

# **Terms of Reference for the Children and Young People's Services BME Groups' Consultation Forum (formerly LEA Race Forum)**

## **1. Introduction**

Children and Young People's Services (CYPS) is committed to working in partnership with equalities communities to improve the quality of services for **all** young people in Bristol.

The Bristol Challenge is to develop an environment where:

- Every pupil achieves well and enjoys learning.
- All parents have confidence in their local schools.
- Every school is a safe, appropriate environment for learning, has a distinct identity and the capacity to contribute to better outcomes for all in the city.

Improving educational outcomes is a key part of delivering the Every Child Matters programme in Bristol. This aims to ensure that every young person:

- is healthy
- stays safe
- enjoys and achieves
- makes a positive contribution
- achieves economic well-being.

## **2. Remit**

**The CYPS BME Groups' Consultation Forum** will act as one of the key mechanisms for the Service's consultation with equalities communities on young people's issues, and will run in parallel with other similar external fora such as the TEACH LGB Forum. It will have a direct link with the corporate Race Equality Forum.

Its remit will be to advise and influence the work of the Service and schools on race equality issues, and to work in partnership with the local authority, schools, communities, parents/carers and young people to raise levels of achievement and participation for BME young people and their families, and to monitor progress on implementing the BME Attainment Strategy.

### **3. Terms of Reference**

- a. To act as an advisory body to CYPS on issues relating to the Every Child Matters outcomes for BME young people, with a particular focus on the attainment, attendance and participation of BME pupils in Bristol schools, EY and other educational settings.
- b. To advise CYPS on its statutory duties in relation to legislation such as the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, Employment Equality(Religion and Belief) Regulations 2003, and to raise awareness of education legislation and policy within the BME communities.
- c. To receive regular reports on progress in implementing strategies and plans relating to BME achievement and participation e.g. the Children and Young People's Plan, Equalities Action Plan.
- d. To monitor progress on the implementation of the BME Raising Attainment Strategy and to make recommendations for future actions.
- e. To raise issues of concern arising from the communities, that relate to young people and the five Every Child Matters Outcomes.
- f. To act as a consultation body for CYPS on areas relating to race equality such as the implementation of Race Equality Impact Assessments.
- g. To participate in the development and monitoring of policies and plans that promote good practice in raising BME achievement and participation in school and other CYPS services.
- h. To contribute through comment and "good ideas", a variety of perspectives to the effective implementation of race equality policies and strategies.
- i. To contribute to identifying the barriers that prevent the effective inclusion and participation of BME pupils and to develop strategies for addressing these.
- j. To annually review the group's membership, terms of reference, and ways of working.

#### **4. Membership**

Membership will be open to any BME groups, or other community sector groups or partnerships which have an interest in race equality, BME attainment or the work of schools and CYPS, and other interested professionals.

There will be formal representation on the group from the corporate Race Equality Forum (2 places), and any successor body to the Bristol Race Equality Council.

There will be representation from a Headteacher from each phase.

All of the Directorate of CYPS will be members of the group, and it will be chaired by one of them, will be attended by senior officers from CYPS and other relevant services such as the Young People's Service, Neighbourhood Renewal Team etc.

#### **5. Meetings**

Meetings will be held at least three times a year in community venues or schools, and minutes will be circulated to all participating members. Any member group can request to have an item on the agenda.

Each meeting will have an update on the work of CYPS on BME issues as the Director's Report.