

## Equality and Social Need Steering Group Meeting

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2007

10.30am, Room E4.02 Castle Buildings

### Minutes

#### **Present:**

Gerry Mulligan	Equality, Rights & Social Need Division (Chair)
Lindsay Hodges	DARD
Damian Brady	DCAL
John McGuinness	DEL
Rosemary Crawford	DETI
Carolyn Barr	DFP
Nigel Carson	DHSSPS
Margaret Langhammer	DRD
David Malcolm	DSD
Stephen Donnelly	OFMDFM/NISRA
Michael Mulholland	OFMDFM – Central Anti-Poverty Unit
Carol Carser	OFMDFM – Central Anti-Poverty Unit
Liz McMeekin	OFMDFM – Central Anti-Poverty Unit
Linsey Farrell	OFMDFM – Central Anti-Poverty unit (Secretary)

#### **Apologies:**

Elaine McFeeters	DE
Alex Boyle	DOE
Susan Nicholson	NIO

## **1. Apologies & Introductions**

- 1.1 Gerry welcomed members to the first Equality and Social Need Steering Group meeting of 2007. After the tour de table, apologies were registered from Elaine McFeeters, Alex Boyle and Susan Nicholson.
- 1.2 Members were referred to the Good Relations research papers that had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It was pointed out that these papers were purely for information purposes but it would be possible to organise a presentation on any of the research at a later meeting if members desired.

## **2. Minutes of 30 November 2006 & Matters Arising**

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2006 were approved by members. It was agreed that minutes would not be placed on the website until approved by the group.

Action: Linsey Farrell

- 2.2 It was agreed that the issue of Disability Action Plans would be discussed under any other business.

## **3. Lifetime Opportunities – Monitoring & Reporting Mechanisms**

- 3.1 Gerry advised members that the Programme for Government Committee debate had taken oral evidence on the strategy and had responded with a report outlining their views and recommendations for the way forward.
- 3.2 In light of the statutory obligation on an incoming Executive to adopt a strategy on poverty and social inclusion, the Programme for Government committee had given agreement to adopt Lifetime Opportunities as a suitable framework. Although outlining several reservations, the Committee had commended the lifecycle approach adopted within the Strategy. In preparing a response to the report, Central Anti-Poverty Unit staff would look to departments for clearance.

Action: Central Anti-Poverty Unit Officials

- 3.3 In terms of reporting mechanisms, Gerry suggested that it perhaps would be preferable to move away from the focus upon short-term targets, as adopted by New Targeting Social Need, towards an approach more focused on outcomes and longer-term targets.







