

# Diversity and Equality Steering Group

Minute of Meeting  
held at Western Isles Hospital on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2009 at 14.00pm.

## Present

Norma Morrison	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
TK Shadakshari	NHS Western Isles
Donnie White	Lewis Access Panel
Gordon Thomas	Lewis Access Panel
Anthony Clements	NHS Western Isles
Ludmilla MacLeod	CAB
Elizabeth Macdonald	Harris Access Panel
Lucy Macdonald	Harris Access Panel
Karen France	Community Health Partnership
Isobel MacKenzie	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Helen Froud	Improvement Forum
Mandy Macleod	Crossreach
Darren Hudson	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

## Apologies

Lisa Buchanan	Northern Constabulary
Roddy MacKay	Northern Constabulary
Calum Russell	NHS Western Isles
Iain MacKenzie	Voluntary Action Lewis
Dave Matheson	UHI

## Minutes

The Minutes of Meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> February 2009 were approved.

## Matters Arising

- The group were informed that Comhairle nan Eilean Siar is looking at moving towards the 2011 census categories for its recruitment monitoring forms.

## Update from the Disability Equality Working Group

The group was informed of the last meeting of the Group held on 26 March 2009. The group noted that NHS Western Isles will be involving the local Access Panels in the Clinical Strategy; and that there will also be no Access Officer, where there is a need that service will be bought in by NHS Western Isles.

## Update from the Race Equality Working Group

The group was informed of the first meeting of the Race Equality Working Group which was held on 8 April 2009. That meeting raised a number issues in particular relation to the migrant workers from Eastern Europe (in particular the A8 countries). The group noted the issues and will look at what other authorities and agencies are doing in relation to this issue. It was also agreed that the group try to find out the scale of the problems by getting more specific information.

### **Draft Action Plan**

It was agreed to take the 2-3 points from the action plan for discussion over the next couple of meetings. It was also noted that each action point could be nominated a lead for that action point. The following points were noted/raised:

#### Community Engagement:

- Make a formal connection with Helena who will be undertaking community engagement work on behalf of the Community Planning Partners.
- Gather information from each agency who are moving to a Single Equality Scheme
- Work on involving the other equality strands.
- Ensure that the right questions are asked so that the needs of the people are reflected in the services provided.

#### Raising Awareness

- People in the community want basic information e.g. the NHS tip cards have provided good practical advice that did not over complicate the issue.
- Find the best approach for various media to raise awareness, and to also make people aware of the Diversity and Equality Steering Group.
- Create a single point of contact, simple contact lists and advice. It was also raised that a simple email address may be worthwhile.

#### Identifying Funding Opportunities

- Norma Morrison, Calum Russell, Helen Froud and Lucy MacDonald to form a group to assess what we want funding for and who to go to for that funding.

### **Training and Events Action Plan**

This was deferred until the next meeting of the group.

### **Clinical Strategy Appraisal Process**

The group was informed that the appraisal event scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> April 2009 had been postponed, with the meeting likely to be rescheduled for June 2009. The invitation to attend was extended to everyone on the Diversity and Equality Steering Group.

### **AOCB**

- Calum Russell to update on the Wheelchair User Group for the Western Isles.
- The group was informed that 27<sup>th</sup> April-3<sup>rd</sup> May 2009 was MS awareness week, with an MS awareness day to be held at Grianan on Saturday of that week.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

NHS Western Isles Hospital (Lecture Room)

24<sup>th</sup> June 2009

14.00pm.