
Report To:	Education & Lifelong Learning Committee	Date:	16 March 2010
Report By:	Acting Director of Education	Report No:	EDUC/21/10/IM
Contact Officer:	Iain Mills	Contact No:	01475 712824
Subject:	Equality Champions (Education) Focus Group		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to inform Committee of the reasons for establishing the Equality Champions (Education) Focus Group and the role of this group.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Equality Champions (Education) Focus Group will raise awareness of equalities issues and act as an advisory group for Education Services. This will be the main consultative group for equalities in Education, and equality-related issues will routinely be referred to this group. Its role is set out in more detail in Appendix 1.
- 2.2 The membership of the group will be Iain Mills (Chair) and Maureen Irving (Education Services), Tom Tracey (EIS), Karen McPherson (Psychological Services), Kathleen Lyons and Liz MacKenzie (secondary teachers) and Carol Ann Crawford (primary teacher).
- 2.3 The role of the group is set out in Appendix 1. Through focus on the four strands shown, the group will help take forward the equality aims for Education Services as set out in the recently approved overarching equalities statement.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Committee is asked to note the contents of this paper.

Albert Henderson
Acting Director of Education

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 The corporate Equalities Champions initiative was launched in 2008-09. It was felt that there was a need to establish a consultative / advisory body within Education Services, and this paper and its appendix outline the Service's response to this.

5.0 PROPOSALS

5.1 An Equality Champions (Education) Focus Group will be established, with trade union representation. The group will meet periodically to consider and advise on equality issues. Appendix 1 sets out its role in more detail.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Finance

There are no cost implications.

6.2 Legal

There are no legal implications.

6.3 Personnel

Personnel will be drawn from the primary and secondary sectors, from local trades unions, psychological services and the education quality improvement team.

6.4 Equalities

The *prime* purpose of the group is to address equalities issues.

7.0 CONCLUSION

7.1 This group will actively promote equalities within Inverclyde Education Services through acting as an advisory group and identifying issues to be addressed.

8.0 EQUALITIES ISSUES

8.1 See 6.4

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 Appendix 1: Role of the Equality Champions (Education) Focus Group

Appendix 1: Role of the Equality Champions (Education) Focus Group

The role of this group will consist of four main strands:

1. To ensure that Education Services staff – including school staff – are kept well informed about the meaning of ‘equality’;
2. To identify equality issues across Inverclyde schools that need to be addressed;
3. To offer advice on further leaflets for schools in the ‘Equalities Advice Notes’ series;
4. To contribute to reviews of documentation and procedures as appropriate.