

Terms of Reference for TEACH

1. Introduction

TEACH is run as a partnership between EACH and Bristol LA. It will function as one of Bristol LA's mechanisms for community consultation, and will run in parallel with other similar fora, such as the CYPS BME Groups' Consultation Forum (formerly the LEA Race Forum) and Inclusive Education Steering Group. It will complement the work of the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Forum which is the Council-wide consultation mechanism with lesbian, gay or bisexual people, and the Rainbow Group which is an internal self organised group.

2. Remit

"To persuade, influence and work with the LA, communities, parents / carers and schools to improve the levels of attainment, participation of all pupils, particularly lesbian, gay and bisexual pupils and other young people affected by homophobia e.g. children of lesbian, gay or bisexual parents / carers. In addition, to promote equality for lesbian, gay or bisexual pupils, parents / carers, teachers and anyone working in an educational setting."

3. Terms of Reference

- a. To act as an advisory body to the LA on issues relating to the achievement and participation of lesbian, gay or bisexual young people or adults in education and lifelong learning.
- b. To work with the LA to eliminate discrimination against lesbian, gay or bisexual young people and adults in education as well as against other young people affected by homophobia e.g. the children of same sex parents/carers, or siblings or friends of lesbian, gay or bisexual young people.
- c. To advise the LA on its statutory duties in relation to legislation and sexuality as far as it impacts on education, such as the Sexuality Employment Regulations 2004, the five outcomes in *Every Child Matters* (DfES 2004) and The Children Bill (March 2004).
- d. To assist the LA in implementing national guidance relating to sexuality and education such as elements of the Behaviour and Attendance strand of the Key Stage 3 Strategy, the Primary National Strategy and the Primary Behaviour and Attendance Pilot. It will also complement and build upon *Out of the Shadow* – the Guidance to Bristol's schools following the repeal of Section 28 in 2003.
- e. To receive regular reports on progress in implementing strategies and plans relating to lesbian, gay or bisexual young people's achievement and participation e.g. the Equalities Action Plan, Education Development Plan.

f. To assist the LA in ensuring equality for same sex parents/carers and in removing any barriers to their participation.

g. To raise issues of concern with the LA, arising from lesbian, gay and bisexual people, that relate to education and lifelong learning.

h. To act as a consultation body to the LA on areas relating to lesbian, gay and bisexual equality such as the implementation of Sexuality Equality Impact Assessments, monitoring of homophobic incidents etc.

i. To advise other departments within the City Council on lesbian, gay and bisexual educational issues e.g. Schools' Library Service.

j. To participate in the development and monitoring of policies, curriculum development and plans that promote good practice in lesbian, gay or bisexual equality.

k. To contribute through comment and "good ideas", a variety of perspectives to the effective implementation of sexuality equality policies and strategies.

l. To contribute to identifying the barriers to the effective inclusion of lesbian, gay or bisexual pupils and to developing strategies for working on these.

m. To comment on other major policies and initiatives in the LA and their implications for sexuality equality.

n. To annually review the group's membership, terms of reference, and ways of working.

4. Membership

Membership will be open to any lesbian, gay or bisexual individuals who have an interest in education and lifelong learning, any partnerships working in the area or any other individuals who have an interest in promoting lesbian, gay and bisexual equality in education and lifelong learning.

An invitation will be extended to the Cross Phase Executive to have Head teacher representation on the Group.

The group will always be attended by senior officers from the Department of Education and Lifelong Learning and will be open to other relevant services as required such as the Young People's Service, Neighbourhood Renewal Team etc.

5. Frequency of Meetings

Meetings will be held at least three times a year within term times with EACH and the LA co-ordinating and facilitating these meetings.

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Educational Action Challenging Homophobia

www.eachaction.org.uk