

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FORUM

Minutes of meeting held in Committee Room 5, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 22 May 2019

Chair:

Councillor Bert Thomson

Councillors Present:

Councillor Eric Holford, Councillor Katy Loudon

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Janine Calikes, Councillor Maureen Devlin, Councillor Mary Donnelly, Councillor Ann Le Blond, Councillor Martin Lennon, Councillor Joe Lowe, Councillor Jim McGuigan

Finance and Corporate Resources

A Bell, Personnel Officer; G Bhatti, Employment Development and Diversity Manager; G Bow, Administration Manager; K McVeigh, Head of Personnel Services

Education Resources

D Lindsay, Getting it Right Officer

Also Attending:

K Geatrel, Facility Head; V Rice, Depute Head Teacher, C Finlayson and N Miles, Senior Pupils, Stonelaw High School

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Equal Opportunities Forum held on 6 March 2019 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

The Forum decided: that the minutes be approved as a correct record.

3 Annual Report on Mainstreaming Equalities and Diversity – Education Resources

A report dated 7 May 2019 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on work being undertaken by Education Resources to meet the commitments of the "South Lanarkshire Working for You" Mainstreaming Equalities Report 2017 to 2021.

Details were provided on the strategic and operational work being undertaken by Education Resources, as it worked in partnership with other Council Resources, to develop equality outcomes to meet the general duty set out in the Equality Act 2010.

The Forum decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 21 February 2018 (Paragraph 3)]

4 “Our One Stonelaw Journey – Building Tomorrow Today”

Pupils and teachers from Stonelaw High School, Rutherglen gave a presentation on “Our One Stonelaw Journey – Building Tomorrow Today” which included:-

- ♦ the creation of a wellbeing database
- ♦ how wellbeing was being tracked within the school
- ♦ how the tracking information was analysed and used to shape improvements
- ♦ awareness raising and signposting arrangements within the school
- ♦ the next steps in the process, including how outcomes would be included in future departmental planning

Having responded to members’ questions, the pupils and teachers were praised for the work being undertaken by the school and thanked for their informative presentation.

The Forum decided: that the presentation be noted.

5 Equalities Mainstreaming – Progress Report

A report dated 26 April 2019 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the progress made to date by the Council in meeting its equality outcomes and mainstreaming equalities.

There was a statutory requirement for all public authorities to publish a set of equality outcomes and to mainstream equalities into the way in which services were planned, organised and delivered. Local authorities were required to publish an Equality Outcomes and Mainstreaming Equalities Progress report at intervals of not more than 2 years.

The Council had produced Mainstreaming Equality reports in 2013 and 2017 and progress reports in 2015 and 2017. The progress showed the action taken since the publication of the mainstreaming equalities report, “South Lanarkshire working for you”, in 2017 to further equality outcomes.

Areas on which the outcomes were focused and examples of actions taken to progress those outcomes were detailed in the report.

Details of the Council’s workforce figures and position on the gender pay gap were also provided.

In order to comply with the legislation, the Council’s draft progress report had been published on the Council’s website by 30 April 2019. When approved, the report would be published formally by the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

The Forum decided: that the report be noted.

6 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.