

Rights and Fairness Telford Progress Report

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

For further information about this report please contact Paul Raymond, Chief Fire Officer, on 01743 260205 or Natalie Parkinson, Equality and Diversity Officer, on 01743 260236.

1 Purpose of Report

This report informs the Committee of the progress of Rights and Fairness Telford (RAFT), as requested by the Fire Authority.

2 Recommendations

The Committee is asked to note the contents of the report.

3 Background

The Committee received a report at its meeting on 29 September 2011, informing Members of the progress of Telford Race, Equality and Diversity Partnership (TREDP), as requested by the Fire Authority.

RAFT (formerly TREDP) received a contribution from the Authority of £5,000 for 2010/11.

They proposed a new service level agreement, which offered:

- Identification of any research activities needed to make informed decisions about the allocation of future resources to address problem areas, for instance investigating measures for addressing the increased number of fires affecting people with mental health problems or suffering from drug-related fire injuries
- Securing the funding and resources to undertake these research activities
- Exploring with Shropshire Partnership Equalities Forum potential areas for collaborative working, sharing resources and avoiding duplication of effort.

4 Update from RAFT

- RAFT is established and fully operational.
- RAFT's move to Meeting Point House was successfully undertaken.
- RAFT's Big Lottery funding application was successful in securing £323,000 over three years to provide tailored support to young people in playing a more active socio-economic role in the life of the local community. Telford Inclusive Futures Project will be launched in January 2012.
- RAFT is working with NHS Telford and Wrekin and NHS Shropshire to deliver their response to the national NHS Equality Delivery System. A scrutiny / oversight group has been established, drawn from equality protected characteristics communities, and a 'champions' system will enable NHS providers to target services better to equality mandate communities.
- Core funding from Telford and Wrekin Council continued for the 2012-13 financial year. Additional funding has been provided to undertake projects provisionally targeted on child poverty, engagement and cohesion through sports, art and culture and exploring barriers to personalised budgets with equality mandate communities.
- Work has been undertaken with Telford & Wrekin Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) to establish and deliver the Telford Pulling Together project, designed to transform the infrastructure of the voluntary sector within Telford & Wrekin.
- Community Development work has been undertaken through the Service Through Partnership project, aimed at supporting and strengthening the black and minority ethnic (BME) voluntary sector across the Black Country and Telford & Wrekin.
- Telford & Wrekin Community Forum has been established to provide an independent forum for community members within Telford & Wrekin to meet and discuss concerns and issues about service provision from the public, private and voluntary sectors. Three meetings have been held so far in 2012, with over 300 participants.
- It has supported Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Telford & Wrekin to establish and develop membership and governance structures. The new group will be the interface for the LGBT population in Telford & Wrekin with the statutory, private and voluntary sectors.
- Work has been undertaken on the Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin LGB Survey with development of survey throughout 2012, promotion of the survey and analysis of initial findings.

5 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6 Legal Comment

There are no legal implications arising out of this report.

7 Equality Impact Assessment

Not required as this is purely an update report on historical information.

8 Appendices

There are no appendices to this report.

9 Background Papers

There are no background papers to this report.