

EQUALITY WORKING GROUP MEETING

31 MARCH 2010

LONGBRIDGE HOUSE

PRESENT:

Pamela Dooley (Temp/Chair)	-	UNISON
Jim Jewhurst	-	DEL
Pamela Rooney	-	NISRA
Carol Caves	-	DETI
Mary Maguire	-	DFP
David Lynch (Sec)	-	DFP

Apologies

Bob Collins (Chair)	-	Equality	Kevin Doherty	-	Disability Action
Michael Hughes	-	RCN	Jim Deery	-	Ashton Centre
Siobhan O'Donoghue		Mig. Rights	Dale Heaney	-	OFMDFM
Christine Markey	-	SEUPB	Frances McCandless	-	NICVA

Pamela Dooley was appointed temporary Chair for the meeting in the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair

It was noted prior to commencement of the meeting there were insufficient members to constitute a quorum. It was agreed the meeting would proceed and any decisions reserved until the meeting is quorate.

1. Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting on 25th September 2009 were discussed and no amendments proposed.

2. Action Points

All action points were discussed and noted below at agenda item points 3 and 4.

3. Equality Audit Report

The NISRA Rep confirmed that 96 Equality Questionnaires had been returned representing a 45% response. The analysis presented in the Equality Audit is possibly subject to a substantial level of non-response bias. It was recommended that the Equality Audit be carried out again and that completion of these Equality Questionnaires should be highlighted at Monitoring Committee meetings.

It was discussed if it was necessary to reissue questionnaires to all participants or only to those who may not have returned forms. The NISRA rep stated the details of persons completing and submitting forms is anonymous. It would not be possible to target those who had not returned forms so there would be an element of duplication.

The NISRA rep agreed to clarify what percentage of response constituted a viable survey.

Action: NISRA

4. Revised Mainstreaming Equality Guide

The Revised Mainstreaming Equality Guide was discussed and a number of issues raised:-

- The Interpretation of point 3 in Appendix 2 e.g. a Women's Group project wishing to employ a woman as head of this group.
- How does this fit with the current legislation.
- Single Identity projects and the relationship with the terminology "build good relations."
- The remit of question 4 of the Equality Questionnaire - is Learning Disability included.
- The need for a question concerning transgender.

Question 9 of the Equality Questionnaire referring to region should be applicable to PEACE III and INTERREG IVA.

Action: DFP/Sub-Group

4. Work Programme 2010-11

The Working Group discussed and deemed it important a Work Programme be devised as soon as possible so this may be submitted in the update to be provided to the Monitoring Committees.

Action: Working Group

5. AOB

The DETI rep confirmed there has been a significant change in their Programme Managing Authority staff and the DEL rep suggested a possibility for work in the incoming year would be to provide equality training seminars for assessment panels.

It was noted that NICVA will be unable to provide a representative to the Equality Working Group in the short term and as such a Vice-Chair should be selected at the next meeting.

The action points identified for this meeting will carry over to be agreed when a quorum of the Working Group is present.

7. Date and venue for next meeting

As a quorum was not present the Group decided it would be necessary to hold a further meeting the week after Easter. The secretariat will canvass for suitable dates.

Action: DFP

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
3	Clarification on requirements of a viable survey	NISRA
4	Response provided to queries raised on the Revised Mainstreaming Equality Guide	DFP/Sub-Group