembly Code of Conduct in relation to their work with the Partnership.
2. Be expected to represent or reflect their sector or area of interest and express the views of their organisation or sector.
3. Be expected to communicate information and decisions made by the Partnership to others in their sector, organisation or group.
4. Should be senior representatives from organisations or constituent groups who have a clear understanding of their sector and have the capacity to think strategically