

Equality and Social Need Steering Group Meeting

Thursday 15 June 2006

2pm, Room E4.02, Castle Buildings

Minutes

Present:

Gerry Mulligan	Equality and Social Need (Chair)
Claire Archbold	Equality and Rights
Seamus Camplisson	DHSSPS
Stephen Donnelly	OFMDFM Research Branch
Victor Douglas	DCAL
Linsey Farrell	Central Anti-Poverty Unit (Secretary)
Lynn Hayes	DE
Valerie Keys	DARD
Margaret Langhammer	DRD
Irene McAllister	DETI
Carol McCabe	Equality and Rights
Pascal McCulla	Racial Equality Unit, OFMDFM
John McGuinness	DEL
Liz McMeekin	Central Anti-Poverty Unit
Pauline Millar	Central Anti-Poverty Unit
Tom Wilson	DSD

Apologies:

Philip Angus	DSD
Carolyn Barr	DFP
Alex Boyle	DOE
Nigel Carson	DHSSPS
Rosemary Crawford	DETI
Elaine McFeeters	DE

1. Apologies & Introductions

- (i) Apologies were received from the following members:

Philip Angus	DSD
Carolyn Barr	DFP
Alex Boyle	DOE
Nigel Carson	DHSSPS
Rosemary Crawford	DETI
Elaine McFeeters	DE

- (ii) Gerry Mulligan welcomed Lynn Hayes from the Department of Education who was attending ESNSG for the first time and gave a brief overview of the history and remit of the group.
- (iii) Members were advised of the recent re-organisation within the Equality Directorate.

2. Minutes of 21 March 2006 & Matters Arising

- (i) Members agreed the minutes of the meeting on 21 March that had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Matters Arising

- (ii) The revised Equality Commission divisional organisation chart had been circulated to members for information as requested at the last meeting
- (iii) Claire advised members that she would be following up with Antoinette McKeown the request for additional screening criteria for use in prioritising EQIAs which had been requested when ESNSG last met.

Action: Claire

- (iv) As discussed at the meeting in March, a representative from the ECNI would attend the September meeting and give a presentation on the Review of Effectiveness
- (v) As requested at the meeting in March, the position on the Children and Young People's Strategy had been clarified and members had been notified.
- (vi) Colleagues confirmed that the BIC report on disability had been circulated to those departments which expressed an interest at the March meeting.

3. Lifetime Opportunities & Lifetime Opportunities Action Plan

- (i) Gerry passed on thanks to departmental colleagues for their contributions to both the action plan and the Lifetime Opportunities document. These inputs were given particular acknowledgment in light of the stringent timescales to which departments were working.
- (ii) Members were advised that the action plan would subsequently be referred to as the Lifetime Opportunities Action Plan as opposed to the Northern Ireland Regional Action Plan.
- (iii) Gerry offered departments the opportunity to meet with Central Anti-Poverty Unit (CAPU) officials at any stage to clarify any issues which may arise from the subsequent fall-out from the Lifetime Opportunities Action Plan.
- (iv) Pauline Millar advised that CAPU staff had been working on the development of an IT system which would ultimately be a useful reference tool for all departments.
- (v) Pauline reiterated Gerry's comments in thanking departments for their contributions to the action plan and assured members that the final version would be colour-coded and so more user-friendly for the reader. Pauline also assured members that all comments and amendments received from departments would be taken on board where appropriate and incorporated within the body of the action plan.
- (vi) Members were advised that CAPU would shortly be in contact in relation to the High Level Impact Assessment which would accompany Lifetime Opportunities and its Action Plan.
- (vii) Margaret Langhammer expressed concern that time had not been built into preparations to allow for departmental Senior Management Teams to be consulted.
- (viii) Gerry advised that the final document would be going to all Ministers for approval.
- (ix) In relation to the equality assessment, Gerry advised that it would not detract from departmental responsibility to EQIA individual policies but rather would provide an opportunity to determine if the assessment aligns with departmental Equality Impact Assessments.
- (x) Stephen Donnelly highlighted the fact that the high level assessment had drawn upon research funded by ESNSG.
- (xi) Discussion took place around the reporting cycle for the action plan. It was generally agreed that the first annual report should be timed

