

Equality & Diversity Update

April 2007

Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of Equality and Diversity Update produced on behalf of the West Midlands Regional Assembly Equality and Diversity Partnership. The Partnership was set up following a strategic Review in the Region and has members from across public, business, voluntary and community sectors. For more information see www.wmra.gov.uk/equalities This newsletter is designed to provide an update on Partnership activity, information on equality and diversity policy developments, current consultations and details of forthcoming events.

National Policy Developments

Equality and Diversity is high on the national agenda at present with the imminent introduction of the Commission for Equality and Human Rights (CEHR) and the recent publication of Fairness and Freedom: The Final Report of the Equalities Review. Its recommendations are set to inform the strategic direction for the CEHR.

The Discrimination Law Review is also progressing well with a national reference group established and a Green Paper expected at the turn of the year. For further information, see:

www.cehr.org.uk
www.theequalitiesreview.org.uk
www.womenandequalityunit.gov.uk

Regional Health and Wellbeing Strategy Consultation

The West Midlands Regional Assembly is in the process of consulting on the development of a Regional Health and Well-Being Strategy.

A draft document has been prepared in response to the health inequalities identified in the publication 'Choosing Health for the West Midlands'. The draft strategy can be downloaded from the WMRA website at <http://www.wmra.gov.uk/page.asp?id=37>.

Equality and Diversity has been incorporated throughout this document as a cross-cutting theme.

You are invited to respond to the consultation and you can make your comments on this draft until Monday June 11th 2007. Consultation responses should be e-mailed to Zena Lynch at z.lynch@wmra.gov.uk

Regional Leaders' Summit

Regional Leaders from across the public, private, voluntary and community sectors met on the 25th January to discuss equality issues facing the Region. The event, chaired by Michael Cashman MEP, featured a keynote speech from Meg Munn MP, Deputy Minister for Women.



Panel members included WMRA/WMLGA Chair Cllr David Smith, and Chief Executive Olwen Dutton, Trudi Elliott, Director of GOWM, Cllr. Diane Rayner of Advantage

West Midlands and Roger McKenzie, Regional Secretary of the Midlands TUC. Issues raised at the event will inform the 2007-2008 Work Plan for the Equality and Diversity Partnership.

Regional LGBT Event

Following its postponement last month due to severe weather conditions, an LGBT event is now scheduled to take place on Friday 29th June 2007. For further information, please contact Cassie on 0121 678 1077 or at c.manly@wmra.gov.uk

Race Equality West Midlands Seminars

There are three further seminars in the lunchtime series on the theory and practice of race, ethnic relations and equality issues. All will take place at the University of Birmingham. Admission is free. Please see www.rewm.org for further details or call Freda Edwards on 0121 580 3859.

Contact

If you would like further information about regional equality and diversity activity, please contact Carmel Kerr at c.kerr@wmra.gov.uk. If you would like to disseminate relevant information through this update please contact Cassie Manly at c.manly@wmra.gov.uk or on 0121 678 1077.