

17<sup>th</sup> December 2010

Dear Colleague

### **Joint Consultation – Equality Schemes and Action Plans**

A range of organisations working in Health and Social Care in Northern Ireland, listed below, are required to submit equality schemes to the Equality Commission by 01 May 2011. Our Schemes, which are based on a model scheme issued by the Equality Commission, are now presented for consultation.

At the same time, organisations have undertaken an audit of inequalities across all their functions, and developed an equality action plan to address the inequalities identified. We are also now consulting on our audit of inequalities/action plans.

<b>HSC Organisation</b>	<b>Website</b>
Blood Transfusion Service	<a href="http://www.nibts.org">www.nibts.org</a>
Business Services Organisation	<a href="http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net">www.hscbusiness.hscni.net</a>
Health and Social Care Board	<a href="http://www.hscboard.hscni.net">www.hscboard.hscni.net</a>
NI Guardian Ad Litem Agency	<a href="http://www.nigala.hscni.net">www.nigala.hscni.net</a>
NI Practice and Education Council for Nursing and Midwifery	<a href="http://www.nipec.hscni.net">www.nipec.hscni.net</a>
Northern Ireland Social Care Council	<a href="http://www.niscc.info">www.niscc.info</a>
Patient and Client Council	<a href="http://www.patientclientcouncil.hscni.net">www.patientclientcouncil.hscni.net</a>
Public Health Agency	<a href="http://www.publichealth.hscni.net">www.publichealth.hscni.net</a>
Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority	<a href="http://www.rqia.org.uk">www.rqia.org.uk</a>

Please go to the relevant website to view each Equality Scheme and Action Plan.

We recognise the value of consultees' input to our work and would welcome your views and comments on the Equality Schemes and Action Plans for each or any of the organisations listed above.

You will find a few targeted questions in each consultation document. Please feel free to use these as a focus to your response, or if you prefer we would also welcome your comments on any specific or more general areas by post, email, phone or fax as detailed below. We will also be happy to meet with you if you prefer to provide your comments in person.

If you would like to receive a paper copy of any of these documents please do not hesitate to contact us. Please also get in touch if you require the documents in another format.

The consultation will finish on **18 March 2011**. Please forward any comments you wish to make to:

**By email:** [Equality.Unit@hscni.net](mailto:Equality.Unit@hscni.net)

**By post:**

Equality Unit  
Business Services Organisation  
2 Franklin Street  
Belfast, BT2 8DQ

**By phone:** 028 9053 5531 - for text relay prefix with 18002

**By textphone:** 028 90324980

**By fax:** 028 90316721

We will then distribute your comments to the relevant organisation.

We also plan to hold a number of consultation events which we would encourage you to attend. We will be in touch in the New Year to advise you of further details.

A report of feedback received as part of this consultation will be made available.

Regards

Anne Basten  
Anne McGlade  
Sandra Calwell  
Equality Unit  
Business Services Organisation