

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY LEADER**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S EQUALITY PLAN 2012 – 2013****Purpose of the Report**

To explain how the Council is meeting the requirements of its Public Sector Equality Duty and to agree the Council's Equality Plan 2012 – 2013

Information and Advice

The Public Sector Equality Duty is a specific duty in the Equality Act 2010. It places various legal obligations on public bodies. One of these is for public organisations to explain how they will ensure that people with "protected characteristics" receive appropriate services and are treated fairly in all dealings with the organisation. The protected characteristics covered by the Equality Duty are age, disability, gender, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

The Council provides evidence that it is meeting the Duty by publishing an Equality Plan. The five sections in the Equality Plan 2012 -2013 briefly explain how the Council is meeting its Public Sector Equality Duty under the following headings:

- the requirements of the Equality Act and our commitment to the public sector equality duty
- how we have complied with our Public Sector Equality Duty
- the Council's Equality Objectives for 2012 – 2013
- how we will ensure that our services are fair
- equality information we will collect and use in decision making

The Duty also requires the Council to set equality objectives relating to the protected characteristics by April 2012.

The Council's cross cutting equality objectives from April 2012 to March 2013 relate to Domestic Violence and Hate Crime as follows:

- Reduce repeat incidents of Domestic Violence by 27% by March 2013
- Increase reported Hate Crime incidents by 55% by March 2013
- Reduce repeat Hate Crime victimisation by 25% by March 2013

The Council further evidences that its services are fair to people with protected characteristics by carrying out Equality Impact Assessments on all decisions that affect service provision.

The information in the Equality Plan is either already published, or will be published, on the Council's website on appropriate pages, however, there will also be a downloadable version that can be printed.

The Equality Plan objectives and the layout of the plan have been formulated and considered by Corporate Equality Group.

Statutory and Policy Implications

This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That Cabinet agree the Council's Equality Plan 2012 - 2013

Cllr Martin Suthers

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (GR 03/04/12)

Pursuant to section 1.1 of the County Council's Constitution, the Cabinet has the delegated authority to adopt the recommendations contained within the report.

Financial Comments (MA 03/04/12)

There are no additional costs arising from the contents of this report.

Background Papers

None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All

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