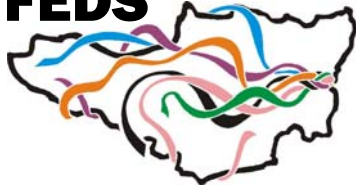


FEDS**Forum for Equality and Diversity in Somerset**

FEDS FOCUS December 2007

The Forum for Equality and Diversity in Somerset has been involved in the organisation of two exciting meetings recently:

Membership Training Meeting

In early October, 28 FEDS members attended a training session 'Theory into Practice', which was aimed at ensuring organisations know how to turn those equalities policies into actions that improve the environment in which they operate, both for their employees or volunteers and clients or users of their services. The session was very informative and well received, with trainer Ann Copsey, introducing members to suitable methods of action planning and impact assessing. Apart from the training element of the morning, members appreciated the chance to network, share experiences and knowledge, and asked for more opportunities to do this. We are therefore planning to organise 'Equality Worker Lunches' to take place once a quarter, as an opportunity for facilitated networking. All FEDS members will be emailed with dates, but anyone else interested in attending should contact Alison Mawhood or Nat Stevens through the usual channels, as below.

Community Cohesion Strategy

The launch of the Community Cohesion Strategy took place on 9 November at Hornsbury Mill, with over 50 people representing the Somerset Strategic Partnership, Councils, the Primary Care Trust, Voluntary Organisations and the community at large. The key note speaker was Ruby Dixon from the IDeA, the support agency for local Councils. Ruby was seconded to work on the Commission for Integration and Cohesion, having written and delivered a number of cohesion support tools and national guides (e.g. Community Cohesion and Action Guide; Leading Cohesive Communities, Our Shared Future). Her words on cohesion nationally were very well received and it was evident that she had done her research on Somerset and was able to make her talk very relevant to us. Delegates then looked at the issues affecting our County and the planned outcomes under the Local Area Agreement and spent the afternoon in workshops discussing the cohesion angles of these in order to inform the action plan for the strategy. The Community Cohesion Forum will meet in January to discuss the points raised and pull together the action plan, which will carry the County forward to a more inclusive and cohesive society.

A copy of the strategy can be found on the Somerset Strategic Partnership website, or can be obtained from the Customer Access Team at County Hall.

Email us: Alison@compassdisability.org.uk or Nats@compassdisability.org.uk

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