

Regional Cross-sectoral Equalities Forum Research

Understanding the needs, providing evidence for sustainable action on equalities, diversity and inclusion

This research project aims to produce a report with recommendations based on needs and an assessment of resource implications for regional agencies (in the public, voluntary and private sectors) with regards to a regional cross sector forum covering all strands of equality, by:

- i) Carrying out the research and reaching recommendations with no pre-conceived conclusion that a forum is the best solution. All reasonable options will be considered;
- ii) The recommendations will include evidence based, reasonable options for each of the key regional stakeholders (including regional representatives of local equality focussed groups) to pursue their need with regard to accessing or sharing information on equalities issues across sectors in the Eastern region.

Timescale: The research will be conducted between January and end of March 2010.

Outputs:

- The scope of the research will be done by analysing data from list of reports available on all equality strands (reports/literature review already compiled with summaries)

The research/ers will:

- Explore other regional equality forum models available elsewhere (e.g. Equality South West, Equality North East, etc) with a view of developing sustainable options for the East of England.
- Hold detailed interviews with stakeholders from the Regional Equalities Working Group to find out what equality work each stakeholder does and how they can benefit from input from other partners
- Hold brief meetings with the Regional Director/Chief Officer/External Partnerships Manager of GO-East, the East of England Development Agency and the Strategic Health Authority to get buy in to regional coordination of equalities work
- Interview a number of stakeholders from public, private and third sectors about the possibility of having a regional cross strand equality forum in the East of England (8 for each sector)
- (If there is time) Review potential models against regional governance arrangements to give list of pros and cons and suggestions for the most practical future arrangement that will integrate coordinated equalities work with regional governance
- At the Regional Equalities Working Group Meeting on 16th March main headlines of work to date will be given, findings will be discussed and views on these will be inserted
- Write final report