

## Shropshire Partnership Equalities Forum Progress during 2011/12

### 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 Human Resources Committee of the progress made by the Shropshire Equality and Diversity Forum during 2011/12.

### 2 Recommendations

That the Committee note the content of the report.

### 3 Background

The Shropshire Equalities Forum had its first meeting in March 2005. The Forum has been meeting and working across Shropshire since then, and has made a number of important achievements in progressing equality and diversity in Shropshire.

In February 2006 the Fire Authority authorised a one-off grant to the Forum of £5,000 for the 2006/07 financial year. A further request for funding was subsequently received and the Equality and Diversity Steering Group approved a £200 grant. Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service has been involved as a member of the Forum since its inception and also attends and supports many of the additional sub-group and project meetings.

The Equality Forum undertook a tender process for the running of the Forum. Shrewsbury College was successful in its application and took over the running of the Forum on 1 April 2011.

## 4 Forum Progress 2011/12

The following progress has been made up to the end of September 2012.

- The Business Plan for April 2012 – April 2013 has been finalised.
- Its sub-groups (listed below) agreed objectives / targets for 2012/13.
  - Scrutiny
  - Consultation
  - Fundraising, promotion and communications
  - Hate Crime
  - Equalities Awards
- The hate crime initiative has been relaunched and a number of training days have taken place.
- Training on the Equality Act 2010 has been given by a member of the forum.
- The full forum has held four meetings per year and there have been additional sub-group meetings.
- The membership has increased.
- It has supported member events.
- It has supported the Equality Delivery System introduced by Shropshire Primary Care Trust.
- It has continued with its small grants award scheme, which enables small equality and diversity projects to be run in the County. These include:
  - LGBT History Month
  - Rainbow Film Festival
  - Holocaust Memorial Day
  - Growing Old Disgracefully - Engaging older people in the community
  - Cultural Diversity Day
  - Interfaith Forum
  - Explore Islam Exhibition at Shrewsbury College
  - Gender Matters - Parallel Fashion Show

The Forum brings together individuals and representatives from a wide range of statutory, voluntary and community groups and agencies across Shropshire, including:

- Connexions
- Crown Prosecution Service
- Environment Agency

- Gypsy Liaison Service
- HM Prison Shrewsbury
- HomeStart
- Job Centre Plus
- Learning & Skills Council
- Health and Hospital Trusts
- Housing Associations
- Shrewsbury College
- Shropshire Council
- Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service
- West Mercia Constabulary
- West Mercia Criminal and Civil Justice Race Forum
- West Mercia Probation Service
- West Midlands CESTC

Voluntary and community organisations include:

- A4U
- Age Concern
- Asian Parents' Group
- Bangladeshi Welfare Association
- Bridges Project
- Citizens Advice Shropshire
- Community Council of Shropshire
- Fruit Bowl/ Rainbow Film Festival
- Gender Matters
- Headway Shropshire
- Impact Alcohol Advisory Services
- QUBE Oswestry
- Samaritans Shropshire
- Shrewsbury Unite Against Fascism
- Shrewsbury Action Against Racism
- Shropshire Buddies & Body Positive
- Shropshire LGB Network
- Shropshire MIND
- Shropshire Senior Citizens Forum
- Shropshire Youth Association

The Forum is used as an effective communication network by its members. Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service uses it as a way to communicate with a range of groups, organisations and individuals across the County.

## **5 Financial Implications**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

## **6 Legal Comment**

There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

## **7 Appendices**

There are no appendices attached to this report.

## **8 Background Papers**

There are no background papers associated with this report.