

## **Rights and Fairness Telford progress report (formerly Telford Race, Equality and Diversity Partnership)**

### **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**

To inform the Human Resources Committee of the progress of Rights and Fairness Telford, as requested by the Fire Authority.

#### **2 Recommendations**

The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report

#### **3 Background**

The Committee received a report at its meeting on 12 October 2010:

- informing Members of the progress of Telford Race, Equality and Diversity Partnership, as requested by the Fire Authority
- agreeing the draft Service Level Agreement.

Rights and Fairness Telford (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 Rights and Fairness Telford**

Due to the restructuring of RAFT and resources available, RAFT is still working towards our current Service Level Agreement and have honoured their commitment to completing this as agreed with the Authority. They are currently working on a Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual (LGB) project with us as outlined below.

**Please find below a summary of progress on the work of RAFT:**

- restructuring and redesign of TREDP to RAFT, with new aims, objectives, governance and management structure
- in December 2010, the Board of TREDP passed a resolution to formally begin a process of establishing the new company
- RAFT was officially incorporated on the 1 June 2011 with a new set of aims and objectives (see Appendix 1)
- provision of advice and guidance to private, public and voluntary sectors with 56 people receiving face to face support, resulting in 26 case files of which 6 are progressing to a full Employment Tribunal
- working on a funding proposal for establishing a third party reporting network for victims of hate incidents within Telford and Wrekin
- Community Development and Engagement, this has included delivering a community grants' programme for the NHS, developed a vulnerable communities' project for Telford and Wrekin Council, and creating a citizens' panel that will provide a further level of engagement from vulnerable and disadvantaged groups
- Public Information and Education, they have distributed information on the new Equality Act 2010.
- Policy Development – working with partners including Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service on the development and delivery of a LGB survey that is looking at GB experiences of Service Delivery across a range of partner organisations. This project is due to go live in October 2011 at the Shropshire Rainbow Film Festival.

More detailed information is given at Appendix 1 – RAFT:  
Review of Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service Grant Funding Specification 2010-11.

## **5 Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications at present.

## **6 Legal Comment**

There are no legal implications arising out of this report; the funding provided by the Authority assists in the development of RAFT as a comprehensive equality and human rights organization, in compliance with public sector obligations under The Equality Act 2010.

## **7 Equality Impact Assessment**

An Equality Impact Assessment was completed on the Report on Telford Race, Equality and Diversity Partnership.to HR Committee on 27 May 2010. This report is a continuation of that process.

## **8 Appendix**

Attached to this report is:

Appendix 1 – RAFT: Review of Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority Grant Funding Specification 2010 -11

## **9 Background Papers**

- Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority 14 December 2005, Report 15 - Race, Equality and Diversity Group
- Report on TREDP to Human Resources Committee November 2006
- Report on TREDP to Human Resources Committee December 2008
- Report on TREDP to Human Resources Committee May 2010
- TREDP Annual Report 2008/9  
(<http://www.tredp.org.uk/resources/Annual+Report+2008-09+web+version.pdf>)