

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE - 27 MARCH 2003

RACE RELATIONS (AMENDMENT) ACT 2000

Report by Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval for the priority list of functions to be assessed as part of the Council's Race Equality Scheme.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 places a general duty on a wide range of public authorities to promote race equality. This duty means that authorities must have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful racial discrimination
- promote equality of opportunity
- promote good relations between people of different racial groups

- 2.2** In addition to the general duty set for public bodies a set of specific duties have also been placed on public authorities. The aims of the specific duties are a means to an end and are designed to assist public authorities to meet the general duty. The specific duties are set out below:

- publish a written equality scheme;
- conduct a review of all Council services and policies to determine their relevance to race relations and impact on different minority ethnic groups;
- arrange for consultation and monitoring of policies and services to identify adverse impact on race relations;
- promote a review and development of the Council's Employment Policies with a view to establishing a more representative workforce;
- ensure all staff are aware of their duty to promote equality of opportunity
- monitor and publish details of annual performance indicators on race.

- 2.3** There is a specific duty placed on education authorities which sets out expectations of schools to have arrangements in place to help authorities meet respective duties.

- 2.4** The Council Meeting of 24 October 2002 approved East Ayrshire's Race Equality Scheme. This report requires each service Director to list and prioritise functions as part of a Race Equality Action Plan to be approved by respective Service Committees, with the aim of carrying out an assessment of these services against the General Duty contained in the Act. The list of functions require to be prepared by April 2003 and the assessment thereafter by October 2003.

2.5 In East Ayrshire, 0.6% of the population come from an minority ethnic background, predominantly Pakistani and Chinese.

3. PRIORITY LIST OF FUNCTIONS

3.1 Appendix 1 sets out the priority list of functions to be assessed by October 2003.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Nil.

5. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The recommendations set out in this Committee report comply with the requirements as laid down by the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 and associated Statutory Codes of Practice.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 It is recommended that Members:

- (i) approve the priority list of functions set out in Appendix 1;
- (ii) ask the Director of Educational and Social Services to return to Committee with the outcome of the assessment; and
- (iii) otherwise note the content of the report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services

JM/KG/SR
10 January 2003

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000
2. The Duty to Promote Race Equality in Scotland: the Statutory Code of Practice and Non-Statutory Guides for Public Authorities - Commission for Racial Equality in Scotland - January 2003.

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support, Tel: (01563) 576104.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR

APPENDIX

POLICY/FUNCTION AREA	ASSESSMENT PRIORITY
CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE	
FIELDWORK	TOP
SERVICES	TOP
CRIMINAL JUSTICE	TOP
COMMUNITY CARE	
HOME CARE	TOP
OLDER PEOPLE	TOP
ADULTS	TOP
FIELDWORK	TOP
QUALITY AND PLANNING	
RECEPTION & ANTI-POVERTY SERVICES	TOP
QUALITY ASSURANCE, PLANNING & REVIEW	MEDIUM
TRAINING	MEDIUM
RESOURCE SUPPORT	
FINANCE	MEDIUM
PERSONNEL	MEDIUM
PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT	MEDIUM