

EQUALITY WORKING GROUP MEETING

25 SEPTEMBER 2009

LONGBRIDGE HOUSE

PRESENT:

Lisa McElherron (V/Chair)	-	NICVA	Bill Pauley	-	DFP
Adrian McNamee	-	SEUPB	Martin Tyrrell	-	DFP
Damian Fitzpatrick	-	DETI	Carly Gordon	-	NISRA
Pamela Rooney	-	NISRA	Ian Getgood	-	DEL
Darren Colville (Sec)	-	DFP	Dale Heaney	-	OFMDFM

Apologies

Bob Collins (Chair)	-	Equality	Jim Jewhurst	-	DEL
Michael Hughes	-	RCN	Jim Deery	-	Ashton Centre
Siobhan O'Donoghue	-	Mig. Rights	Mealla Bratton	-	Local Govt.

1. Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting on 14 Jan 09 were agreed without amendment.

2. Action Points

All action points were completed. The NISRA Rep confirmed that Equality Questionnaires issued by the Managing Authorities are beginning to be returned to NISRA.

3. Work Programme 2009 – Mainstreaming Equality Guide

A sub-group had previously worked towards updating the Equality Mainstreaming guide. At the Spring 2009 Monitoring Committee members were asked to forward their comments to the Secretariat by the end of May. Only the Chair of the Monitoring Committee forwarded comments and he reiterated those comments to the working group today, i.e.

a) Section 5 Para 25 – it was considered that each question was too prescriptive and would require long detailed answers from applicants. It may be more helpful if the introductory paragraph under the 'Best Practice' section was deleted or reworded to read less demanding.

b) It was unclear that the guide met the objective helping project applicants and selection committees to meet equality requirements. Some aspirations were very ambitious, an extreme example of which was the heading on page 9 that sought to 'deepen democracy'.

It was agreed to revisit the guide in light of the above comments. A sub-group consisting of the reps from OFMDFM; NISRA; Equality Commission; DFP; DEL and the Ashton Centre would take this forward. The sub-group would correspond with a number of projects and the NICVA Euro Advisory Group.

Action: Sub-group

4. Work Programme 2009-10

Equality Audit – The NISRA Rep advised that of the 214 questionnaires issued 86 had been returned. DFP are due to issue a reminder advising of a closing date for return of 7 October. After the closing date NISRA will produce a report on the findings.

Action: NISRA

5. AOB

A) Attendance at Meetings – A reminder will be issued at the Monitoring Committee meeting requesting that members are more supportive of all the Working Groups and attend meetings when required.

B) Vice-Chair – The Vice-Chair advised the group that she was leaving NICVA employment on 2 October to join the Suffolk & Lenadoon Enterprise Group. The DFP Rep, on behalf of the group, thanked the Vice-Chair for her good work and participation on the Equality Working Group.

ACTION POINTS

	ACTION POINT	RESPONSIBILITY
1	Equality Mainstreaming Guide to be revisited and amended as appropriate	Sub-group
2	Equality Audit Report to be drafted and issued to the group when finalised	NISRA