

## OPERATIONAL ISSUES

- Membership to rotate within each sector on a yearly basis after each autumn meeting of the Joint Consultative Forum.
- Reserves - if a representative cannot attend a Steering Group meeting it is their responsibility to ensure that a substitute is appointed to represent their organisation.
- Communication of Information - leaflet to be used to provide a brief update on the work of the Steering Group. All minutes, documentation also available on the Staff Commission's website: [www.staffcom.org.uk](http://www.staffcom.org.uk) or from,

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## STEERING GROUP MEETING - 26 JANUARY 2005 WHAT HAPPENED?

### DRAFT PAPER PRESENTED

'Broad overview on the Implementation of the Education Authorities Equality Schemes' The draft report provides a brief outline on progress made on all the key elements of an equality scheme. The paper is on the website at [www.staffcom.org.uk](http://www.staffcom.org.uk). The report will be updated prior to each meeting of the Joint Consultative Forum.

**Feedback** on the approach adopted and the content of the report would be appreciated.

### THE ROLE OF "INFORMAL" ACCREDITED EDUCATION WITHIN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM (WOMEN'S SECTOR)

Patricia Haren outlined the range of training provided by women's centres, the challenges faced due to lack of stable funding, the value of the training provided not just in terms of the skills/qualifications acquired but also the increased confidence which enabled many women to move into paid

employment and the context namely childcare provision and posed the question – where does it fit in terms of the broader education field.

The Department of Education agreed to consider the issue raised. A meeting is to be organised with Association of Northern Ireland Colleges and the Women's Support Network to explore how links could be formalised with the further education.

### CUTS IN PUBLIC EXPENDITURE – IMPACT ON SERVICE DELIVERY (RACE SECTOR)

Terry Heron, speaking on behalf of the five Education and Library Boards advised that as yet there were no 'cuts' in budget allocations; the Department of Education had not yet made its budget allocations for the period 2005/06. He explained how the budget was allocated and, given current under-funding of the five Education and Library Boards the likely financial impact of:

- the 2.5% efficiency saving to be achieved on a cumulative basis over the next 3 years'; and
- projected under-funding of Education and Library Board services over the next 3 years.

Terry also distinguished between the statutory and non-statutory services. He then went on to report on changes to the funding of the library service. DCAL are to specify how much should be spent on books and on maintenance, the remainder of the allocated budget will be used to operate the library service. It is believed this new funding mechanism may hinder Boards in maintaining current library provision.

### COMMUNITY/VOLUNTARY AND TRADE UNION SECTORS MADE IT CLEAR THAT:

- clarity was required, they needed to know what was happening and who was responsible;
- if the situation was as projected an impact assessment(s) was required.

It was agreed that when the five Education and Library Boards had received their budgets and formulated their proposals a special meeting of the Joint Consultative Forum would be convened.

## COUNT ME IN

### Exploring Cultural Diversity Amongst Children and Young People

Research commissioned by the Youth Council for Northern Ireland with funding from Department of Education. Research conducted by Save the Children in association with the Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities. Save the Children have asked that concerns of young people from our and other minority ethnic communities voiced in this report be considered.

Department of Education undertook to consider the findings of this Report and how, in particular, the recommendations at page 37 can be addressed.

## SHOUT

The needs of young people in Northern Ireland who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual and or transgender. Research commissioned by the Department of Education and conducted by Youthnet.

Department of Education to consider how the recommendations, in particular the appointment of a taskforce as detailed at page 19, be progressed.

## REVIEWING RE EDUCATION (BELFAST JEWISH COMMUNITY)

Issues raised by parents from the Jewish Community, included:

- RE scope for an inter-faith approach to the RE curriculum;
- availability of an examination in Jewish RE, developed in England;
- many examination dates are set for Jewish holidays.

EQIA scheduled for 2005/06 on the 'Revised Religious Education and core Syllabus', issues raised to feed into this impact assessment. In the interim Department of Education and Council for Curriculum, Examinations and Assessments to consider and respond to paper tabled.

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

Meetings of the Joint Consultative Forum have been arranged as follows:

**Thursday 26 May 2005 - Armagh Teachers' Centre commencing at 2.00 p.m.**

**Thursday 13 October 2005 - Venue to be confirmed commencing at 2.00 p.m.**

Sandwiches will be available on each occasion at 1.30p.m.

Produced by:

Department of Education, five Education and Library Boards,  
Staff Commission for Education and Library Boards, CCMS, Youth Council and CCEA

## Joint Consultative Forum

Education Sector

# Quarterly Update

## Arrangements for the Steering Group

Thanks, to all those organisations who responded to the consultation on the membership and operation of the Steering Group.

## Current Membership of the Steering Group

### Community & Voluntary Sector

David McConnell, Age Concern  
Helen Ferguson, Carers Northern Ireland  
James Knox, CoSO  
Anne-Marie O'Kane, Disability Action/Children with Disabilities Strategic Alliance  
Norman Richardson, Inter-Faith Forum  
Tansy Hutchinson\*, NICEM (Joint Chair)  
Sheri Chamberlain, Save the Children  
Patricia Haren\*, Women's Support Network  
Mary Field, Youthnet

### Public Authorities

Helen Leith, Council for Catholic Maintained Schools  
Lisa Johnston, Council for Curriculum, Examinations and Assessments  
Sharon Lawlor, Department of Education  
John Curran, Education and Library Boards (Joint Chair)  
Terry Heron, Education and Library Boards  
Deirdre Vaughn, Staff Commission for Education & Library Boards (Secretary)  
David Guilfoyle, Youth Council for Northern Ireland

### Trade Unions

Mike Graves, Northern Ireland Teachers' Council  
Tommy Wright, Trade Union Side of the Joint Negotiating Council

### Equality Authorities

Edel Teague, N I Human Rights Commission

\* To consult their constituent members and other interest groups in the Sector regarding membership of the Steering Group