

# Equality of Opportunity Committee

## EOC(2) 08-06(p.2)

**Date:**25 October 2006

**Venue:**Senedd

**Title:**Welsh Assembly Government's Draft Disability Equality Scheme

### **Purpose**

The Welsh Assembly Government's Draft Disability Equality Scheme (Annex A).

### **Summary**

You have the opportunity to comment on the Welsh Assembly Government's draft Disability Equality Scheme.

### **Background**

The Disability Discrimination Act 2005 introduces a new positive duty on the public sector to promote equality of opportunity for disabled people.

The Strategic Equality and Diversity Unit established a dedicated team in February 2006 in order to develop the Welsh Assembly Government's Disability Equality Scheme.

In April, May and June 2006 the Welsh Assembly Government ran a series of engagement events. These were held in Mold, Aberystwyth and Cardiff where we asked disabled people what the important issues and priorities were for them. In all more than 100 people attended these events.

Disability Wales and the DRC were both involved in the engagement events. In particular, Disability Wales helped us to contact disabled people from across Wales to ensure that as many people as possible were aware of the events, and would participate.

Following the events a summary report was produced which captured the key themes that emerged during the events (Annex B). This report was made available to all stakeholders and was used by the Welsh Assembly Government to develop our Disability Equality Scheme and departmental action plans.

The Welsh Assembly government's draft Disability Equality Scheme released for consultation on 3 August 2006. The scheme was circulated to critical friends, equality champions, engagement event delegates and other statutory consultees. It was also uploaded onto the Strategic Equality and Diversity Unit (SEDU) website. The consultation period came to an end on 13 August 2006. The

Welsh Assembly Government Response to the Consultation is attached at Annex C.

Over the next few weeks the Disability Equality Scheme and departmental action plans will be revised, taking into account the issues that were raised during the consultation. A finalised version of the Disability Equality Scheme will be presented to Plenary on 15 November 2006 for their consent.

## **Compliance**

Section 49A of the Disability Discrimination Act places a duty on the National Assembly for Wales to promote disability equality and produce a Disability Equality Scheme. This duty will come into effect in December 2006.

## **Financial Implications**

Costs will arise from the requirement to prepare and publish a Disability Equality Scheme by 4 December 2006. Sufficient funds have been allocated for the development of the scheme from the Strategic Equality and Diversity Units Promoting Equality Fund budget for the final year 2006-07. There are therefore no additional financial implications.

## **Action for Subject Committee**

The Committee is invited to comment on the draft Disability Equality Scheme. All comments will be considered when the Scheme is being re-drafted.

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