

## Information Shared

### EQUALITY COMMISSION

'Sexual Orientation Equality Conference'

John Curran, Joint Chair of the Forum, will be one of the speakers

Thursday 1 December 2005

Contact: Roisin Mallon

### NICEM

8<sup>th</sup> Annual Human Rights & Equality Conference

Race Equality Strategy - 'From Drawing Board to Action - On the Ground Experience from Different Jurisdictions'

Tuesday 6 December 2005

Contact: Tansy Hutchinson

### NICIE

#### Inter-faith

NICIE is organising a series of 'Faith Seminars'. These will be open to the public. Further details will be available at the Forum meeting.

Contact: Dean Lee

### AGE CONCERN

Magic Me

Magic Me, based in London's East End, specialises in running arts projects which bring together young and older people and linking people from different cultures and contrasting backgrounds.

To find out more about Magic Me visit their website at [www.magicme.co.uk](http://www.magicme.co.uk) or email to [info@magicme.co.uk](mailto:info@magicme.co.uk). Alternatively, contact David McConnell at Age Concern NI if you are interested in this or in intergenerational practice more generally.

### STAFF COMMISSION'S/BOARDS' ANNUAL EQUALITY UPDATE

The third Annual Equality Update detailing progress made by the Staff Commission/Boards in relation to their Equality Schemes will be available on the Staff Commission's website [www.staffcom.org.uk](http://www.staffcom.org.uk) at the end of November 2005.

## DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on  
Wednesday 30 November 2005 at 2.00 p.m. in Antrim Board Centre

(Map enclosed)

Joint  
Consultative  
Forum

Education Sector

## Quarterly Update

Update by Steering Group  
October 2005

## Education & Library Boards Resource Allocation Plans 2005/2006

Additional allocations following the announcement by the Education Minister of an additional £12.5m for Education.

The Department of Education has stated that "*the additional funding is specifically to meet pressures across the school sectors related to special educational needs, school meals and maintenance, all of the allocations are earmarked*".

	BELB	NEELB	SEELB	SELB	WELB
Special Educational Needs	659,000	640,000	729,000	659,000	617,000
Maintenance	334,000	428,000	382,000	449,000	358,000
School Meals *	101,000	71,000	111,000	140,000	218,000
Total	1,094,000	1,139,000	1,222,000	1,248,000	1,193,000

## BOARD SHARED SERVICES AND IMPACT OF FALLING PUPIL NUMBERS

Currently £4 million is available to Boards for the development of shared services and measures to help address the impact of falling pupil numbers. This funding is **additional** to the £500k per Board and is conditional upon Boards submitting detailed and robust proposals.

\* This allocation is to improve the quality of school meals.

A number of proposals are being considered in relation to sharing services across the five Boards, a commitment has been given to consultation both with the recognised trade unions and the Section 75 equality groups.

The Non Governmental Organisations' (NGOs) representatives have requested that a presentation is provided by the Boards at the next meeting of the Joint Consultative Forum on the following issues:

- a) Sharing Services (inter-Board)
- b) Current financial state
- c) Projected financial position (2006 - 2007)

### English as an Additional Language

An inter-Board group has been appointed to explore the scope for the creation of a centralised shared service to provide EAL support.

The Education Training Inspectorate is conducting a survey this month of 20 schools to assess how the Common Funding Formula is 'bedding in'. The Department of Education are to lead consultations with Trade Unions/parents/children and the community/voluntary sector on the development of its EAL policy. It is currently looking to enter into partnership arrangements with NGOs etc. to ensure maximum benefit from this stage of the process.

### Anti-Bullying in Schools

The Department of Education has commissioned the University of Ulster to conduct research into the nature and extent of bullying in Northern Ireland Schools. The project is due to commence during October 2005 with completion of the final report by November 2006. A representative of the research team will briefly outline the project at the next meeting of the Joint Consultative Forum.

The Regional Anti-Bullying Forum, chaired by Save the Children, will be launching its initial 3 year Strategy Plan in November 2005.

The Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY) has commissioned research with the aim of 'determining the views and experiences of children and young people in relation to the development and review of anti-bullying policies in schools'. This research is peer led with children and young people from a number of schools and NICCY's youth panel having been trained as peer researchers to undertake

this work. The final report will be ready by February 2006 and a good practice guide will be developed in terms of schools working with pupils to develop school anti-bullying policies.

NICCY is aware of the University of Ulster's work on bullying on behalf of the Department of Education and will be liaising with the Department, the anti-bullying forum chaired by Save the Children and the University of Ulster in the course of its work.

### Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

The Equality Commission for Northern Ireland published its 'Guidance on Five Year Review of Equality Schemes by Public Authorities' during October 2005. Five year reviews are due to be completed by Public Authorities in the education sector as follows:

Department of Education	8 February 2006
Staff Commission for Education and Library Boards	15 February 2006
Belfast, North Eastern, Southern and Western Education and Library Boards	15 March 2006
South Eastern Education and Library Board	12 April 2006
Council for Catholic Maintained Schools	17 May 2006
Council for Curriculum, Examinations and Assessments	14 June 2006

### Local People Global Faiths Sikhs, Jews and Hindus in Northern Ireland

This publication is designed especially for Key Stage 3 Religious Education students, but which will also be of interest to other young people both inside and outside the classroom. It is the first of a pair of textbooks designed to introduce young people to some of the major world religions and their presence in Northern Ireland. The second book will feature Islam, Buddhism and the Baha'i Faith, and is scheduled for publication in 2006. The book was written by Stranmilis College lecturers James Nelson and Norman Richardson, in conjunction with the Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum and with contribution from members of our local faith communities.