

Select Committee on Children's Services – 21 June 2007

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Directorate of Children's Services Equality and Diversity Annual Report for 2006/07

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the Directorate of Children's Services equality and diversity annual report for 2006/07.

Background

2. The production of an annual equality and diversity action plan and annual report by each directorate is a requirement of the Council's equality and diversity policy. The Select Committee on Children's Services has considered the Directorate of Children's Services action plan, which set out its equality and diversity targets for 2007/08, at a previous meeting. Attached is the annual report which details progress on the targets agreed by the Select Committee on 27 September 2006.
3. This Select Committee has within its terms of reference responsibility for scrutinising equality and diversity action plans and annual reports.

Finance

4. Any costs associated with the annual report will be met from within existing budgets.

Law

5. The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 replaced Section 71 of the Race Relations Act 1976 with a general duty on public authorities to work towards the elimination of unlawful discrimination and promote equality of opportunity and good relations between persons of different racial groups.
6. The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 makes it unlawful to discriminate against disabled people in connection with employment, the provision of goods, facilities and services and the disposal or management of premises. The Disability Discrimination Act 2005 has been extended by introducing a new duty on public authorities to promote disability equality.
7. The Sex Discrimination Act 1975 renders unlawful certain kinds of sex discrimination. In particular, Section 29 makes it unlawful for the Council, in providing facilities or services (such as those arising pursuant to the statutory functions of the Council), to discriminate against any person seeking to obtain or

use those facilities or services on the ground of gender. The Equality Act 2006 introduced a new duty on public authorities to promote gender equality.

8. Under Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 the Council is empowered to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive to, or incidental to the discharge of its functions.

Equality Impact

9. The annual report contains details of progress in implementing the Directorate of Children's Services equality and diversity action plan 2006 - 2007. Performance indicators or outcomes were identified against each target so that progress in achieving the action plan can be monitored and reviewed. A wide range of individuals and representative organisations were involved in drawing up the action plan.

Recommendation

10. That Members consider and comment on the Directorate of Children's Services Equality and Diversity Annual Report for 2006/07.



Director of Children's Services

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