

Select Committee on Regeneration, Culture and Adult Education – 3rd June 2009

Report of the Chief Executive

Chief Executive's Directorate's Equality and Diversity Annual Report 2008/09

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the Chief Executive's Directorate's equality and diversity annual report for 2008/09.

Background

2. The production of annual equality and diversity action plans and reports by each directorate is a commitment in the Council's equality and diversity policy. The Select Committee on Regeneration, Culture and Adult Education considered the Chief Executive's Directorate's action plan, which sets out its equality and diversity targets for 2009/10, at its meeting held on 4th March 2009. Attached is the annual report which details progress on the targets agreed by the Select Committee in the directorate's action plan for the previous year, 2008/09.
3. This Select Committee has responsibility for corporate equality and diversity issues within its terms of reference. Responsibility for scrutinising individual directorate's action plans and annual reports is divided between the five select committees.

Finance

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

Law

5. The range of relevant equality legislation includes

The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 replaces 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 extended this Act with a 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. A duty on public authorities to promote gender equality under the Equality Act 2006 came into force on 6th April 2007.
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 Chief Executive's equality and diversity action plan for 2008/09. Performance measures or outcomes were identified against each target so that progress in achieving the action plan can be monitored and reviewed. Issues relating to children and young people are covered in more detail in the Directorate of Children's Services' action plan and annual report.

Recommendation

10. That the Select Committee considers and comments on the Chief Executive's Directorate's equality and diversity annual report for 2008/09.

John Polychronakis

.....
John Polychronakis
Chief Executive

Contact Officer: Simon Manson, Chief Executive's Directorate
Telephone: 01384 814713
Email: simon.manson@dudley.gov.uk

List of Background Papers

Guidance for the preparation of directorates' equality and diversity action plans and annual reports (December 2008)