

Equality & Diversity Update

May 2007



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 last Partnership meeting on 23rd March saw the agreement of its Work Plan for 2007/08: details can be found at <http://www.wmra.gov.uk/page.asp?id=203> Since the last newsletter the Partnership has continued to host a number of consultation events through the Social Capital, Equality and Diversity (SCED) Programme. These events give stakeholders across the region an opportunity to input into regional strategies at their development stage and highlight where equality and diversity issues should be given greater focus. The most recent event looked at the Regional Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Further events are being planned around the West Midlands Economic Strategy and the Phase Two Revision of the Regional Spatial Strategy. Further information about the work of the Partnership can be found at www.wmra.gov.uk/equalities.

EU signs UN Disability Convention

The European Community signed a UN Treaty on Disability Rights on 30 March 2007 in New York. The Treaty is the first comprehensive Human Rights Convention to be adopted this century and aims to ensure that people with disabilities enjoy human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with everyone else. The Convention follows long-standing efforts by disability organisations and an increasing international recognition that existing UN Human Rights Treaties have failed to fully protect people with disabilities. Further information is available [here](#)

Discrimination Law Review

Set-up alongside the independent Equalities Review chaired by Trevor Phillips, the Discrimination Law Review was launched to provide a fundamental review of discrimination and legislation in the UK and to bring forward proposals for a clearer and more streamlined equality legislation framework which produces better outcomes for those who experience disadvantage.

A national Reference Group has been formed involving stakeholders and experts from a range of perspectives including all the relevant equality areas, human rights, business and the public sector. The DLR has received preliminary submissions from a number of stakeholders and held a series of in-depth seminars to discuss key issues during September and October 2006. The emerging proposals are set to be published for public consultation this month. A series of public consultation events are planned. Further details will be available at www.womenandequalityunit.gov.uk/dlr/

Gender Advisory Bureau Launch Monthly Newsletter

The Gender Advisory Bureau is a “not for profit” organisation, set-up in the light of the Gender Recognition Act (2004) to deliver affordable and effective training to public service providers to ensure that their diversity and equal opportunities policies are Transsexual, Transgender and Transvestite (trans) aware. To sign up for the Bureau’s monthly newsletter follow the links from the homepage at www.genderadvisorybureau.com

Sexual Orientation & Transgender Event: 29 June 07

The Equality and Diversity Partnership is arranging an event which will focus on removing barriers to services and employment in relation to people’s sexual orientation or gender. It will also look at employers’ and individuals’ related responsibilities in the light of recent and forthcoming changes in legislation. Speakers will include Steve Ball, Chair of Birmingham Community Pride Trust and Jenny Brett, Chair of Gender Matters. The event will be chaired by Michael Cashman, MEP and will take place at Government Office for the West Midlands, Colmore Row, Birmingham. If you are interested in attending or would like further information, please contact Cassie on 0121 678 1077 or at c.manly@wmra.gov.uk . Please note that spaces are limited.

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.