

Consultation Document for a Single Equality Scheme - Response Form

The Welsh Assembly Government would welcome any comments that you have on this consultation version of our Single Equality Scheme.

Before responding to this consultation please take note of the Freedom of Information requirements at the end of this questionnaire.

Responses should be sent to:

Equality and Human Rights Division
Room 3.13
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

Email: ehrd@wales.gsi.gov.uk
Fax: 029 2080 1067

Please reply by 11/06/08

Please tick:

I am responding as an individual

on behalf of an organisation

✓

Name: Lorraine Miles

Job title: Deputy Director

Organisation/Branch: Neath Port Talbot CVS

Date: 16.06.08

Q1. Is it clear what the Welsh Assembly Government is trying to achieve with the Scheme?

Response:

The scheme identifies a number of high level priorities which need to be addressed if inequalities in society are to be removed and this is welcomed.

Q2. What are the key things you would like the Welsh Assembly Government to achieve in promoting equality, diversity and human rights?

Response:

Promote cross departmental/agency support for implementing actions that will achieve greater equality, diversity and human rights.

Q3. What more could the Welsh Assembly Government do to fulfil its leadership role?

Response:

Welsh Assembly Government could ensure that equality issues are addressed by implementing the system similar to Equality Impact Assessment and leading by example re implementation of actions.

Q4. Do you agree that the Welsh Assembly Government when identifying its priority areas for this Scheme has struck the right balance between:

- **our national priorities as outlined in ‘One Wales’;**
- **the evidence available from a variety of sources including key messages gathered from involvement and engagement; and**
- **barriers and disadvantages identified from research for different under represented groups?**

Response:

It is important that national priorities enable local delivery and address ‘local’ inequalities, e.g. access to transport, services, etc.

Q5. Do you agree that the process used for identifying our priorities demonstrates a commitment to mainstream equality into the business mechanisms of the Welsh Assembly Government?

Response:

Yes.

Q6. The Welsh Assembly Government's key priorities and outcomes are set out in Chapter 8. Do you think we have identified the right priorities and outcomes?

Response:

The priorities seem to be the right ones. It is how the priorities will be addressed that will be meaningful.

Q7. What other priorities and outcomes would you like to see included as part of the Single Equality Scheme?

Response:

It would be useful to have a baseline indicator of what the desired 'norm' should be, i.e. what are the 'must haves' to ensure equitable access to e.g. dentistry, GP services, youth facilities, etc. What can a citizen expect?

Q8. What actions do you think the Welsh Assembly Government should take to achieve the outcomes related to the various priorities?

Response:

Need a programme of information sharing, staff training to raise awareness of how to achieve the desired outcomes.

Q9. What are your suggestions for ensuring that we get feedback from the public on an ongoing basis to inform the Scheme?

Response:

There are many mechanisms to gain feedback, e.g. Citizens' Panel, Neath Port Talbot CVS' forum structures, etc. Neath Port Talbot LSB has a task and finish group looking at mechanisms for citizen engagement and is producing a tool kit. Welsh Assembly Government could make use of these existing mechanisms. It will be important for the public to receive feedback on the impact of their views.

Q10. How would you like to be involved in the future?

Response:

Neath Port Talbot CVS could raise local awareness of the scheme via its network of forums/newsletters - would require accurate information/progress reports to do this.

Q.11 Does Chapter 5 adequately explain the Welsh Assembly Government's corporate responsibilities? If not, what further information would you like to see?

Response:

How are the statements that have been adopted by Welsh Assembly Government's Central Departments monitored?

Q12. Do you agree with the three employment priorities identified in Chapter 5 under the heading 'Our Future Work'? If not, why? Should we be doing more? If so, what action would you suggest?

Response:

I agree that a diverse workforce will be a key to achieving change, there will also need to be changes in organisational culture in order to recruit and retain a diverse workforce.

Q13. What do you think of the steps taken to encourage under represented groups to apply for posts working for the Welsh Assembly Government?

Response:

Maybe consideration could be given to advertising posts via additional networks, e.g. WCVA, local CVCs to broaden the reach into local communities.

Q14. What do you think of the steps taken to encourage more public appointment applications from under represented groups? How do you think that they could be improved?

Response:

Maybe consideration could be given to advertising public appointments via additional networks, e.g. WCVA, local CVCs, Volunteer Centres, to broaden the reach into local communities.

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Q15. Do you have any views on our proposed arrangements for monitoring the Scheme?
Response: It will be important for the scheme to have an impact and monitoring systems should seek to highlight the difference it is making.

Q16. Finally, we would welcome any other comments you have on this consultation document.
Response: The aspirations in the consultation document are to be welcomed. The challenge will be to ensure effective implementation regardless of organisational boundaries.

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Confidentiality of Consultations
The Welsh Assembly Government will publish a summary of responses following completion of the consultation process. Your response, and all other responses to the consultation, may be disclosed on request.

The Welsh Assembly Government can only refuse to disclose information in exceptional circumstances. **Before** you submit your response, please read the paragraphs below on the confidentiality of consultations and they will give you guidance on the legal position about any information given by you in response to this consultation.

The Freedom of Information Act gives the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority, namely, the Welsh Assembly Government in this case. This right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation. The Welsh Assembly Government cannot automatically consider as confidential information supplied to it in response to a consultation.

However, it does have the responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to this consultation, including information about your identity should be made public or be treated as confidential. Usually, the name and address

(or part of the address) of its author are published along with the response, as this gives credibility to the consultation exercise. If you would prefer for your response not to be published, or to be published but not attributed, please include an explanation in your response.

You should also be aware that there may be circumstances in which the Welsh Assembly Government will be required to communicate information to third parties on request, in order to comply with its statutory obligations. This includes its obligations under the Data Protection Act 1998, the Freedom of Information Act 2000, and the Environmental Information Regulation 1992. For further information on the Assembly's Code of Practice in dealing with requests for access to information it holds please visit our website: www.information.wales.gov.uk