

# **Single Equality Scheme Workshop**

Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service, Shropshire Council, Shropshire PCT  
14 July 2009

The purpose of this workshop is to involve members of the public in the creation of our Single Equality Schemes and Action Plan.

## **Information about each of our Services**

### **Council –**

Shropshire Council replaced the district and borough councils and the county council from 1 April - replacing the two-tiered system that was Shropshire County Council, Bridgnorth District Council, South Shropshire District Council, Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council, Oswestry Borough Council and North Shropshire District Council. Shropshire Council will now be responsible for all the services that the county council, district and borough councils used to deliver. That includes planning, licensing, bin collections, schools, libraries and roads. We now have community working Teams within the 3 areas that will help deliver the equalities agenda at a local level.

### **Fire –**

Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service are not just about putting out fires and cutting people from traffic accidents, we rescue people from floods and rivers, animals, and a large part of what we do is to give out fire safety information out into the community and fit smoke alarms to reduce the risk of fire in people's homes. We also give businesses fire safety advice and undertake audits. We also have specialist teams which target vulnerable people in the community with fire safety advice and work with our partners in many of these areas. We have retained and wholetime operational stations all across the County to respond to emergency situations. We attend many local events and visit local schools and groups to give people advice. We also have many other jobs in the fire service that are not operational such as HR, Finance, Administration and Managerial posts.

### **PCT -**

The Primary Care Trust (PCT) is part of the National Health Service (NHS). It is responsible for improving health and health services for its local population. Shropshire County PCT provides primary and community services for local people, such as Shropshire's community hospitals and district nursing services. It also commissions (plans and purchases) services from other providers - such as all hospitals where Shropshire people go for treatment, for example The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital Trust or specialist hospitals in Birmingham. The PCT has responsibilities for public health issues and also provides funding for general practitioners (GPs) who are independent of the PCT but have contracts with us to provide NHS services

## Workshop on the 7 strands

We would like you to use this flipchart to look at each of the 7 strands; there is one page for each area for you to complete:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender
- Race
- Religion/belief
- Sexual orientation
- Transgender

We want you to tell us about the things we do well, your experiences, issues and areas for improvement in the following areas:

- **Communications**

Is the information we provide clear enough for you? In what way could it be better?  
Do you use any of our websites? Is there enough or the right sort of information on there? How would you like us to tell you what's happening?

- **Access to Services**

Have you ever had problems accessing services provided by our organisations – for example your local library, hospital, or getting a smoke detector fitted? Do you have enough information about different ways to access information? What more can we do to help you access our services?

- **Recruitment and employment**

Have you ever applied for a job with the 3 organisation? What was your experience? Do you think we market ourselves well enough?  
Is there anything that limits you from applying from jobs with any of the three services?

- **Commitment and Leadership**

What do you think of our organisations commitment to equality and diversity?  
What do you think of our organisations commitment to equality and diversity? Do you feel that there is clear, visible leadership?

## 3 Main priorities

At the end of the session we would like you to give us 3 main priorities that you have identified from your workshop:

**1 Barrier:**.....

**2 Gap:**.....

**3 Working well:**.....

At the end of this session if there is something that you do not want to vocalise to the group but wish to comment on confidentially we have post it notes that we would like you to place your comments on.

**Finally, please do participate and respect all people's views in the group, thank you.**