

Statement of Intent Race Equality Scheme 2008-2011

Blaenau Gwent Council published its second Race Equality Scheme in April 2005, in keeping with the requirements of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000.

In the summer of 2007, the Council received a positive feedback on its 2005 Scheme from the Commission for Racial Equality. The CRE feedback did not require the Council to rewrite its 2005 Scheme. However, it highlighted both strong and weak aspects of the Scheme. For example, the feedback indicated that overall, the scheme was good and this was an encouraging response; the CRE recognised that a lot of work had gone into it; a good practice point was the work the Council is undertaking with partners such as the Local Health Board and within the Multi Agency Diversity Forum and Race Equality Council. Specific work with Gypsy Travellers and Community Safety was also mentioned. On the other hand, the scheme was criticised for its lack of clarity in certain areas such as the lack of detail on the Councils Functions Policies and Strategies and the lack of detail on the Assessment process of these functions etc. In addition further work needs to be undertaken on consulting with minority groups within the community.

In summary, CRE's recommendation was that the revised Scheme for 2008-2011 should be more transparent, have more detail and be properly prioritised and followed through with a clear monitoring process and publication of results.

The Council have taken on board the CRE's feedback and recommendations and is currently developing a draft scheme to incorporate them so that we can build on the work completed to date on race equality and to move the agenda forward over the next three years.

It is the Councils intention to produce a draft scheme by July 2008 which will be agreed by Council and a consultation exercise to be carried out during August 2008 and a final Scheme to be agreed and published at the end of September 2008.