

Equality & Diversity Update

May 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 28th March 08. Notes from the meeting are available at www.wmra.gov.uk/page.asp?id=449

More information on the work of the partnership is also available at www.wmra.gov.uk/equalities

LGBT and living in Birmingham?

Birmingham City Council's Housing & Constituencies Directorate is researching the housing needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people in Birmingham to better understand their issues and to make sure that the full range of housing and support services can meet their needs.

They want to hear from LGBT people who live in Birmingham who have experienced housing problems in the past five years because of their sexuality or gender identity. We would be grateful if you could pass this information on to any of your Birmingham-based contacts or clients from the LGBT community who might be interested in this work.

An independent researcher has been brought in to discuss housing issues with LGBT people. This will involve interviews with volunteers. The interviews will be completely confidential and will last around 45 minutes – names will NOT be passed back to the council. Interviewees will be given £20 worth of vouchers as a thank you for their time.

For more information, please contact Katherine Cowan on 07949 777 731 or email birmingham@katherinecowan.net

National Developments

On 14 May 2008, the Government published its draft legislative programme for 2008-2009, including plans for a new Equality bill www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm73/7372/7372.pdf

The consultation closes on 6 August 2008.

This month has also seen the publication of the EHRC and Government Equalities Office Business Plans for 2008/9.

Both documents can be downloaded from these links.

www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/aboutus/mission/Pages/BusinessPlan0809.aspx

www.equalities.gov.uk/news

Local Authority Guidance: Equality for the Non-Religious

The British Humanist Association have recently published new guidance for local authorities including best practice on how to involve the non-religious in equality and dialogue work. Further information on the BHAs work in this area is available at

www.humanism.org.uk/site/cms/contentViewArticle.asp?article=1442 To receive a copy of the guidance please email Pepper Harow at local@humanism.org.uk

National Forced Marriage Helpline

A new national helpline for victims of forced marriage and honour-based violence, part-funded by the Forced Marriage Unit, has been launched by Home Office the. For more information, please see www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news/forced-marriage-help

Policing and Trans Issues: 05 June 08

Wolverhampton Sanctuary will be hosting a talk from West Midlands Police on Thursday 5th June 2008 at 8pm on how the police work with the trans community. It will relate to the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, amended in April 2008, which includes the provision of goods, services, facilities and premises, and will cover: West Midlands Police's approach to trans Issues in the use of public facilities; how the Police talk to and treat trans people within the variations of the transgenderism and; understanding and knowledge of trans issues amongst the police service. For further information please contact charlie@gender-matters.org.uk or call 01902 744424

Report: Neighbourhood Segregation by Income

The Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) sets out how national, regional and local processes can lead to income segregation at the neighbourhood level. In particular, it explores the relationship between a neighbourhood's income profile and the housing market. The report is available to download at:

www.ippr.org/members/download.asp?f=%2Fecomm%2Ffiles%2Ftale%5Fof%5Ftwo%5Fcities%2Epdf

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.