

Good Health Select Committee - 29 March 2006

Report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services

Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services – Annual Equality and Diversity Action Plan 2006/07

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present to the Good Health Select Committee, the Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services' Annual Equality and Diversity Action Plan 2006/07 and to seek Member approval for the actions relating to Adult Social Care Services contained therein.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Adult, Community and Housing Services Directorate, along with other Directorates within the Council, prepares an Annual Equality and Diversity Action Plan which sets out its' objectives for implementing the Council's Equality and Diversity Policy and includes the Directorate's response to meeting corporate equality and diversity objectives as agreed by Select Committee on Economic Regeneration, in its lead scrutiny role on equality and diversity issues. To enhance our wider approach to equality and diversity within the Council, the Corporate Board have also undertaken focussed work on developing our approach to Equality and Diversity across Directorates and this work links to their activity and commitment.
- 2.2 The plan gives expression to the Council's Equality and Diversity Policy and seeks to progress the further development of fair and equitable services in accordance with national and local standards.

In accordance with the corporate format for Equality and Diversity Action Plans, this plan contains

- an explanation of its relationship with other plans
 - the Directorate's equality and diversity vision and values
 - key issues and targets for the plan
 - the action plan summary
- 2.3 It specifically sets out what the Directorate intends to do in response to:
- Corporate equality targets, as agreed by the Select Committee on Economic Regeneration
 - Directorate issues and priorities
 - Service delivery issues
 - Employment issues

3.0 Finance

- 3.1 It is expected that the implementation of this action plan will be contained within current directorates' resources.

4.0 Law

- 4.1 The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 replaces Section 71 of the Race Relations Act 1976 with a new 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.

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.

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.

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.

The Council's Social Services function is discharged under a number of Statutes including the National Assistance Act 1948 and the Children Act 1989.

5.0 Equality Impact

- 5.1 This Equality and Diversity Action Plan is solely devoted to the promotion of fair access by different groups to the services offered by the Directorate and in employment opportunities. Realisation of the ambitions contained within the plan should contribute to achieving a reduction in social exclusion.

6.0 Recommendation

- 6.1 That Members consider and comment on the Adult Social Care parts of the Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services' Annual Equality and Diversity Action Plan 2006/07.
- 6.2 That Members approve the Action Plan.



Linda Sanders
Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services

Contact Officer: Saroj Norman
Principal Corporate Services Officer
Tel: (81) 5058
Email: Saroj.Norman@dudley.gov.uk

List of Background Papers

Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services Annual Equality and Diversity
Action Plan 2006/07