

Select Committee on Children's Services – 27 September 2006

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Directorate of Education and Lifelong Learning Equality and Diversity Annual Report for 2005/06

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the Directorate of Education and Lifelong Learning's Equality and Diversity Annual Report for 2005/06.

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. Attached is the annual report which details progress on the targets agreed by the former Select Committee on Lifelong Learning for the Directorate of Education and Lifelong Learning for 2005/06.
3. This Select Committee has within its terms of reference responsibility for scrutinising Equality and Diversity 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 will extend this Act 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 introduces 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 Education and Lifelong Learning's Equality and Diversity Action Plan 2005 - 2006. 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.
10. After consideration by this Committee the Annual Report will be made available to the Dudley Youth Council for discussion.

Recommendation

11. It is recommended that the Select Committee considers and comments on the Directorate of Education and Lifelong Learning's Equality and Diversity Annual Report for 2005/06.



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