



Your Moray - Your Safety

REPORT TO: SAFER AND STRONGER STRATEGIC GROUP - 21ST AUGUST 2008

SUBJECT: RACE EQUALITY SUB-GROUP

BY: CORPORATE POLICY UNIT MANAGER

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 The Safer and Stronger Strategic Group is asked to discuss the possibility of disbanding the Race Equality Sub-Group.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 **The Safer and Stronger Strategic Group is asked to discuss the possibility of disbanding the Race Equality Sub-Group.**

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Moray Community Safety Steering Group's "Racial Equality Sub-Group" made a commitment in 2002 to tackle racist incidents by agreeing on a common multi-agency strategy, monitoring racist incidents and reviewing agencies' procedures in order to bring about change in agencies' response to racist incidents.

3.2 The Race Equality Sub-Group signed up to the multi-agency strategy and the Council continue to record and monitor racist incidents via the Racist Incidents Monitoring Form.

3.2 Grampian Race Equality Council provide the Council with statistics of reported racist incidents. The last report provided to the council highlighted a comparison of quarter 2 (Q2) of each financial year from 2002 – 2007. Within Moray this equates to:-

- Q2 2002 – 8 incidents
- Q2 2003 – 4 incidents
- Q2 2004 – 5 incidents
- Q2 2005 – 9 incidents
- Q2 2006 – 15 incidents
- Q2 2007 – 11 incidents

- 3.3 The Racist Incidents Monitoring Form (RIMF) has a criminal/serious incident slant with a focus on race (**Appendix 1**).
- 3.4 The Council's Equality and Diversity Working group are looking to amend the RIMF and focus more on gathering information rather than reporting which may be discouraging people from recording problems. The scope of reporting should include all strands of diversity and not just race alone. The more data we have the better our understanding of any underlying diversity issues within the Council. Within the Partnership only Grampian Police use the RIMF on a regular basis.
- 3.5 An equalities Forum for consultation purposes is in early stages of establishment. This includes local and national representative groups for all equality strands. There have been two meetings held to date. During the first meeting it was suggested that the Community Planning and Development Manager and the Equal Opportunities Officer attend local groups and organisations to brief the clients and staff within groups in order to encourage interest. These groups have been briefed so far, with two more planned over the next few months.
- 3.6 It is suggested therefore that the Race Equality Sub-Group be disbanded as the equalities remit has now expanded beyond race and other mechanisms are in place to replace the group.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Development Plan/Community Plan/Service Improvement Plan

Community Planning should participate in a manner which encourages equal opportunities and, in particular, the observance of the equal opportunity requirements. The provision also relates to the duty of Best Value and to the power of local authorities to advance well-being.

(b) Policy and Legal

The Community Planning Partnership has a legal duty to be proactive with regard to all equality strands.

(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)

There are no financial considerations arising out of this report.

(d) Consultations

There have been no specific consultations on this report.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 The Safer and Stronger Strategic Group is asked to discuss the possibility of disbanding the Race Equality Sub-Group.

Author of Report: Fiona Simpson, Equal Opportunities Officer
Background Papers:
Ref: