

***Drawn up in accordance with Section 75 and Schedule 9 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998***

**Equality Action Plan for Derry City and Strabane District Council 2020 – 2023**

| **Inequality** | **Positive action measures** | **Performance Indicator - Outcome** | **Lead Officer** | **Time-scales** | | **Monitoring** |
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| **Social Wellbeing - Health** | | | | | | |
| Leisure facilities are being under-used by various section 75 categories (i.e. women, carers, people with a disability, people over 65 years of age, ethnic minority groups) | Deliver a sports and physical activities programme to promote greater activity by people with a disability, women, girls, older people and those living in areas of high social need.  Review programming/opening times/concessionary rates and/or reduced price, free programmes to cater for all sectors of the community and introduce at least one new tailored programme to cater for each underrepresented groups | Increase in usage by underrepresented groups. | Director of Development | 0ngoing | | Service monitoring information  Data reported in annual equality progress report |
| Rural areas are more likely to suffer in terms of social wellbeing in terms of:   * Lack of local facilities * Lack of youth clubs and professionally trained youth workers * Isolation * Transport * Capacity * Communication | Review community centre provision across the Council area and update or provide new facilities | Communities will have bespoke facilities that will allow all user groups to enhance and expand on the services offered to the community | Head of Health and Wellbeing | Ongoing | | Monitored annually as part of Statement of Progress on Strategic Growth Plan |
| Physical access has been cited as a barrier to participation particularly in some Cultural facilities for people with a disability. | Council is working towards achieving Every Customer Counts Charter status for facilities | Success in achieving ECC status  Increase in the levels of usage by S 75 groups not only for people with a disability | Head of Business & Culture/Head of Health and Wellbeing | Ongoing | | Access audits  Service monitoring data |
| Lack of awareness and availability of information in an appropriate format affects certain sectors of the community – specifically in terms of the Age, Disability and Racial Group categories. | Review of Council’s Code of Practice on Producing Information  Roll out awareness sessions for staff  Prepare easy read versions of key documentation | Ensure all information emanating from Council is available to all | Lead Democratic Services and Improvement Officer (LDIO) /Marketing Team | Ongoing | | Carry out annual review to ensure that Council’s information complies with the Code of Practice |
| **Social Wellbeing - Community Development** | | | | | | |
| Barriers to people fully participating in public/political life  Under-representation from certain S75 groups due to a perceived lack of skills and confidence.  Women are significantly under-represented in elected office,  on public bodies | Review timetable of meetings times and incorporate where possible some flexibility  Roll out awareness sessions to staff on Council’s Code of Practice on arranging accessible meetings and events.  Develop a programme of awareness raising and confidence building to encourage people to play an active part in civic life, including building on events around Local Democracy Week. | Increased attendance and participation at meetings, consultations and events especially by women, lone parents, people with a disability where relevant | LDIO/Party Leaders | Ongoing | | Monitor attendance at meetings  Monitor gender breakdown of elected members |
| Women, people with a disability, older people and people from the LGBT community expressed higher levels of worry about all crime | Continue to roll out community warden scheme  Raise awareness of other Police and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) initiatives such as community warden scheme and “safer homes” campaign | Improved feeling of safety in the home | PCSP Manager | Ongoing | | Crime statistics for Council Areas  PCSP survey results |
| People from certain S75 groups are less likely to do voluntary work due to barriers which include:-  · Access and location/timing of meetings or events  · Language  · Stigma/discrimination faced by minorities   * Suitable opportunities | Develop a volunteer policy for staff  Raise awareness of volunteering opportunities at Council events  Roll out awareness sessions for staff on Council’s Code of Practice on arranging accessible meetings and events | Improved participation in public life with more members of S75 groups actively volunteering or supporting volunteers in local organisations and community projects | HR Unit/Arts and Culture Manager | Ongoing | | Monitoring of volunteers taking part in Council activities |
| Need for elected members to understand the equality issues of all S75 categories in order to best represent their interests | All Councillors will receive equality/diversity training to promote a greater understanding of equality issues and obligations | Residents will benefit from Councillors being better prepared to represent their views | LDIO |  | | No of complaints received about non-representation of issues |
| **Economic Wellbeing – Economy and Enterprise** | | | | | | |
| Lack of job opportunities in the Derry City Council area | Subject to legislation incorporate social clauses in all capital work with significant spend.  Identify investment opportunities for business which is primarily focused on disadvantaged areas. | Creation of jobs/apprenticeships for local people as per legislation  Creation of more job opportunities for local people | Director of Business and Culture  Director of Business and Culture | | Ongoing  March 2015 | Analysis of Capital Projects and employment impact will be carried out annually |
| Skill barriers for men, women and the young and older people, the long-term unemployed and people with a disability | Work with Employment and Skills team to continue targeting the long term unemployed and up-skill potential employees for employment opportunities  Ring fence at least 2 jobs per annum for people with a disability | Upskill underrepresented groups in the workforce to avail of any job opportunities  Have increased participation of people with a disability in the workplace | Director of Business and Culture  HR Unit | | Ongoing  January 2020 | Analysis of annual performance indicators from Employment and Skills unit  HR Staff Statistics |

