Wolverhampton City Council

OPEN REPORT

Scrutiny Board

Date 27.11.07

Originating Service Group(s)  Performance and Development

Contact Officer(s)/ Delva Campbell
Telephone Number(s)  55 (4081)

Title/Subject Matter  Member Champion for Race and Ethnicity Equality Report

1.0  **RECOMMENDATION**

Members to note this report from the Member Champion for Race and Ethnicity

2.0  **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications regarding this report.

3.0  **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS.**

This report has direct equal opportunities not environmental implications as it highlights the equality activities the Member Champion for Race & Ethnicity Equality has been engaging in also some key race equality issues that needs scrutinising.
1. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS/ACTIVITIES.

The following highlights key areas of work I have undertaken since becoming a Member Champion in May 2007:

- Regular meetings – every 2 to 3 weeks with Delva Campbell to discuss items relevant to the work and to prepare necessary action
- Attended the African Caribbean Community Initiative Carers Day Event on 14th June 2007, and sent a congratulation letter to them on the success of their event
- Attended ‘Race Equality Partnership Wolverhampton’s (REPW) launch’ on 29th June 2007
- Delva Campbell & I were invited to a meeting, organised by the Group Manager for Environmental Services, re: the enforcement of legal proceedings against BME businesses. Both Delva and I gave them some advice on how they could address this matter, which they have taken on board.
- Attended Whitmore Reans ‘Cultural Diversity Event’ on the 15th July 2007, at West Park
- Sent invitations to individuals, stakeholders and partner organisations to become members of the Race Equality Working Group

First meeting went over the terms of reference with members, which consisted of a representative from Wolverhampton Asylum Seeker and Refugee Services, Race Equality Partnership Wolverhampton, Interfaith and 3 individuals from the community. Members were also able to raise any issues of concern, agree frequency of meetings and agenda for next meeting.

At the second meeting members looked at and commented upon 2 race equality action plans for 2008 - 20011 from Children and Young People and Resources and Support.

The third meeting entailed looking at race equality action plans for 2008 – 2011 from Performance and Development, Resources and Development and Adults and Communities.

- Emails sent by my link officer, Delva Campbell, on my behalf to key service group officers, seeking clarification on some of their key race targets for 2008 - 2011and what progress they have made on their race targets in the Equality Scheme document for 2005 -2008.
- A meeting was held with REPW’s Partnership Manager to seek clarity re: their establishment of a stakeholders group and the inter-relationship between our Working Group and theirs.
- Attended 5 Community Cohesion Forum meetings and was interviewed by a consultant who wanted to ascertain my opinion on the Forum and what they needed to do to progress as a Forum and enhance community relations.
Other Equality Member Champions along with myself were interviewed on the 19th September 2007 as part of the Equality Standard Level 3 external assessment. The outcome of this assessment has resulted in the Council achieving Level 3.

In the welcoming section of this year’s Black History Month Programme 2007, there is a photograph of myself and a sentence written on my behalf endorsing this event.

Attended Wolverhampton Citywide BME Council’s and Race Equality Partnership Wolverhampton board members meetings on the 18th October 2007

Attended an Equalities Procurement and Commissioning - Joint Working Group discussion meeting on 2nd November 2007

2. MATTERS REQUIRING SUPPORT FROM SCRUTINY

The main issues concerning BME voluntary/community groups, which I feel require further scrutiny are:

- The role LANA’s play in addressing equal opportunities
- Impact assessment of Council funding
- Pro-active approach in engaging with BME communities
- Procurement & race equality.

3. WAYS IN WHICH ALL MEMBERS CAN HELP TO CHAMPION ISSUES

To scrutinise whether reports that proposes new policies have undertaken an impact assessment.

Similarly, for all issues which come to Scrutiny, questions should be asked about how the impact on different groups/communities is being monitored.

4. SUMMARY OF PLANNED ACTIVITIES

i) Through the Working Group:

- Continue the dialogue with partners regarding best practice
- Discuss progress against the race equality targets for 2005/08 and those for 2008 – 2011 with service managers
- Engage in discussions on achieving level 4 of the Equality Standard.

Councillor Phil Page
Member Champion for Race and Ethnicity Equality