

## Action Notes of the Equalities and Communities Theme Group

Held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2008

**Present:**

Sue Bent, Jenni Venn, June Morley, Janita Wesson, Rajo Saira, Teresa Staniewicz, Cllr O'Neill, Jody Gordon, Joy Warren, Jim Titley, Alison Quigley, June Jeffrey, Raj Chana, Sian Hosgood, Phil Woodcock, Alison Porter and Debbie Briggs

**Apologies:**

Surindar Nagra, Janice Nichols, Richard Tomlins, Bill Hall, Grace Forrester, Sally Giles and Balbir Sohal

Action	Timescale	Who
<b>1. Matters arising from the notes of the last meeting</b>		
<b>Employment Strategy Action Plan</b>		
<p>Debbie Briggs reported that she had received an email from Nigel Wain to say that the Learning, Skills and Employment Theme Group Road Shows have now been completed and a follow up meeting will now be held to look at agreeing priorities and arranging follow up discussions. Nigel will brief the E&amp;CC Theme Group when there is further information about the next steps.</p>		
<b>UCHW Update</b>		
<p>Raj Chana reported that Lisa Swift has moved on to another post and Raj is currently recruiting to vacant posts in her team. The new person will represent UCHW on this group in the future.</p>		
<b>2. Sharing Good Practice</b>		
<b>LGBT Youth Matters Information Day</b>		
<p>Alison Quigley reported back on the successful LGBT Youth Matters Information Day which took place in November 2007. The event was organised in response to concerns about a lack of understanding and support for LGBT young people in the city. The aim of the day was to bring together agencies that work with and support young people, to explore what the issues are for LGBT young people living in Coventry. Sue Bent chaired the day and a number of young people were also involved. There were 126 attendees and there were a lot of ideas and high energy throughout the day.</p> <p>Alison circulated a provisional action plan and executive summary of the day, which has been produced based on the comments made by delegates on the day. There are 4 key themes and a number of actions under each heading. The</p>		

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<p>report has also been fed back to the Council's Sexual Orientation Advisory Group and there is a lot of support from that group.</p> <p>Rajo Saira asked if there were any BME attendees at the day. Alison confirmed that there were and that there was also a workshop specifically looking at the issues for BME LGBT young people. Rajo confirmed that CEMAP would be interested in being involved in this work and any actions arising from the workshop in relation to BME LGBT young people.</p> <p>Sue Bent said that we will need to embed this action plan into our future work programme, but we would need clear timescales, milestones and named people responsible for the delivery of actions. Alison confirmed that this is work in progress.</p> <p>It was agreed that Alison Quigley and Laura Slegg would firm up the action plan and bring it back to this group.</p> <p>Any comments on the draft action plan should be passed on to Laura Slegg (<a href="mailto:laura.slegg@coventry.gov.uk">laura.slegg@coventry.gov.uk</a>).</p>	<p>23 April 2008</p>	<p>Alison Quigley and Laura Slegg</p>
<p><b>Feedback from LGBT Consultation</b></p> <p>Debbie Briggs took the group through the main themes that came out of the consultation with the LGBT community in November 2007. There was a good response to the consultation and very similar themes were raised to the last consultation which took place in 2004. The majority of the issues raised were the same things brought out by any other mainstream consultation; people want to feel safe, have access to good education, training and employment opportunities, they want to be treated fairly and they want safe places to go out socially.</p> <p>Cllr O'Neill said that we have made massive strides in this area over the last 4 years – we should congratulate ourselves but not be complacent. There has been a lot of hard work by many people in this area. We need to knit this into policy and constantly feed back.</p> <p>The actions from the LGBT Youth Matters Information Day also link into this work. Debbie confirmed that there is a sexual orientation action plan and that the actions arising from the Youth Matters Information Day would be included in this action plan. Debbie also reported that Stella Manzie had asked for the actions from the LGBT Youth Matters</p>		

