



	Action
<p>1. Welcome & Apologies</p> <p>MH welcomed all to the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies as above.</p> <p>There were no notes from the last meeting as a workshop was held, KP is currently collating information on Single Equalities Scheme outcomes and these will be looked at in the December meeting.</p>	
<p>2. Role of the new Safer Stronger Communities Coordinator</p> <p>CB advised that with the re-structure of the Council it was decided that that equalities work would be best supported under the Safer Stronger Communities remit. Andrew Gough the new Safer Stronger Communities Coordinator will start on 5 October and will pick up Equalities work and support (still based in Shropshire Partnership Team). He will be attending the December meeting.</p> <p>MH added that she was confident that having the Equalities work under the Safer Stronger agenda would be a step forward for equalities work and help linking in to Area Partnerships.</p>	
<p>3. Hate Crime Progress Report</p> <p>Report was circulated before meeting, but a request was made for it to be re-sent with the notes. RT to action.</p> <p>The report outlined the progress to date of Multi Agency Protocol to tackle Hate Crime in Shropshire. The Equalities Forum were asked to note the progress to date.</p> <p>It was noted that the report was very topical with the recent news coverage round hate crime suicide and it was essential that partners and the Council work closely together to make sure such incidents do not occur in Shropshire.</p> <p>CB advised that a high level task group was currently being set up involving Council, Police and partners to ensure procedure that are in place in Shropshire are working effectively.</p>	RT
<p>Group was encouraged to spread the word on the importance of Hate Crime incidents being reported. It was noted that many people were afraid of reporting incidents, and more measures need to be in place to</p>	ALL

highlight the organisation that offer support e.g. Victim Support.

In Andrew Hawkins absence MH read out the below figures for Hate crime offences as at 26/9/09.

Racial aggravated crimes reported total 44
Central area 29
Southern area 7
Northern area 8

Central now has 66 % of all reported crimes to date which is a little up (usually around 55 to 60%). Other areas however are down on this time last year.

Incidents wise, we have had a total of 33 to date
24 racist incidents
1 disability
3 transphobic
5 homophobic

Figures are on par with the figures reported last year at this stage. Therefore, still maintaining the increases on previous years figures as we reach the six month period of the current financial year.

3rd party referrals currently total 36 to date since starting the reporting system in November 2006.

Hate Crime talks will continue with schools and colleges to make young people aware of the initiative. Several talks are already planned around the County.

Action

- KP to circulated Hate Crime reporting information round disability organisations.
- Hate Crime reporting leaflet to be re-sent with the notes of the meeting.
- KP and AH to show Shropshire Hate Crime figures in comparison to other areas.

KP

RT
KP/AH

4. Launch of 'Welcome to Shropshire Booklet'

MH advised that a booklet has been put together to help people from different backgrounds settle in to life in Shropshire.

The booklet, called 'Welcome to Shropshire', is written in English, Polish and Russian and is designed to introduce people to their local area. It will also help people who may just be visiting or travelling within Shropshire.

The booklet will be circulated by Shropshire Council's community working teams who are best placed to ensure that information is reaching people at a local level. Copies will also be available at libraries, customer service points and other local community venues.

Partners such as the police, Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service, the primary care trust, voluntary and community groups, and colleges will

also help get the booklet to the people who need it most.

Action

RT to add the booklet to the Shropshire Partnership Website. Group were also encouraged to spread the word.

RT/ALL

Group felt that it would also be a good idea to have posters/postcards round the County highlighting the booklet e.g. in Doctors surgeries. KP to look in to this.

KP

5. Equalities Forum – Building a Brand – Publicity Material

Forum broke in to small groups to come up with key ideas/messages that they would like to see in a leaflet.

Feedback

- Equalities Forum should have their own logo
- Strapline for the Forum e.g. 'recognise diversity, promote equality'
- Colour scheme
- Leaflet should be x2 side of A4 with a simple message which is easy to read and in accessible formats. Not just on the internet
- Leaflet should highlight different ways of getting involved in the Forum (not just about attending meetings)
- Highlight awards scheme
- Use networks that are already in place to promote the leaflet - know your audience
- Don't promise what can't be delivered
- Joint statement
- Success over last 12 months e.g. on Hate Crime
- Plan for next 6 months
- Grant support

Action

All the above ideas to be taken to the Equalities Executive meeting scheduled in November. Re-visit in December's meeting.

MH/KP

6. Equality & Diversity Awards and Promotional Flyer

JB talked through paper highlighting progress to date.

Promotional flyer was currently with the design team and would be circulated to the group shortly. Flyer will be used to promote awards scheme to organisations.

RP highlighted that the awards were not just for voluntary organisations, any organisation in Shropshire could apply. Group were asked to re-lay this message.

ALL

7. South Shropshire Access Grant

RP advised that Shropshire Council had a grant scheme running that gives money to small business to improve access facilities (e.g. layout, handrails etc), this had currently been available in the South of the County and as it has proved so success it is now being rolled out to the whole county. Budget is currently £5,000.

8. Equalities Forum 2010

The group discuss the below:

- Using different venues for meetings (*commitment would be needed from members that they would attend meetings that were not central*)
- Themed meeting
- 10 min presentation from each organisation about what they get from the group and what more could be done
- Showcasing Equality & Diversity awards

9. Holocaust Memorial Day – ‘Legacy of Hope’ – Jan 2010

MH asked if anyone was interested in becoming project lead for this event. Steve Cunningham advised that he would be interested in helping where is could but did not wish to be lead.

Group were asked to contact MH after the meeting if they were interested.

ALL

10. Any other business

1. MS said that the High Court had ruled that it was in order for employers not to employ staff beyond the age of 65. He asked the Forum for support in seeking to reverse this decision.
2. Kick Racism out of Football 15 – 27 October – this year events happening all over the County. Mini tournament being held with support from Shrewsbury Town Football Club. RP congratulated SC on the success of this scheme.
3. Rainbow Film Festival (Shropshire's Lesbian and Gay Film Festival) – 27 Nov – 3 Dec at Old Music Hall. Digital Switch Over – MH advised that Shropshire Council had set up a group to work with Digital UK. Most of the county will not be effected until 2011 but some parts of the county who received a signal from Granda will be effected from 7 November. As Digital Champion for the Council MH asked the group for their help in disseminating information to harder to reach groups.

Meeting closed at 3.40pm

Date of the next meeting: 15 December 2pm, Venue to be advised