
Halesowen Area Committee – 12th November 2008

Report of the Director of Director of Children's Services

Consultation on the future of the Ethnic Minority Achievement Service – Amended October 2008

Purpose of Report

1. To inform the Area Committee of a consultation on the future of the Ethnic Minority Achievement Service published on 8 September 2008 and amended on 23 October 2008, this will run until 8 December 2008.

Background

2. Following the publication of the consultation on 8 September 2008 it has become apparent that it is no longer feasible for the reduction in the EMAS budget to be implemented in the current financial year (2008/09). The consultation as to the EMAS budget being undertaken now concerns the financial support for EMAS for the future financial year, namely 2009/10. The consultation has therefore been amended to reflect this.
3. A consultation has been published which includes two key elements. The financial support and the configuration of the service. See Appendix A - Consultation Document. An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out to support the consultation. This document is also attached as Appendix B.

Finance

4. The EMAS budget for 2008/09 will be retained at the 2007/08 level. The proposed budget reduction of £306,000 will be found from existing resources during 2008/09.
5. Following the close of the consultation the Cabinet Member, in conjunction with the Cabinet and Council, will determine the future structure and operation of, and budgetary arrangements, for the Ethnic Minority Service.

Law

6. The work of the Ethnic Minority Achievement Service is governed by the Education and Inspections Act 2006.
7. The Race Relations (Amendments) Act 2000 places a general duty on a wide range of public authorities, including local authorities, to promote race equality.

Equality Impact

8. An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken; see Appendix B

Recommendation

9. It is recommended that the Area Committee makes any representation it feels fit to the Cabinet Member as part of the consultation process.



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List of Background Papers

Amended Ethnic Minority Achievement Service Consultation Document
Equality Impact Assessment