

Work and Equality, NEtWorking for Change
Steering Group Meeting
Equality North East, Metropolitan House, Swalwell
5th October 2007

Minutes

Present: Peter Smith, Brenda Joyce (in place of Peter O'Brien), Paul Johnstone, Simon Lindsay, John Dobie, Janis Jones, Ivan Wintringham, Val Milnes, Margaret McFee (in place of Lynne Storey), Mark Wright, Sheelin Kilroy, Wajid Hussain, Nadeem Ahmad, Carolyn Clayton, Robin Beveridge, Tricia Collins, Liz Reay, Joanna Lee.

Apologies: Karen Pettett, Julia Lyford, Jane Cater, Martin Wilson, Janet MacLean, Tim Bird, Liaquat Latif.

<p>1. Previous minutes The group agreed the previous minutes.</p> <p>2. Matters Arising</p> <p>Marketing leaflets – are done and being used.</p> <p>Equality Standard is an agenda item</p> <p>E & D Action Plan is almost done</p> <p>Best Practice – there isn't as much information coming through as we would like, LR reminded all members to send any examples through. Lots of good practice identified from Awards applicants which will be extracted and shared.</p> <p>DCLG Green Paper – LR thanked all members who submitted comments. Our response was collated and is on the website.</p> <p>3. NfC and NEEDP Wider Partnership – Presentation by Robin Beveridge</p> <p>LR welcomed Robin Beveridge from ONE who gave the group a presentation on the North East Equality and Diversity Partnership (NEEDP) with particular reference to the wider partnership and the potential role of NFC within the NEEDP structure.</p> <p>Action: A copy of the presentation will be circulated with the minutes.</p> <p>.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>JL</p>
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<p>Steering group members then discussed points raised within the presentation. The steering group were agreed that the NfC as part of the NEEDP wider partnership will be a great asset to the regional partnership. It was, however, clarified to members that it will still retain its own steering group chaired by ENE in order to ensure its own activities are taken forward and the networks continue to grow and develop. These activities will be developed through the new NFC action plan and will fit in with those strategic aims of the NEEDP Action Plan which focus on removing barriers to work and training.</p> <p>There was a discussion around the conveners for each NEEDP task group and whether they were best placed to carry out the role. The members were informed that each Task. Group will be putting together terms of reference and recruiting members to ensure the broadest range of skills and knowledge are brought in to the partnership in order to deliver the action plan.</p> <p>Action: Those members of the steering group interested in becoming task group members to email Joanna by 7th November with short biog. to include what contribution they can make and which task group(s) they wish to join. These will be forwarded to the appropriate Task Group Convenors.</p> <p>There has been one meeting of the Equalities Coalition to discuss the TOR for the capacity building sub- group. John Carling Convenor of the Evidence task group has drafted terms of reference and will be inviting people to attend an event in November to begin the process.</p> <p>Action: It was agreed to send out the revised NEEDP structure to NFC steering group members. JL.</p>	<p>ALL .</p>
<p>4. Action Plan Update</p> <p>LR / TC met with Equality NW & SW. ENW have an E & D Partnership with RDA, Regional Assembly & Government Office. They would like another meeting to discuss how they can replicate NfC. ESW established their networks then the board. All learning from each other. Baroness Margaret Prosser spoke at a meeting in the afternoon. EHRC – directors are all in post, the structures will fall from this. There are 250 staff based in London and 350 based in Manchester plus regional hub offices. The EHRC have their own priorities – sorting out equal pay claims, campaign regarding the positive impact of the Human Rights Act.</p>	<p>ALL</p>

