

## **Meeting of the Equality Advisory Group 18 July 2011**

### **Report of the Director of Communities and Neighbourhoods**

#### **Round table discussions for city-wide equality groups**

##### **About this report**

This report is about the planning and delivery of a series of discussions about important quality of life issues as they affect equality community groups in York's neighbourhoods and ward committee areas. It is proposed that these discussions are called "round tables".

The council's Neighbourhood Management Unit will support EAG community groups to participate in the planning and delivery of these discussions.

The reason is to make sure that actions agreed in the One City plan happen and lead to improving the lives of people who may face disadvantage in York because of who they are.

##### **About the One City Plan**

The **One City** plan is about people living together happily in their local areas. Sometimes it is called the "Community Cohesion" plan or strategy. It was approved by the Inclusive York Forum and the Local Strategic Partnership Board in the first half of 2011.

The plan has a number of actions to support residents to participate in the life of the local community and also in decisions about the local community, because they feel included and have a sense of belonging to the local area.

Some key actions in the plan are:

1. Use different ways to involve people, so that everyone is included.

2. Identify where and what type of disadvantage there is in neighbourhoods and communities and work with the local community to deal with it.
3. Support communities experiencing tensions by making sure that people know what to do to resolve conflicts, to promote understanding and appreciation of differences and to celebrate similarities.
4. Support those living in and working within communities to challenge prejudice when it happens.

## **Round Table Discussion – Hate Crime**

To help these actions and in particular action 2 above, council officers would like to hold discussions with equality groups about issues that may stop people from feeling included and belonging to a neighbourhood or ward committee area, because of their gender, disability, age, race, sexual orientation, religion and belief or because they are carers of older and/or disabled people.

A number of partner organisations work together in specific York neighbourhoods and ward committee areas, to continue to improve local lives. One such organisation is the Safer York Partnership. They are currently looking at how people experience race hate crime and ways to make it easier to report it.

Therefore, it is proposed that the first round table discussion (supported by York Racial Equality Network) should look at this and other issues concerning the quality of life of black and minority ethnic groups. This first round table discussion is likely to cover the following questions:

1. What is your experience of hate crime and what can we do to make it easier to report it?
2. How can we work with and through citywide organisations to engage black and minority ethnic residents in their wards and neighbourhoods?
3. What other issues and/or challenges black and minority ethnic groups would like to explore at future round tables?

## Why we want to do this

Members of the Equalities Advisory Group and other community groups they work with, provide a voice for equality community groups across the city.

It is therefore important that EAG supports partners to work together with equality groups to discuss issues that specifically affect the quality of life in each of the ward committee areas in the city.

## What next?

Over the next few months, a number of round table discussions about topics that affect the local quality of life of different equality groups, such as the LGBT community, disabled people, women, men etc will also take place.

EAG is requested to suggest topics that should be covered during these discussions.

## What are we asking EAG to do?

Council officers request EAG to discuss this report, approve the first roundtable about race hate crime and also to consider topics for future roundtables

**Reason:** To ensure that EAG influences discussions about issues that affect the quality of life of people living in York neighbourhoods and ward committee areas, who may face disadvantage because of who they are.

## Contact Details

**Author: Kate Bowers,**  
**Tel 551817**

**Chief Officer Responsible for the**  
**report: Sally Burns**  
**Tel: 55 1000**

**Report**  **Date**

**Approved**

**Wards Affected:**

**All**

**For further information please contact the authors of the report**