

Equality of Opportunity Committee

Minutes EOC(3)-02-09

Date: Tuesday 3 February 2009

Time: 9.15 - 11.00 am

Venue: Committee Room 2, Senedd, National Assembly for Wales

Assembly Members in Attendance

Ann Jones, Vale of Clwyd (Chair)
Janet Ryder, North Wales
Nick Ramsay, Monmouth
Eleanor Burnham, North Wales
Lorraine Barrett, Cardiff South and Penarth

Officials in Attendance

Bethan Webber, Clerk
Rita Phillips, Deputy Clerk
Denise Rogers, Members' Research Service

Others in Attendance

Rhodri Morgan, First Minister, Welsh Assembly Government
Heulwen Blackmore, Head of Equalities and Human Rights
Steve Chamberlain, Head of Equality and Human Rights Delivery Team
Ruth Crowder, Policy Officer for Wales, College of Occupational Therapists
Helene Mars, Occupational Therapist (Housing), Caerphilly County Borough Council
Christine Synan, Occupational Therapy Service Manager, Cardiff Social Services Department

Item 1: Introduction, apologies and substitutions

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed Committee Members and members of the public.
- 1.2 Apologies had been received from Joyce Watson. Lorraine Barrett substituted.
- 1.3 Janet Ryder was acting as substitute for Bethan Jenkins and would replace her as Committee Member following a motion in plenary on 11 February 2009. The Chair thanked Bethan Jenkins for her work.
- 1.4 There were no declarations of interest.

Item 2: Scrutiny of First Minister on how equality of opportunities is prioritised within the 'One Wales' Agenda

Paper: EOC(3)-02-09(p.1)

- 2.1 The First Minister responded to questions from the Committee.

Item 3: Inquiry into Home Maintenance and Adaptations Services for Older People in Wales

Paper: EOC(3)-02-09 (p.2)

2.1 Ruth Crowder, Helene Mars and Christine Synan responded to questions from the Committee.

Actions:

Chair to ask the Deputy Minister for Housing for her views on the numbers of dedicated housing Occupational Therapists working in Local Authority Housing Departments.

Chair to ask Local Authorities about the process of making discretionary monies available to fast-track older people in urgent need of adaptations; how they work in partnership with related agencies such as Care and Repair Cymru; and, what investment has been made in their Occupational Therapy services in the last 15 years to meet the increase in volume of older people who need assessment for home adaptations.

The Committee agreed, under Standing Order 10.37 (vii), that the rest of the meeting would be held in private.

Committee Service

February 2009