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| * Under-representation of various S75 categories in entrepreneurial activity. * There is a general lack of employment in rural areas and respondents feel that there needs to be a balanced approach in the Council area to job creation. * Perceptions and barriers towards participating in Arts and Culture activities for all ages needs to be addressed to encourage the development of job opportunities in this area. * Lack of job opportunities for young people. * Skill barriers for men, women and the young and older people, the long-term unemployed and people with a disability. | Derry City Council will work with relevant stakeholders to deliver the “Strategic Growth Plan 2017-2032” | | Increase in number of local people accessing work as there will be Improved job opportunities for local people as part of objectives under regeneration programme | Derry City Council & External Stakeholders | | January 2020 onwards | Statement of Progress on Community Plan |
| **Inequality** | **Positive action measures** | | **Performance Indicator – Outcome** | **Lead Officer** | | **Time-scales** | **Monitoring** |
| **Environmental Wellbeing** | | | | | | | |
| Transport can sometimes be a barrier to accessing the civic amenity service particularly for older people, women, people with dependants and people with a disability | Raise awareness of bulky lift service to ensure everyone in the Council area are aware of alternative method for their waste disposal. | | Increased number of people availing of the bulky lift service.  Decrease in amount of domestic rubbish being dumped illegally  Cleaner Environment | Director of Environment and Regeneration | | Ongoing | Monitor uptake of services annually |
| Lack of understanding on how to use civic amenity service and recycling bins | All information and signage should be available in an appropriate format so that those whose first language is not English and those with low literacy levels can use the service properly. | | Information provided in a number of formats as identified by front line officers | Director of Environment and Regeneration | | Ongoing | Review demand for information in various formats annually. |
| **Training** | | | | | | | |
| Lack of awareness of the needs and priorities of increasingly diverse communities within the Council area when delivering Council services | | Ensure Equality module forms part of Induction training for new staff to ensure basic awareness of statutory duties  Provide training in the Equality screening/equality impact assessment processes so that staff can identify needs and priorities of all users when reviewing and developing services | No of sessions heldStaff will be more aware of the importance of consulting with S75 consultees will be involved in the review and development of Council services/policies | LDIO | February 2020 onwards | | No of complaints from S75 groupings regarding Council failing to meet their needs |
| Lack of participation of Section 75 groupings in consultation exercises | | Provide training in the Equality screening/equality impact assessment processes so that S75 representative group can understand the importance of their participation in shaping Council’s policies and services which may affect them | No of sessions heldIncrease in number of S75 groups who provide input into Equality consultations | LDIO | September 2020 onwards | | No of complaints from S75 groupings regarding Council failing to meet their needs |
| **Monitoring** | | | | | | | |
| Lack of monitoring data across Council services in general | Carry out an Audit of Inequalities  Deliver awareness raising sessions on monitoring of services  Internal monitoring systems to be set up | | Inequalities highlighted –  Staff more aware of the need to ensure that services are inclusive and available to all | Senior Leadership Team | | April 2020 onwards | Statistics gathered through Council’s monitoring systems to inform  Annual Progress Report  Data collated for audit of inequalities and Statement of progress |