

Equality & Diversity Update

June 08



Welcome

Welcome to the Equality and Diversity Update, the newsletter of the Regional Strategic Partnership for Equality and Diversity, which provides a brief update on current developments and details of forthcoming events.

Partnership Activity Update

The Equality and Diversity Partnership met on 23rd June 08. Notes from the meeting will be available shortly at www.wmra.gov.uk/page.asp?id=203
More information on the work of the partnership is also available at www.wmra.gov.uk/equalities

Consultation: Equality Framework for Local Government

The Equality Framework for Local Government is being revised and is currently out for consultation until 16th August 08. It is available to download from the Communities of Practice website www.communities.idea.gov.uk

The consultation questions and a presentation that you may wish to use when telling colleagues about the Framework are also available within the document library of the site.

An online survey has been set up and can be accessed at www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=plepO22tupoSJBdfsFUKhg_3d_3d. For further information please email elizabeth.gardiner@idea.gov.uk

Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month

June is Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month. A dedicated website has been set up at www.grthm.co.uk. It includes a list of events taking place throughout the summer and some regional contacts.

An assessment of the Racist Far Right in the 2008 Local Elections

Rights and Equality West Midlands have produced an assessment of the Racist Far Right in the 2008 Local Elections 2008. It is available to download at www.rewm.org/Rights and Equality Digests.htm

Being Different Together

Last year Equality and Diversity officers from Worcestershire Councils successfully secured £232,000 from the West Midlands Regional Efficiency and Improvement Partnership (WMRIEP). This is the first time that such an amount of funding has been granted to focus specifically on a project about equality and diversity across the county.

The money will be used for a range of initiatives such as training, a dvd about services and community events, to develop an Equality and Diversity Strategy for Worcestershire and engage with local communities.

The benefits of the project include:

- Gaining a better understanding of minority communities in Worcestershire
- Establishing new ways to engage with these groups
- Improved targeted services
- Increased confidence within local councils on equality and diversity so they can do even more and also get external feedback on their work

The official launch event for the project took place on 22 May 2008 at Worcester Rugby Club. Around 70 senior officers and councillors attended to hear guest speakers including Paul Goodman MP, Shadow Communities and Local Government Minister and Angela Mason CBE. The event also included a question time session with a panel of experts and also workshops to get wider involvement on the project. For more information go to www.beingdifferenttogether.org.uk

Gender Identity Resources

GIRES (Gender Identity Research and Education Society) have recently published two new healthcare guides: Guidance for GPs, clinicians and health professionals on the care of gender variant people www.gires.org.uk/assets/doh-guidelines-for-clinicians.pdf
Medical care for gender variant children and young people: answering families' questions www.gires.org.uk/assets/doh-children-and-adolescents.pdf

Contact

If you would like further information about the issues raised or to disseminate information through this newsletter, please contact Cassie Manly at c.manly@wmra.gov.uk or on 0121 678 1077.