



Operational Diversity – It's how we do business.

On 7 May 2008, SEFIP hosted the first SEFIP equality & diversity conference at Brighton Race Course. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive and a commitment has since been made to develop a further event. This outline proposal sets out the key aims for the new event.

Outline of proposal

The proposal for the second SEFIP E&D event is for another practical rather than theoretical event, focusing on operational diversity as a mechanism for improving service delivery to the public. By the end of the year, a number of FRAs will have completed an equality impact assessment of their community safety services across the six diversity strands. By collating these assessments, it would be possible to draw together the common threads and have an event which gives practical advice for how to overcome impacts identified. The likely theme would be disability which is perhaps the least continuous of the six strands.

Key aims

1. To identify good practice occurring outside the sector and highlight this
2. To continue to embed operational diversity as a way of improving service delivery
3. To demonstrate to colleagues from central and regional government that the south east is committed to diversity and is improving the service it offers to all parts of the community.

Venue

Buckinghamshire has already indicated that it would like to host the event and we are investigating the use of the Milton Keynes Dons football stadium conference facilities <http://www.mkdons.com/page/Gallery/0,,10420~1393705,00.html>.

Timescale

We would seek to run this event in late September 2009, after local elections are held and nominations to Fire & Rescue Authorities made.

Likely Speakers

Bryan Cope – Chairman RMB

David Rowlands – Chairman – Bucks

Charlie Hendry – CFO Kent

Ann Millington – Director HR and Regional Lead for HR & Training

Relevant disability focused charities esp in the field of autism, dyslexia and mobility impairment

Likely audience

We would aim for a similar turn-out to last year (120 approx)

All RMB Members

Reps from GOSE, CFRAU, CLG, Audit Commission, charities

E&D practitioners

A cross-section of managers from around the region

Funding implications

Funding has been earmarked in 2009/10 IESE funding to support this event