

# NORTH YORKSHIRE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

## Equalities Task Group

### Notes of Meeting

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2007 @ The Fairburn Suite, Northdale

Present

Bill Cross (BC)	North Yorkshire County Council
Hugh Williamson	North Yorkshire County Council
Wendy Saunders	North Yorkshire County Council
Andrew Clark	Y&NY PCT
Tony Clark	Richmondshire District Council
Ian Bitcon	NY Fire & Rescue Service
Stuart Pudney	NY Police Authority
Chris Shield	NY Forum for Voluntary Organisations
Kirsty McGready	Hambleton DC
David Sainsbury	Hambleton DC
Rosie Qureshi	NY Police
Pammi Sahota	North Yorkshire County Council
David Walker	NYCC
Kate Senior (KS)	Craven DC

1.	<b><u>Welcome and Apologies</u></b>  BC welcomed all to this inaugural meeting of the group and introductions were made. Apologies were received from: Ann Duncan, Clare Slater, Jo Ireland, Roger Paterson, Terry Collins, Neil Irving	
2.	<b><u>Action from the Combined Meeting of the LAA MG &amp; NYSP SG 15<sup>th</sup> March 2007</u></b>  BC set the context regarding the development of this new group.  A paper on strategy development in relation to black & minority ethnic groups had been presented to the above meeting. BC advised that the purpose of the report was to propose that NYSP partners support the development of a BME strategy group to enable the needs of these groups to be identified and met.  Partners were keen to ensure that the wider equalities	

	<p>agenda was addressed by the NYSP, and recommended in the first instance a task group, led by NYCC, should progress a North Yorkshire approach to equalities. Volunteers from the Partnership had been requested to form the basis of this equalities task group. This group would then feed back to the NYSP accordingly.</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p><b><u>Developments following the BME York &amp; North Yorkshire Multi Agency Social inclusion Conference 21st March 2007</u></b></p> <p>Following the conference a small group with representation from NYFVO, NYCC, NYSP and the CRE, identified six components of an action plan for North Yorkshire over the next 12 months building upon the presentations and discussions at the conference.</p> <p>These were shared with the group. A key outcome was that the NYSP was identified as having strategic leadership of the issues and that the Equalities Task Group would be asked to ensure that the 6 areas for action were adopted and progressed.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p><b><u>Next Steps</u></b></p> <p>After setting the scene and the background for the development of this group BC then opened up the meeting for a general discussion.</p> <p>Points raised included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GOY&amp;H focus had been in urban areas this was now moving to rural areas</li> <li>• The need to get closer to the end users</li> <li>• Avoid creating a hierarchy of users</li> <li>• What is a need and how is it identified</li> <li>• BME is a priority in the equalities agenda</li> <li>• Definition/examples of 'Support Networks' required</li> <li>• The importance of making North Yorkshire 'fit for purpose' in welcoming BME groups into communities</li> <li>• The importance of sharing local information</li> </ul> <p>Discussion then focused on the type of work programme that the group could undertake, meeting the requirements of the NYSP, avoiding duplication and ensuring employers are aware of their responsibility. The following proposals were made:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a statement of intent for all about Equalities, building upon the principals of the Social Inclusion Strategy – Safe, Healthy &amp; Economic Wellbeing</li> <li>• Equality issues, Gender, Disability etc would then be prioritised and dealt with sequentially. BME groups would be the first area of work.</li> <li>• Data Collection is needed across North Yorkshire to ensure actions are based on evidence and the outcomes are focussed.</li> </ul> <p>BC is to produce a first draft of a data collection questionnaire to be completed by all agencies – this would include requests for : Data held, Policy commitment, Actions undertaken to address quality of life through service provision, the Groups and forums attended and the leads.</p> <p>The group agreed that the Equalities agenda is a huge and complex task and that consideration needed to be given to the role of the group – is it to be an advisory or steering group.</p> <p>The NYSP meet on the 24<sup>th</sup> May and BC will produce a response from this group, which sets out the above actions and includes the possible development of a web based welcome pack to North Yorkshire for BMEs.</p>	<p><b>BC</b></p> <p><b>BC</b></p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b><u>AOB</u></b></p> <p>KS advised the meeting that CDC had produced a draft Corporate Equality Scheme which is out to consultation until May 11<sup>th</sup>. KS will share the web link for the document with the group.</p>	<p><b>KS</b></p>

**The next meeting will be scheduled in June 2007**