

Projects

To report that staff is in place and work is on-going on the following projects:-

1. Community to Community (C2C) project (RR&RI Funding Via SAREC)
2. Good Community Relations Project (RR&RI Funding 2008/11)
3. Challenging Racist Behaviour and Attitudes (CPP funded)

Contract

Diversity Services Contract -Crown Office and Procurator Fiscals Service Strathclyde

‘Diversity Services’ to the COPFS, which commenced on the 28th April 2008 for 2 years.

Meetings attended for the project for 2008/09 are as follows:

- Friday 16th May Meeting with SP and JT- Gorbals
- Tuesday 27th May Interpreting and Translation Forum
- Tuesday 15th July meeting with Area PF’s and Area BM
- Thursday 17th July Interpreting and Translation Forum
- Wednesday 27th August Strathclyde Diversity Forum (Chair)
- Thursday 23rd October meeting with Bill Comrie and C Briordan
- Wednesday 26 November Strathclyde Diversity Forum (Chair)

2. Training received/Attended

Interaction Leadership Programme- British Council

I have attended the first 3 days of this programme 12th to 14th November 08 in Falkirk. This was very intense in very well delivered.

I have still to attend on the following days:

- 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th 21st and 22nd January 09
- 16th, 17th and 18th February 09
- 16th, 17th and 18th March 09

3. Meetings/ events attended since the last Board of Directors meeting in October 2008

Events attended

- Monday 3rd November GCNS Graduation event at GRCH
- Monday 4th November AGM Chinese Community Development Project
- Monday 10th November VAF Induction Workshops- STUC building
- Monday 17th November GCSS Seminar on racist incidents
- Thursday 27th November Eastern Eye- Scottish Business Awards 2008

Meetings attended 2

- Thursday 6th November Strategic MARIM- Pitt St.

Mr. Syed Jafri

Mr. Jafri commented on the Education Department's lack of qualified teachers for Urdu and Punjabi languages. Bailie Malik said that many teachers who were qualified were afraid of the career structure and not leading to any promotion so many of them do not want to become teachers.

Bailie Malik reported that Gaelic schools were also having trouble attracting teachers so it seems a bit of a wide spread issue.

Mr. Jandu commented on the lack of funding in after school classes and that not many schools had the facility to accommodate after school classes for the languages.

Mr. Jafri also commented on the fact that young kids would rather speak English as their main language.

Bailie Malik reported that he is looking into making schools available for educational purposes after normal school hours. The buildings should be available for local people to use as their upkeep is paid for by the local people. Rent is a large expenditure so if the schools are available for free to the community groups then it would be a huge benefit. This would allow people who want to provide a service to the community somewhere to do it.

A Seminar was held in the City Chambers with Bailie Malik. He had some good feedback from people who felt that they had benefited from the seminar and some people expressed an interest in further involvement.

Partners

Strathclyde Police

Ms Black reported on the Diversity Unit having meetings with staff after the Ann Frank Event. The Diversity Unit has visited Al-Meezan, Langside College, Langside Mosque and have been running youth forums to discuss their fears and concerns.

The recruiting team has recently won the Glasgow Business Award for diverse recruiting.

There is a massive recruiting campaign over the next two years to encourage more people to join from diverse communities.

Bailie Malik commented on the fact that WSREC had not heard much on the recruitment campaign and wanted to be more involved. Ms Black said she would make this an action point.

Strathclyde Fire Service

Diversity Team's first quarterly report is due on the 1st April 2009.

The Fire service will be bringing in role model firefighters to help recruit a more diverse workforce.

Bailie Malik reported that there will be a secondment to the WSREC office.

There will also be two fire officers from Lahore coming over to share their experiences with Strathclyde Fire and Rescue. The two officers from Punjab Fire Service will also help Strathclyde Fire and Rescue target ME communities in their recruitment drive.

4. Correspondence

Dr Green reported that he offered his apologies as he didn't manage to attend the SAREC meeting as he was helping Magda to open the Disability Conference in the East End of Glasgow.

Dr Green mentioned that it would be good to find out what the other RECs are doing at the moment.

Bailie Malik gave an overview of SAREC and will ask Razaq to do a briefing on SAREC's work for the benefit of members of the Board.

5. A.O.C.B

Ms Campbell mentioned a complaint issue to do with someone she knows. Bailie Malik said that the issue her friend has should be reported to the project officers at WSREC and dealt with through that. Bailie Malik said that if a conclusion can't be reached then the board might become involved. Dr Green and Mr. Chudy commented that the board deals mainly with policy and governance of WSREC and should not get involved in individual cases.

Ms Black commented that if there is an issue with the Police then it should be reported through the police complaints procedure.

Mr. Jafri said that there should be a New Year party/dinner for the board. Bailie Malik agreed and that a date will be confirmed nearer the time.

Mr. Jafri suggested 'Village in the Park' restaurant in Bellahouston around mid January.

Bailie Malik thanked everyone for attending this short meeting and wished everyone all the best over the holiday period.

6. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Wednesday 11th of February 2009 at 6.00pm

Monday 20th of April 2009 at 6.00pm