

Equalities Working Group

NYSP Equalities Working Group

Minutes of a meeting held on 18 March 2008

1. Apologies

Received from Helen Black, Drew Fussey, Chris Shield

2. Present:

David Walker – North Yorkshire County Council
Cathrine Hall – North Yorkshire County Council
Judith Bromfield – Richmondshire CVS
Nigel Phillips – North Yorkshire Fire Service
Kay Ritchie - North Yorkshire County Council
Nasr Eman - North Yorkshire County Council

3. Update on NYSP Equalities Task Group

It was noted that contact with the City of York, in particular their Action Learning Sets on poverty had identified opportunities for collaboration with our action learning sets on community cohesion and these would be explored further. City of York would be attending future meetings of the NYSP Equalities Task Group.

North Yorkshire Police would also be linking into the work of the Task Group through developments in tension monitoring, third party reporting and the Independent Advisory Groups.

It was noted that the membership of the Task Group was under review and that there may be implications for the membership of the working group.

5. Action Learning Sets (ALS)

The strategic action learning set had used performance outcome frameworks to identify challenges/needs, establish the working context and determine the desired outcome. This has allowed the group to determine what we know, what we need to know and what outcomes our strategy should outline. There will be wide and focused consultation on the strategic review over the coming months.

The strategic group also developed a set of principles for volunteering, which include ensuring that every volunteer has a sponsoring organisation who takes responsibility for training (e.g. child protection), support and any necessary checks (e.g. CRB etc).

The operational group had been working on the welcome pack. A potential provider had been identified following a SWOT analysis compared with a 'do-it-yourself' option. The content and format of the pack had been reviewed and consideration has been to other mechanisms required to promote access to services and facilitate integration and community cohesion.

The operational group has also reviewed current mechanisms to promote volunteering by those new to North Yorkshire and in particular the barriers that those coming from overseas might face. Supporting mechanisms for members of the community who want to support the integration of new arrivals, particularly through community interpreting roles are also being considered and options developed.

It was suggested that key messages from the action learning sets should be produced and circulated to LSP coordinators and other key contacts.

DW also informed the working group that a briefing was being produced on tension monitoring and would be circulated to partners, including CDRPs, LSPs and those involved in community engagement.

The importance of building on existing networks in the work of both action learning sets was highlighted, e.g. advice providers, ESOL/adult education, IAGs , Libraries etc.

Funding had been approved for a third action learning set although a topic which would be a useful base for this work had not yet been identified.

6. Data sets

The group was provided with tables and the most recent maps available of data involving migrant workers. It was noted that numbers of pupils with English as a second language had risen in the languages of the Accession 8 countries.

7. AOB.

None

8. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the group is scheduled for 13 May 2008 at 10am at Northallerton Fire Station.*

* This meeting was subsequently cancelled.