

Diversity and Equality Steering Group

Minute of Meeting

held at St Columba's Church Hall on 25th February 2009 at 14.00pm.

Present

Norma Morrison	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
TK Shadakshari	NHS Western Isles
Iain MacKenzie	Voluntary Action Lewis
Isobel MacKenzie	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Helen Froud	Improvement Forum
Lisa Buchanan	Northern Constabulary
Mandy Macleod	Crossroads
Donnie White	Lewis Access Panel
Calum Russell	NHS Western Isles
Darren Hudson	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

Apologies

Lucy Macdonald	Harris Access Panel
Karen France	Community Health Partnership
Anthony Clements	NHS Western Isles
Gordon Thomas	Lewis Access Panel
Carmen Morrison	Scottish Health Council

Minutes

The Minutes of Meeting of 5th December 2008 were approved.

Matters Arising

- An application has been made to the Highland and Islands Equality Forum for funding for the Access Panels.
- The Improvement Forum have had their funding extended until June 2009
- Norma Morrison agreed to check whether the Community Planning Information Group was to be re established and whether they can support the group information requirements.
- There will be no joint access officer in place –NHS Western Isles will be using Consultants for the next year until agreement can be reached.
- Lisa Buchanan informed the group of a pilot scheme (based in the Highlands) to create a website to record hate crimes. The pilot scheme is due to go live in April 2009 and a presentation will be made to the Group at the June meeting – with the intention to create a similar site for the Outer Hebrides.

Remit, aims, objectives and purpose of DESG

Following a discussion about the aims, objectives and purpose of the group it was agreed that a draft Action Plan would be drawn up for 2009 and presented to the next meeting for consideration.

It was also agreed that the following would be the key goals for the forthcoming year:

- Community Engagement
- Awareness Raising
- If financially viable, a conference be held
- More focus on the other three equality 'strands'.

Scottish Human Rights Commission

It was noted that they have a draft plan out for consultation.

Calum Russell informed the group that the SHRC will be visiting the island in March 2009.

Draft Bill on Scottish Gypsy Traveller Discrimination Act

The Group was made aware of the draft bill.

AOCB

- The Group was invited to comment on the Single Equality Scheme of NHS Western Isles.
- The Group discussed the categories used in equality monitoring forms and noted that they may be required to be updated to reflect the greater diversity in the community.
- It was agreed that the sub groups would be requested to provide quarterly updates to DESG rather than Minutes of Meetings.
- It was agreed that Norma write to those who have not attended a meeting in the last year.
- Calum informed the Group that there will be a Roadshow event held in the Western Isles on the 25th March 2009, concerning equality films. The event is run by NHS Scotland and will showcase a variety of DVD's which will be a valuable resource in developing equality skills.

Date of Next Meeting

NHS Western Isles Hospital

15th April 2009

14.00pm.