

Action Notes of the Equalities and Communities Theme Group

Held on Wednesday 20th June 2007

Present:

Jenni Venn, Sue Bent, Adrian Coles, June Morley, June Jeffrey, Deepak Naik, Alison Quigley, Bill Hall, Rob Haigh, Surindar Nagra and Debbie Briggs

Apologies:

Sue Darling, Christine Trethowan, Lisa Swift, Joyce Lambert and Richard Tomlins

Action	Timescale	Who
1. Matters Arising		
Alison Quigley reported that the new Hate Crime reporting centre has now been set up by the Council of Disabled People, and that there have been 6 incidents reported so far.		
2. Appointment of a New Chair		
Jenni Venn reported that the Partnership Board have recommended that Sue Bent join the Theme Group as the new Chair. Jenni welcomed Sue to the meeting on behalf of the group.		
3. NRF Project Updates		
<p>Sue Bent declared that she is also the Chair of the NRF Project of Face to Face Advice Services.</p> <p>Adrian took the group through the NRF updates that had been circulated in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>Deepak asked what would happen to funding from projects that had been under spent. Adrian clarified that more money had been allocated out to projects that we had received from the Government to allow for such slippages. Overall, we are on track in terms of spending at present.</p> <p>Adrian agreed to circulate more information to the group outlining the areas which were over programmed and the areas where there is under spending.</p> <p>It is likely that there will be no further NRF funding from March 2008. A 'Succession Framework' has therefore been developed which will be taken to the NRF Sub Group and the July meeting of the Partnership Board. This framework will facilitate meetings between project managers and partners to look at both maximising and mainstreaming</p>	July 2007	Adrian Coles

<p>projects, and to look at areas of good practice that can be taken forward. A Celebration Event also took place in April, showcasing all the NRF projects.</p> <p>It was agreed that the 'Succession Framework' paper would be circulated to this group for comments after it has been to the NRF Sub Group.</p> <p>It was agreed that this group would need to be involved in taking this forward. A group of representatives from the Equalities and Communities Theme Group will meet and go through the NRF projects and make recommendations in advance of the meetings to discuss mainstreaming projects. The purpose of this will be to look at the projects and pick out the key things they are doing to address the Equalities and Communities agenda.</p>	<p>July 2007</p> <p>July 2007</p>	<p>Adrian Coles</p> <p>Deepak Naik, Bill Hall, June Morley, Alison Quigley</p>
<p>4. Future of the Equalities and Communities Theme Group</p>		
<p>The role of the Equalities and Communities Theme Group needs to change as an underpinning theme. The primary focus of the group will be to influence the work of the other theme groups and to ensure that equalities and community cohesion is embedded in their work. The make up of the group will need to change to reflect this, and there will be representation from the Communities of Interest Partnership Boards.</p> <p>Further to the papers that went to the Partnership Board and copied to this group, a decision was taken not to have a deputy Chair. It was agreed that Sue would take on the role of Chair for a period of 6 months, and the decision regarding a deputy Chair would be revisited after this.</p> <p>People will be nominated to join the new group. Anyone who is very keen to remain a member of the group will be accommodated. The new group will have the ability to influence the other theme groups and also the knowledge and expertise to influence the Coventry Partnership.</p> <p>Bill Hall said that he would like to be a member of the new group. Deepak Naik had to leave the meeting early and Sue Bent said that she would discuss the new group separately with him.</p>	<p>July 2007</p>	<p>Sue Bent</p>

<p>Priorities for the Future</p> <p>Sue said that this was an opportunity for people who had been a part of the history of the group to suggest key things they would like to see kept as a priority or brought on to the agenda of the group.</p> <p>Deepak said that he felt that there should be some kind of new group for Community Groups to take into account social and cultural aspects, including young people. Jenni said that there is also a separate Culture Group that partly deals with these issues.</p> <p>Alison said that there is an issue around migrant workers and it is important to get the message across positively and involve all theme groups in this.</p> <p>There is also a lot of negative communication around young people involved in anti social behaviour and it is important to get more positive messages out about young people.</p> <p>Bill Hall reported that some of the 'traditional' minority communities are struggling. There is an increasing number of migrants, and the birth rate is also showing an increase in BME populations. We need to think about how we can respond to that agenda and encourage leadership as communities within the city change. Part of our role is about bringing communities together.</p> <p>It was agreed that the new group would be called the Equalities and Community Cohesion Theme Group.</p>		
<p>Date of the Next meeting</p> <p>The date of the next meeting is likely to be in September. This will be confirmed.</p>		
<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Jenni thanked the group for all their hard work over the last few years. It is good that the group is moving on to a new phase but it is important to remember that we have achieved some really good things.</p> <p>June Morley requested that the Terms of Reference be discussed at the next meeting.</p>	<p>September 2007</p>	<p>Debbie Briggs</p>