

LEARNING FOR ALL - STANDARDS FOR RACIAL EQUALITY IN SCHOOLS

To: Community Relations Forum

Date: 30 November 2000

Author: Director of Education

A PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To provide the Community Relations Forum with an update on the outcomes of the recommendations made in the report of 14 June 2000.

B PROPOSED ACTION

2. **The Community Relations Forum is asked to NOTE the contents of this report.**

C RESOURCE IMPLICATION

3. There are no direct resource implications arising from the information in this report.

D SUPPORTING INFORMATION

4. The previous report to the Community Relations Forum dated 14 June 2000 introduced information about the new standards for racial equality in schools, "Learning for All" (Commission for Racial Equality).

E. PROGRESS REPORT

5. Since the report of 14 June, progress has begun to be made in some areas. It is important to bear in mind that the recommendations require further time to have passed before a thorough evaluation of the activities can be considered.
6. The key recommendations related specifically to the Local Education Authority, schools and governors.
7. With regard to the schools and the Local Education Authority a brief summary of the activities currently being undertaken are listed in the Appendix for information.

8. In addition the use by all schools of the Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Grant is being monitored by the Minority Ethnic & Traveller Achievement Service. Schools have produced a clear action plan as part of their school development plan and are required to set clear targets and outcome measures.
9. It is possible to report at this stage that schools find this particular target setting process difficult and are being assisted by the Minority Ethnic & Traveller Achievement Service. In particular the focus is on developing the skills of staff in measuring the rate of progress made by individual pupils which continues to be an area for future development.
10. In partnership with the Local Education Authority schools have identified their whole-school training needs for all staff, including governors and learning support assistants, as well as teaching staff. As a result a detailed programme has been set up on a countywide basis, in conjunction with the Advisory Service.
11. In addition, a small working group of officers has begun to look at specific Local Education Authority Guidance for schools on steps to be taken for reporting and recording racist incidents, including action to be taken by schools and the Local Education Authority.
12. The Minority Ethnic and Traveller Achievement Service has begun to implement several projects to promote racial equality. For example, the Early Years Consultant has set up a project to celebrate diversity of cultures, to incorporate a multi-cultural/anti-racist dimension in all areas of the curriculum and to demonstrate that racial equality should form part of the culture of Early Years settings. The findings of the project will be exhibited on 21 March 2000.
13. With regard to governor support, the Team Leader of the Minority Ethnic and Traveller Achievement Service will be leading training sessions relating to raising educational achievement and increasing awareness of the full implications of the "Learning for All" standards, and the associated implications for schools and governing bodies.
14. On 25 October 2000 Buckinghamshire Education Department was delighted to make a presentation at a regional education conference organised by the Commission for Racial Equality to launch the standards. Three other Local Education Authorities (Kent, Greenwich and Barnet) were also presenting their local perspectives on action taken to promote racial equality. Other speakers involved Stephen Kershaw, Acting Director for Pupil Support and Inclusion in the DfEE, Lee Jasper, Senior Policy Adviser to the Mayor of London at the Greater London Authority, and Shahid Malik, Chair of the London and South of England Regional Committee of the Commission for Racial Equality.

15. The DfEE are expecting to issue a code of practice for Local Education Authorities and schools which will encourage us to ensure all schools keep to the standards in "Learning for All". There is a possibility that under the revision of the Race Relations (amendment) Act. There may be an associated enforceable duty. Clearly it will also be important for us to audit Buckinghamshire schools in relation to Best Value Performance Indicators.
16. Buckinghamshire is currently planning to launch the standards locally with all schools at a conference during Summer Term 2001.

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