

Equality of Opportunity Committee

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Summary of Committee Activity 2008

Purpose

This paper seeks to summarise the activity of the National Assembly for Wales Equality of Opportunity Committee during the 2008 calendar year of the Third Assembly.

Overview of Committee Activity

During the 2008 calendar year, the Committee held 15 formal meetings. This includes one off-site meeting, in Wrexham, as part of its inquiry into issues affecting migrant workers, their families, and the communities in which they live and work. As part of its activity in Wrexham, the Committee visited an advocacy and advice centre for migrant workers at Caia Park.

Inquiries

During 2008, the Committee has conducted inquiries into:

Issues affecting migrant workers, their families, and the communities in which they live and work

Accessibility of Information

Home Maintenance and Adaptations Services for Older People in Wales

Two of these inquiries have been completed, and reported on, by the Committee. Further evidence is expected to be taken on the Committee's recently launched inquiry into 'Home Maintenance and Adaptations Services for Older People in Wales', in 2009.

Scrutiny

The Committee has scrutinised the Welsh Assembly Government on the progression of the 'Close the Pay Gap' Equal Pay Campaign, and engaged in correspondence with the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government, and the Wales TUC, around establishing a working group to co-ordinate progression of the Equal Pay Campaign.

The Committee has also scrutinised the Welsh Assembly Government on its progress in implementing the Committee's review of Service Provision for Disabled Young People in Wales, produced during the second Assembly. This activity involved evidence being taken from members of the Disabled Young People's reference group which guided the production of the original report.

The Committee has scrutinised the Equality Proofing of Welsh Assembly Government's draft budget for 2009-10, and communicated its consideration to the Finance Committee.

The Committee will be scrutinising the Assembly Commission's Annual Equalities Report 2007-08, on 4 December 2008.

Promoting and widening engagement in devolution

The Committee has sought to promote and widen engagement in devolution, maintaining valuable contacts with stakeholders through written correspondence and both formal and informal meetings. The Committee is meeting informally with its counterparts in Northern Ireland and Scotland, to share good practice and discuss common concerns and interests. The Committee has engaged with the John Smith Memorial Foundation programme, meeting with a talented young Georgian politician, as part of an intensive five week programme on good governance, democracy and social justice. The Committee's secretariat also provided logistical assistance to the British Irish Inter-Parliamentary Body Committee Inquiry into the Integration of Recently Arrived Migrants.