<p>Equality Standard – the sub group has met and work is still going on to develop the toolkit to underpin the standard. There is still an issue over funding the toolkit. I</p> <p>Members were invited to consider the merits of using a national standard such as the National Centre for Diversity standard which is similar in process to IIP. Initial discussions suggested that it may not suit the needs of smaller SMEs but there may be some potential in linking our regional standard in to theirs. towards IID.</p> <p>Action: it was agreed to circulate the national standard to members for comments as to its suitability for SMEs in our region. Comments to be emailed to TC by end of November</p> <p>NfC events – The Big Lottery event held on 20th September, and the Asylum, Migrant Workers & Refugees event on 1st October.were both very successful attracting over 60 network members.. The remaining autumn events are underway, a copy of the full programme was handed to Steering Group and members were encouraged to pass the information to their networks.</p> <p>LR has been approached by the NE Consortium to host a joint conference on 14th March 2008 at Middlesbrough Football Club. It will be jointly badged with NFC. The theme is Education to Employment – target audience is Learning Providers, Colleges & Businesses. Members will be sent invites by mid - November</p> <p>TC attended a Regional Consultation event organised by the Leader of the House of Commons and Chair by Nick Brown MP this week. The Single Equalities Act is on the draft legislation reserve list, but he strongly suggested that it has a good chance of going through this year. He was also fully aware of the lobby to make it much more robust before being presented to parliament.</p> <p>JL told the group about the Disability Equality Duty consultation event last year and the work being carried on by a core group since. The group want to widen the public authorities involved and have a short slot at a North East Regional Employers Organisation meeting on 16th October. Carol Blythe has offered to host an event on 3rd December to coincide with International Disabled Persons Day. Information will be circulated to SG members.</p> <p>Website – NetWorking for Change section of the website has been updated together with the rest of the site. There are some new developments - a notice board for members to post queries / questions etc and a downloads section. There is a members forum which was identified in the early round of meetings as a 'would like'. The forum however isn't being used to its potential so we all should promote it and use it.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>JL/TC</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>JL</p> <p>ALL</p>
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<p>TC is on the Steering group for the Funders Forum. They are having a conference on 13th December, the theme will be Equality & Diversity. ENE /NfC will be involved in organising. LR & MW are speakers at the event and it is hoped Baroness Prosser will also be keynote speaker.</p>	
<p>5. Potential future funding</p>	
<p>Lottery – JL explained at the NfC Lottery Basics event information had been given relating to the Awards for All Programme. This fits nicely with the establishing of the Disability strand steering / reference group. Funding is up to £10,000. Application will be made on behalf of NFC..JL handed out leaflets.</p>	<p>JL</p>
<p>DCLG – ENE have put in a joint expression of interest with ESW which would use NfC as a resource.</p>	
<p>LSC – potential bid in to support learning providers.</p>	<p>LR</p>
<p>£500 sponsorship from North East Employers Network in Washington for events.</p>	
<p>Gentoo have a grants programme for up to £500, VM will look at eligibility.</p>	
<p>Briefing statement due regarding EHRC funding 08/09. MW to email LR.</p>	<p>MW</p>
<p>6. Any other business</p>	
<p>TC invited members to update the SG on their activities.</p>	
<p>PJ – Held a conference relating to Age in partnership with IW & Age Concern sponsored by ONE and South Tyneside Council.</p>	
<p>SK – Working to publicise asylum / refugee case studies in Tees Valley. Two workers employed part time.</p>	
<p>BJ – International Regional Framework for Sustainable Development – re drafting integration framework. Assembly are submitting a response. BJ to email TC and Steering Group for response.</p>	<p>BJ</p>
<p>IW – 29th September held a young persons & cultural diversity event. Community Cohesion Workshops. VCS Coalition 2nd phase tendering is coming to a close.</p>	<p>VM</p>
<p>NA – Circulating information to partners. Holding a conference on</p>	

<p>20th February.</p> <p>CC – TUC anti racism guide published 13th Oct – coincide with Anti Racism week. Holding seminars for migrant workers – rights etc. Publishing a Flexible Working Guide later this month. CC to send PDF copies for inclusion on website</p> <p>SL – Finalising Regional Strategy for Asylum Seekers / Migrant workers in the region. Woodholmes Group report. BME learners level 2 and above low success rates for men compared to women.</p> <p>Awards – all had fab time. Huge regional event and were proud to be there and play part.</p> <p>RB – One is organising Open Days for people to visit One. Suggestion was to be open to BME groups. RB suggested we open up to all six strands, the SG agreed.</p>	<p>MW</p> <p>BJ</p> <p>CC</p>
<p>The next meeting: 7th December 10am ENE Offices.</p>	