

# Equalities Issues in Schools

An update for the Equalities Forum

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# The Children and Young People's Trust...

- From 01<sup>st</sup> October 2006 all children's services – including schools – will be provided by the Children and Young People's Trust;
- The CYPT brings together what was Children, Families and Schools with South Downs NHS Health Trust's Children and Families Services;
- The CYPT will work in partnership with other health services, and the city's voluntary and community sectors;
- The city will be divided into three Areas – Central, West and East. Each Area will have its own teams, although some services will be city-wide.

# The commitment...

- The CYPT aims to promote inclusion and equality of opportunity and seeks to eliminate discrimination against minority and disadvantaged groups;
- The vision for Area working is based on empowering communities of schools to create a new learning culture that will benefit individual students and their communities as a whole;
- Effective responses to equalities issues and promoting and protecting the welfare of all children and young people is a responsibility shared by all schools across the city.

# Some Key Changes...

- 2006 Equality Act;
- 2004 The Children Act;
- 2000 Race Relations (Amendment) Act;
- 1995 Disability Discrimination Act amended (2005) to include the Disability Equality Duty;
- 2003 Employment Regulations, extended in 2006 to include Age.
- Every Child Matters -
- 5 national outcomes for all children and young people:
  - **Be Healthy**
  - **Stay Safe**
  - **Enjoy and Achieve**
  - **Make a Positive Contribution**
  - **Achieve Economic Wellbeing**

# The new Ofsted inspection framework makes specific judgements on...

- The extent of learners' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development;
- How well learners with learning difficulties and disabilities make progress;
- The behaviour of learners;
- The extent to which learners make positive contributions to the community;
- How well provision promotes the well-being of learners;
- How well equality of opportunity is promoted and discrimination tackled so that all learners achieve as well as they can;
- Action (is) taken to reduce anti-social behaviour, such as bullying and racism.

# The CYPT...

- Offers consultant support for school improvement and a range of services supporting equalities for children and families;
- Monitors levels of bullying and harassment in schools and reports annually to members;
- Prioritises equalities across the Children and Young People's Plan;
- Has undertaken a three-year round of Equalities Impact Assessments to establish provision and identify need;
- Is focused on outcomes for children and young people.

So, what is happening in  
school?

# Equalities Priorities

- Supporting schools in developing new Disability Equality Schemes 2006, and preparing for Gender Equality legislation in 2007;
- Developing the work programme of the CYPT's Homophobic/Transphobic Bullying Working Group;
- Extending the number of schools achieving Healthy School Status to 100% by 2008;
- Promoting children and young people's participation in work to counter bullying and harassment;
- Monitoring the performance of schools through the termly racist incident summaries and the published findings of Ofsted inspections;
- Providing support and resources to enable schools to engage children and young people in marking events within the Equalities Calendar.

# Endnote

‘Children and young people are our future citizens. Ultimately, their experiences of growing up in this city will be testament to the success or failure of our ability to put our commitment to equality and diversity into practice.’

2006 -2009 Race Equality Scheme, Brighton and Hove City Council