

DISABILITY ADVISORY AND ACCESS FORUM

DATE: 5TH FEBRUARY 2009

SUBJECT: DISABILITY EQUALITY SCHEME ACTION PLAN – PROGRESS REPORT.

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IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL		COMMUNITY SAFETY
EQUALITIES	✓	ENVIRONMENT
FINANCIAL		CONSULTATIONS
STAFFING		OTHER

WARDS AFFECTED: All

PURPOSE

1. To inform DAAF of progress against the actions in the Corporate Disability Equality Action Plan.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2 DAAF is recommended to note and comment on, where they feel it appropriate, the reported progress against the actions in the Corporate Disability Equality Action Plan (DEAP).

BACKGROUND

3. The Disability Discrimination Act 2005 (DDA05) placed a series of Duties on the Council. These were:

(i) A General Duty to:

- Promote equality of opportunity between disabled persons and other persons
- Promote positive attitudes towards disabled persons;
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination
- Eliminate unlawful harassment
- Encourage participation by disabled persons in public life, and,
- Take steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, even where that involves treating disabled persons more favourably than other persons. For example in the provision of Reasonable Adjustments as required by the 1995 Act.

(ii) Specific duties

Produce and publish a Disability Equality Scheme (DES), in which the Council must set out:

- How disabled people have been involved in drawing up the Scheme

- How the Council will assess the impact of its policies and activities on disabled people
 - The steps the Council will take to improve outcomes for disabled people
 - How the Council will gather and use evidence regarding the impact of its policies
 - Update the Disability Equality Scheme every three years
4. The actions included in the DEAP were based on consultation with Disabled People, groups of, and for, Disabled People, Council employees and was agreed by the Council's Senior Management Team and elected Members. It also incorporated the various guidance documents produced by the Disability Rights Commission.
 5. Luton chose to publish a Corporate Equality Scheme instead of a Disability Equality Scheme, but within that included a Disability Equality Action Plan (DEAP) covering the period December 2006 to October 2007
 6. The Forum agreed a revised DEAP covering the period up to December 2009 at the 7th February 2008 meeting.

REPORT

7. Departments are required to report to the Forum progress against the actions in the DEAP. A template was produced to assist Departments in this and to be a simple way to show the Forum what progress there has been against the actions. The template is attached as Appendix 1.
8. Progress since the last Forum meeting can be summarised as follows;

Chief Executive

No change since last report

Children and Learning

Children and Learning Department are on target to meet their expected outcomes.

Customer and Corporate Services

No change since last report

Environment and Regeneration

Action plan to meet action looking at transport needs being brought to February 09 DAAF.

Group of Officers have received training by the Centre for Accessible Environments on access to the built environment.

Housing and Community Living

Final Commissioning Strategies being brought to the February 09 DAAF for information.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9. The Disability Equality Scheme and the Disability Equality Action Plan are key documents to enable us to work towards both the legal requirements of the DDA05 and better outcomes for disabled people.

APPENDIX

1. Updated Disability Equality Action Plan reporting template.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Disability Discrimination Act 2005 and associated Guidance documents are available from the Equalities Unit or from the Equality and Human Rights Commission website at <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/forbusinessesandorganisation/publicauthorities/disabilityequalityd/pages/default.aspx>