

# Equality of Opportunity Committee

## Minutes (EOC(2)-03-07)

**Date: 8 March 2007**

**Time: 2.00pm – 4.00pm**

**Venue: Committee Room 3, Senedd, Cardiff Bay**

### Assembly Members in Attendance

<b>Assembly Member</b>	<b>Constituency</b>
Gwenda Thomas (Chair)	Neath
Lorraine Barrett	Cardiff South and Penarth
John Griffiths	Newport East
Mark Isherwood	North Wales
Laura Anne Jones	South Wales East
Jenny Randerson	Cardiff Central

### Standing Invitees in Attendance

Will Bee	Disability Rights Commission (DRC)
Chris Myant	Commission for Racial Equality (CRE)
Liz Morgan	Stonewall Cymru
Kate Bennett	Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC)
Andrew White	Welsh Language Board

### Others in Attendance

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing (if applicable)</b>

Jane Hutt AM	Minister for Assembly Business, Equalities and Children
Elizabeth Taylor	Department for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills
Andrea Nicholas-Jones	Strategic Equality and Diversity Unit
Tim Ruscoe	Barnardo's Cymru
Amy Barrett	Reference Group of Disabled Young People
Robert Surrey	Reference Group of Disabled Young People

## Committee Service

Name	Job title
Virginia Hawkins	Committee Clerk
Liz Wilkinson	Deputy Committee Clerk

## Item 1: Introduction, Apologies, Substitutions, Quorum and Declarations of Interest

1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the last meeting of the Second Assembly. Apologies had been received from Helen Mary Jones AM, Huw Lewis AM, Catherine Thomas AM and Leanne Wood AM. There were no declarations of interest.

## Item 2: Minutes, Chair's Report, Committee's Annual Report 2005-06 and Legacy Report to the Third Assembly

Paper: EOC(2)-03-07(p.1) and EOC(2)-03-07(p.2)

2.1 The Committee agreed the minutes of the 28 February meeting.

2.2 The Chair gave an oral report, which included an update on progress with actions from the previous meeting as well as matters arising since the meeting.

2.3 The Committee agreed its Annual Report 2005-06 and Legacy Report to the Third Assembly.

## Action points

The Chair agreed to meet with Neil Wooding, Wales Commissioner, to discuss Wales' representation

within the Commission before writing to the Chief Executive and Chair of the Commission for Equality and Human Rights to express the Committee's views.

The Chair agreed to circulate a copy of her oral report to the Committee for information.

The Minister agreed to circulate an update on the Welsh Assembly Government's plans for the European Year of Equal Opportunities 2007.

### **Item 3: Welsh Assembly Government's response to the Committee's review of Service Provision for Disabled Young People in Wales**

Paper: EOC(2)-03-07(p.3)

3.1 The Chair welcomed members of the Reference Group for Disabled Young People to the meeting.

3.2 The Minister for Assembly Business, Equalities and Children briefly introduced the Welsh Assembly Government's response to the Committee's report on Service Provision for Disabled Young People.

3.3 Amy Barrett and Robert Surrey made a statement on how the Group felt about the Welsh Assembly Government's response to the Committee report.

#### **Action point**

The Minister agreed to circulate Estyn's report Evaluating outcomes for children and young people with additional learning needs to the Committee.

The Minister agreed to inform the Committee of the outcome of her meeting with Anne McGuire MP, Minister for Disabled People.

### **Item 4: Welsh Assembly Government's Draft Gender Equality Scheme**

Paper: EOC(2)-03-07(p.4)

4.1 The Minister for Assembly Business, Equalities and Children briefly introduced the Welsh Assembly Government's Gender Equality Scheme.

### **Item 5: Equal Opportunity Commission Annual Review for 2005-06**

Paper: EOC(2)-03-07(p.5)

5.1 Kate Bennet, Director of the Equal Opportunity Commission briefly outlined the work of the Commission in 2005-06 and highlighted key themes it had recommended to the Commission for Equality and Human Rights to be taken forward.