

### NYSP Equalities Group Meeting

20 September 2007

Hugh Williamson welcomed everyone to this, the second meeting of the group. He particularly welcomed the guests from the Polish Community. He invited everyone to introduce themselves.

#### 1. Apologies:

Received from Heather Watts, Kirsty McGready, Clare Slater, Kirstie O'Neill

#### 2. Present:

Chris Shield	North Yorkshire Forum for Voluntary Organisations
Cathrine Hall	North Yorkshire County Council
Spencer Wain	Scarborough Borough Council
David Walker	North Yorkshire County Council
Mirek Pyszyosil	Polish community
Iroslaw Sobczaic	Polish community
Beata Fraczkiewicz	Polish community
Anne Taylor	North Yorkshire Criminal Justice Board
Graham Purdy	North Yorkshire and York PCT
Nasr Emam	North Yorkshire County Council
Guru Naidoo	Broadacres Housing Association
Hugh Williamson	North Yorkshire County Council (Chair)
Rebecca Cobby	North Yorkshire Police
Stuart Pudney	North Yorkshire Police Authority
Julie Steel	North Yorkshire County Council
Neil Martin	Commission for Racial Equality (CRE)
Tony Clark	Richmondshire District Council
Ann Duncan	Harrogate Borough Council
Wendy Saunders	North Yorkshire County Council
David Sainsbury	Hambleton District Council
Ian Bitcon	North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Services

#### 3. **Matters arising** from the minutes of the last meeting – held on 30 April 2007

- o Statement of Intent – a sub group meeting to take this forward has been convened for 28 September

- Questionnaire responses – Wendy Saunders advised that several responses have now been received and Kirstie O’Neill is collating the information. A summary report will be sent out to partners within the next 2 weeks.
- Welcome Pack – good practise is currently being collated and a sub group will be established ( see later) to take this forward
- BME conference held in Spring 07 – the feedback from this conference led to the dissemination of the questionnaire referred to in ii)

#### **4. Presentation by Neil Martin (CRE)**

Neil advised the group of the current focus of activities of the CRE, and of the new Commission to be established on 1 October. This will be called the Equalities and Human Rights Commission ( and merges the CRE, Disability Rights Commission and Equal Opportunities Commission). Its new vision is: ‘A society built on fairness and respect. People confident in all aspects of their diversity.’

The organisation will have a regional presence, with 4 staff in Leeds, co-located with Government Office for Yorkshire and Humberside (GOYH). They are developing a new Memorandum of Understanding with GOYH and also work closely with Yorkshire Forward, the Regional Assembly the Local Authorities and the Voluntary Sector.

A green paper the ‘Single Equality Bill’ has been issued, however, it will be at least a year before this comes onto the statute books, because consultation has shown some concerns with the proposals.

Neil talked about the need for local authorities to undertake ‘Tension Monitoring’ and pointed to areas of good practice and available guidance for this to develop effectively. He emphasised the need for local communities to be involved in the development of the necessary structures and advised of a project based on Richmondshire and Bradford to develop ‘early warning’ arrangements.

Neil also advised of the availability of the ‘Getting results’ funding, and the lottery funding developments.

#### **5. Presentation by David Walker – NYCC Social Inclusion Officer.**

David provided information about the BME populations, including migrant workers within North Yorkshire, and provided a CD of the text, graphics and background data and other relevant documents. Following the presentation there was a general discussion and:

**It was agreed** that a small working sub group would be established under David’s chairmanship to progress the following;

- A Welcome Pack for new arrivals to North Yorkshire

- A policy to enable flexible use of Third Sector Volunteers within statutory organisations
- The development of access points, in partnership, including the 'focal points' under development at Talbot House in Scarborough and Hope House in Harrogate

## **6. North Yorkshire Improvement Partnership Learning Sets – Migrant workers.**

Julie Steel from NYCCs Learning and Development Unit advised the group that she had commissioned the development of 2 'action learning' modules. These were to be pilot schemes, involving 10 participants in each, covering one practical scenario and one strategic scenario. The Equalities Group was being asked to help, to see if this type of partnership training would prove useful, and Julie proposed that the work on the Welcome Pack and the Strategic/ Policy development issues that the group has just been discussing would appear to be appropriate areas for this scheme.

**It was agreed** that the working sub group would take responsibility for coordinating the training modules with Julie Steele. The action learning would be facilitated by professional external facilitators and progress through 6-8 meetings over a period of 6-9 months.

## **7. Date of next meeting.**

Hugh Williamson proposed that the meetings of the group should be held quarterly, and that he would arrange dates for the next year, to secure these dates in people's diaries. **This was agreed.**