

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

Report of the Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services

## **“Help us to Get it Right” day – Final report**

### **Summary**

1. A key event in the SIWG work-programme for 2008/9, was the Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) fair, called “Help us to Get it Right Day”, which took place in November 2008 to consider the equality implications of key council policies and services.
2. The report attached in **Annex 1**, summarises key issues that arose from these and other key EIAs that took place in 2008, and actions that the Council proposes to take in response to the issues raised by community groups attending the day. It will be published on the Council internet site shortly and be available in different formats upon request.
3. The report illustrates SIWG’s contribution to Council service improvement that benefits people from the equality strands.
4. SIWG members are requested to:
  - a. Note the report and encourage officers to undertake similar events in 2009/10.
  - b. Ask officers to report on progress with the action identified as a result of the EIAs outlined in Annex 1, by May 2010.

### **Background**

5. The Council has a duty under Equalities legislation to undertake Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) of its policies and services, particularly new ones or ones that are being refreshed.

6. EIAs help officers identify unintended discrimination against, or negative impact on, people from any of the six equality strands (race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation and religion and belief), so that action can be taken to avoid or minimise it.
7. Key issues and actions arising from EIAs completed in 2008/9 must be published, so the public can see what the Council is doing to promote equality and inclusion and to tackle unintentional discrimination in its services. The actions will become part of service plans for year 2009/10.

### **Consultation**

8. N/A

### **Options**

9. N/A

### **Analysis**

10. N/A

### **Corporate Priorities**

11. Undertaking EIAs, contributes to the Inclusive City and Effective Organisation priorities of the refreshed corporate strategy.

### **Implications**

12. These are as follows:
  - **Financial** – None.
  - **Human Resources (HR)** – None
  - **Equalities** - EIAs contribute to council equality and inclusion strategies and schemes.
  - **Legal** – Undertaking EIAs is a requirement under equality legislation.
  - **Crime and Disorder** - None
  - **Information Technology (IT)** - None

- **Property** - None
- **Other** - None

**Risk Management**

13. Implementing the actions identified as a result in EIAs helps the Council ensure that it offers quality services that meet the needs of people protected by equalities legislation.

**Recommendations**

14. SIWG members are requested to:
- a. Note the report and encourage officers to undertake similar events in 2009/10.
  - b. Ask officers to report progress with the action identified as a result of the EIAs outlined in Annex 1, by May 2010.

***Reason: To ensure that Council service improvement contributes to the needs of people from the Equality strands***

**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 - Equalities Impact Assessments Report 2008-09