



SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION 11 July 2006

Report of the Corporate Director of Corporate and Adult Social Services

BVPIs 2a, 2b, 174, 175

RECOMMENDATION

1. To note the BVPIs 2a, 2b, 174 and 175 returns and the action being taken to improve equality.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

2.1 This report covers:

- BVPI 2a – which indicates at what level of the Equality Standard for Local Government the Council has achieved
- BVPI 2b – which indicates the Council's response to the race equality duty
- BVPI 174 – which indicates the number of racial incidents recorded and sets the context for...
- BVPI 175 – which indicates the number of racial incidents resulting in further action.

2.2 **BVPI 2a**

The Equality Standard for Local Government is a framework to measure how well we are doing on equality and diversity or what gaps we have that need to be addressed. The standard has five levels and these are...

- Level 1 – Commitment to a comprehensive equality policy
- Level 2 - Assessing and consulting
- Level 3 – Setting equality objectives and targets
- Level 4 – Information systems and checking we are meeting targets
- Level 5 – Achieving and reviewing what we said we would do!

- 2.3 We are at level 2 at the moment and are planning to achieve level 3 by 31 March 2007. We have a Corporate Equality and Diversity Task Group, chaired by the Director of Environmental Services and this group co-ordinates the equality work done by departments. The group also monitors the achievements of the levels of the Standard. The main work around the Standard is included in our three year Equality and Diversity Action Plan. The first year of the plan is currently being evaluated.

2.4 **BVPI 2b**

Our work on race equality is included in our Equality and Diversity Action Plan. We have used the components needed for a Race Equality Scheme and incorporated them into our overall plan, along with the other equality strands. This BVPI is made up of 18 questions around race equality and this year we have been able to answer positively to all of them.

2.5 **BVPI 174**

This BVPI is about the number of recorded racial incidents involving the city council in some way. The number is calculated per 100,000 of the population. This year, more people have reported incidents, and more schools have sent in reporting forms, and we have also been pro-active in getting rid of racist graffiti, rather than waiting for people to complain about it. In 2004/5 there were 143 incidents per 100,000 of the population and in 2005/06 there were 224. Following discussions with Derby Racial Equality Council it has been agreed to increase the targets of racial incidents for 2006/7, 2007/8 and 2008/9 because of the pro-active work we are doing with Derby Community Safety Partnership Hate Crime Co-ordinator and Multi-Agency Hate Crime Group.

We have produced a hate crime reporting form and these are going to be available in key locations for people to report hate crime and so if the form is successful we should get more reports of racial incidents. This does not necessarily mean that racial incidents are increasing in Derby, but it means that people are having more confidence to report these incidents. The hate crime reporting form will be handed out at the meeting.

2.6 **BVPI 175**

This BVPI is an indicator to show how many racial incidents from BVPI 174 have resulted in further action. In 2005/2006 all the reported incidents involved some form of further action.

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List of appendices:	e-mail ann.webster@derby.gov.uk Appendix 1 – Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1.1 None directly from this report

Legal

- 2.1 The Race Relations Amendment Act 2000 states we must promote racial equality and have a Race Equality Scheme.
- 2.2 The new Disability Discrimination Act 2005 states we must promote disability equality and have a Disability Equality Scheme in place by December 2006

Personnel

- 3.1 The Equality Standard Project Manager and the Equality and Diversity Task Group co-ordinate equality work within the Council.

Equalities impact

- 4.1 The Equality Standard for Local Government is all about finding out how our policies, practices and procedures impact on equality groups and we have a three-year timetable for assessing these.

Corporate priorities

- 5.1 As equality underpins all our work, this report links to all four of the Council's Corporate priorities...
 - Improving the quality of life in Derby's neighbourhoods
 - Encouraging lifelong learning and achievement
 - Building healthy and independent communities
 - Delivering excellent services, performance and value for money.