

Meeting of the Social Inclusion Working Group **13 May 2009**

Report of the Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services

Gender issues and engagement in the Social Inclusion Working Group (SIWG): Project report

Summary

1. Equality legislation asks public bodies including the Council to involve the “relevant people in providing information and identifying gender equality priorities”.¹
2. There is no group that represents gender issues on the SIWG. Instead groups representing other strands are asked to send one male and one female representative to SIWG meetings. SIWG records show that hardly any gender issues have been brought forward for consideration by the SIWG. This seems to suggest that the current arrangement is not as effective as originally thought. Also the current arrangement does not allow for representation of issues regarding trans people.
3. In October 2008 a Local Government management trainee was placed in the Equality and Inclusion team for six months to undertake a project to:
 - explore key gender equality issues in the city, including trans issues
 - consider how the SIWG can engage with groups that deal with and promote gender issues in the city, including trans issues.
4. The summary findings of this project are attached here in **Annex 1- Gender issues and engagement in the Social Inclusion Working Group (SIWG)**

¹ Gender Equality Duty Code of Practice for England and Wales, EOC 2006

5. The SIWG is asked to:
 - a. consider items c and d of Annex 1 of this report and discuss next steps
 - b. invite the Independent Domestic Abuse Services (IDAS) to become involved in the work of SIWG

Consultation

6. N/A
7. **Options**
8. N/A

Analysis

9. N/A.

Corporate Priorities

10. This project contributes to the Inclusive City and Effective Organisation priorities of the refreshed corporate strategy.

Implications

11. These are as follows:
 - **Financial** – None.
 - **Human Resources (HR)** – None
 - **Equalities - Implementing** the recommendations of this report contributes to council equality and inclusion strategies and schemes.
 - **Legal** – See risk management below
 - **Crime and Disorder** - None
 - **Information Technology (IT)** - None
 - **Property** - None
 - **Other** - None

Risk Management

12. Implementing the recommendations in paragraph 13 below will help the council manage the risks arising from not meeting the requirements of equality legislation, in particular the requirement to engage with groups that represent gender issues.

Recommendations

13. The SIWG is requested to:
- a. consider items c and d of the attached report and discuss next steps.
 - b. invite the Independent Domestic Abuse Services (IDAS) to become involved in the work of SIWG.

Reason: To ensure that SIWG includes groups from gender strand in its work.

Contact Details

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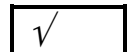
**Report
Approved**



Date

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background papers – None

Annexes

Annex 1 - Gender issues and engagement in the Social Inclusion Working Group (SIWG)