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<p>Information Day to be condensed down to the 'Top 5 issues' as this would have more impact.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Top 5 issues would be fed back to this group when they have been agreed. These issues will then be communicated to the other theme groups.</p> <p><b>Community Cohesion Evaluation Project</b></p> <p>Debbie Briggs circulated a paper briefing the group about this proposed project (copy attached to these notes). It is proposed that an evaluation project is undertaken to look at NRF projects, as well as other projects, which have had a community cohesion outcome, and look at how we can use our experiences from the delivery of these projects to maximise the opportunity to promote community cohesion through mainstream services. This project would be funded through the NRF Strategic Evaluation and Learning Plan.</p> <p>This project will involve all partner organisations and will look at all NRF projects, not just those projects commissioned by this group. It is anticipated that this will happen in the next 3 months.</p> <p>It was agreed that the E&amp;CC Theme Group will provide strategic direction and support to this project, and will receive progress reports.</p> <p>It was also agreed that the group will help to identify potential participants for this project. Teresa Staniewicz and Rajo Saira said that they would be interested in being involved in this. June Jeffrey also said that CEN would like to be involved and Sue Bent said that she would nominate somebody from the Law Centre.</p> <p><b>Celebrating Coventry</b></p> <p>Debbie Briggs informed the group that a new phase of the Celebrating Coventry campaign was due to commence this week. Debbie circulated a copy of the images which would be used on bus t-sides and streetliners. This features people growing up, being educated, working and retiring in Coventry.</p> <p>Any partnership organisations can use the Celebrating Coventry images for any positive campaigns they are running. If anyone is interested in using these materials, please contact Debbie.</p>	<p>Next meeting – 23 April 2008</p>	<p>Alison Quigley and Laura Slegg</p>

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<p><b>Myth Busting Leaflet</b></p> <p>Phil Woodcock read out a briefing item from Surindar Nagra about the production of a myth busting leaflet on Communities of Coventry. The leaflet will be similar to the one previously produced for asylum seekers and refugees.</p> <p>Jenni Venn said that the aim of the leaflet is to be neutral in its tone, and written in plain English. It will reflect change in relation to new communities. There will also be updated real life stories.</p>		
<p><b>3. UHCW NHS Trust Single Equality Scheme</b></p>		
<p>Raj Chana presented information to the group about UCHW's Single Equality Scheme.</p> <p>Cllr O' Neill asked whether the Trust shared their experience with other organisations as there would be opportunities for working together. Raj said that she was more than happy to work with the council and others in this area of work. Cllr O'Neill confirmed that we are doing work with the PCT and there is a need to share our experiences. Sue Bent said that collaboration at the development stage would be best.</p> <p>Raj Chana referred to the wide area of equalities work and there never being enough resources in one organisation to deal with it effectively. Jim Titley said that it is important to ensure people see equalities as part of the day job and not as something that gets in the way of the day job.</p>		
<p><b>4. Sustainable Community Strategy Update</b></p>		
<p>June Morley briefed the group about progress on the Sustainable Community Strategy. The draft SCS will be going to the Council's Cabinet on the 18<sup>th</sup> March. The draft strategy was approved by the LSP Board in February. There has been a lot of engagement in producing the SCS. June thanked the group for their contributions to the SCS consultation process. A copy of the feedback was distributed which showed significant amendments made to the strategy following the consultation process.</p> <p>The LAA is due to be signed off in June.</p> <p>Sue Bent asked when we will start measuring against the LAA targets. Jenni said that it should be from 1<sup>st</sup> April but the targets are unlikely to be agreed until after 1<sup>st</sup> June owing to the timing of the sign-off process. The technical guidance which accompanies the indicators has still not been published for all indicators (still 60 awaiting a definition). Until the technical guidance is available, the LAA indicators cannot be finalised.</p>		

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<b>5. Update on Population Research</b>		
<p>Jenni updated the group on the project that we had commissioned looking at the population changes in Coventry.</p> <p>The research indicates that the ONS figures for Coventry are correct. The population of Coventry is 306,000. The population is growing but not exploding. Coventry's population is younger than average and there are fewer older people.</p> <p>There is almost a missing generation in Coventry as around 20 years ago people moved out of the city to get work.</p> <p>People are coming in and out of Coventry all the time – this is described as population "churn". There is also migration from eastern European European countries.</p> <p>It was agreed that the presentation would be circulated with the notes of this meeting.</p>	<p>March 2008</p>	<p>Debbie Briggs</p>
<b>6. Any Other Business</b>		
<p>Sian Hosgood reported that the PCT is doing work to improve primary care facilities for asylum seekers. More information will come to this group as the work is established.</p> <p>June Morley reported that Richard Tomlins is doing some work with the Ricoh Arena to bring together 20 young people from different backgrounds to deliver a graffiti project and film. If anyone is aware of any funding streams that could be accessed for this project, please contact Richard.</p>		
<b>7. Date of Next Meeting</b>		
<p>The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 23rd April 2008.</p>		