

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF EQUALITIES

To - Scrutiny Management Team
Date of meeting – 24th May 2016
Notes of - Strategic Director

BRIEFING NOTES

Background

The Council, as a public body, has duties under the Equality Act 2010 which must be adhered to. The duty itself is set out in [Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010](#).

Update since October 2015

Further to the Scrutiny Management Team Report on 20th October 2015, the Council's Corporate Equalities Steering Group (CESG) has continued to meet (Dec 2015 and March 2016) to take forward Equalities work.

CESG has continued to make progress towards meeting the Equality Objectives (*Appendix 1*) set. This has included:-

- Ensuring the Council's approach to Equalities issues are reviewed and promoted through ongoing internal scrutiny
- Support provided to staff undertaking Service Impact Assessments and Service Plan Screening Templates
- The Equalities Training Quiz has now been developed and completed by 246 out of 256 (96.1%) of all Council staff and 74% of all Liberata staff.

Corporate Peer Review – The Council participated in a Corporate Peer Review exercise which was undertaken by the Local Government Association (LGA). No concerns came out of this exercise in relation to 'equalities' work.

Planned future activity

Interpretation provision – CESH has recently discussed provision available to the Council in relation to ensuring sufficient interpretation provision in dealing with customer enquiries. The Council's Continuous Improvement Group will shortly undertake a voluntary skills audit of all staff, which might identify employee's with interpretation / translation skills. CESH will also contact local services / voluntary groups to ascertain what level of translation services could potentially be available to the Council.

Mental Health Champion – CESH will seek to assist the Council's Mental Health Champion (Cllr Blackburn) by identifying works / services the Council already provides in assisting people who may suffer from mental illness. Following this exercise, Wayne and Gill will meet with Cllr Blackburn to take forward any works identified as a result of the exercise.

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Date: 18th April 2016

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Equality Objectives Action Plan – update March 2016