



To: Business Coordination Board

From: Chief Constable

Date: 02 October 2014

Equality and Diversity Update

1. Purpose

1.1 This paper provides the Business Coordination Board (“the Board”) with an overview of the public sector equality duty and outlines how Cambridgeshire Constabulary (“the Constabulary”) are exercising their statutory duties under the Equality Act 2010 (“the Act”) relating to equality and diversity.

2. Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended that the Board notes the contents of this paper.

3. Background and Legislative Requirements

3.1 There are elements of the equality and diversity agenda that are legislation driven and the Constabulary fully recognises that implementation needs to be progressed and mainstreamed. To this end we have revised our structure and convened the Strategic Equality Board. This Strategic Board’s remit is to meet the Constabulary’s duties and responsibilities under Equality, Diversity and Human Rights legislation and ensure the equality objective action plan is implemented, monitored, reviewed and updated.

4. The General Equality Duty

4.1 The Constabulary is subject to the General Equality Duty under the Act and must have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Advance equality of opportunity

- Foster good relations

4.2 The broad purpose of the General Equality Duty is to integrate consideration of equality and good relations into the day to day business of public authorities. The general duty is not prescriptive about the approach a public authority should take in order to comply with their legal obligations.

5. The Specific Duties

5.1 The Constabulary is also subject to specific duties created by secondary legislation in the form of regulations. There are two specific duties:

- Publish information to demonstrate our compliance with the general equality duty on employees and also on people affected by our policies and practices.
- Publish equality objectives

5.2 The specific duties are limited to requirements about publishing equality information and objectives.

6. Meeting the Requirements of the Equality Act 2010

6.1 Employment Monitoring – General Duty Equality Data

6.1.1 The Constabulary's Human Resources Department produces an annual employment monitoring report which satisfies our requirement to produce information on the makeup of our workforce. The information is published on the Constabulary's website and shows our compliance to be transparent about the information we have.

6.1.2 The Constabulary's Strategic Equality Board analyse the report and use the information contained therein to set further equality objectives as necessary. The General Duty Equality data report for 2013 – 2014 is attached at Appendix 1. Key points and a summary can be found on Page 17 of the report.

6.1.3 Information we routinely collect on service delivery (such as hate crime satisfaction, stop search data, and use of force) is disaggregated by protected characteristic as far as possible and published on the website in line with our specific duty.

6.2 Key Reporting Requirements – Equality Information and Specific Duties

6.2.1 Collecting and using equality information helps us to identify equality priorities and to understand the impact of our proposals and decisions on people with protected characteristics. It assists us to set our equality objectives and measure progress against them. It is not an end in itself, the information we collect is analysed to help us identify ways to eliminate discrimination, advance equality and foster good relations.

6.3 Information about Employees

6.3.1 The specific duties require us to publish information about our employees. This information should include the makeup of the overall workforce; recruitment and retention, flexible working applications and grievances.

6.4 Information about Policies and Services

6.4.1 The organisation is also required to publish information with regard to service outcomes for people of different characteristics. As a minimum this should include Stop Search and Hate Crime data, satisfaction levels and use of force.

6.5 Equality Objectives

6.5.1 The specific duties also require public bodies to prepare and publish measurable equality objectives which will help them further the three aims of the duty. The number of objectives set should be proportionate to the organisations size and published in accessible format. Subsequent objectives should be published at least every four years.

6.5.2 The Constabulary's Strategic Equality Board monitors progress on an action plan to deliver against the force equality objectives.

7. Governance – Requirements on the Constabulary and the Commissioner

7.1 Internal Governance

7.1.1 To ensure compliance with the duty and monitor progress against our objectives the Constabulary has convened the Strategic Equality Board as our governing body. The Strategic Board has representation across all departments and is chaired by Chief Supt Simon Megicks, the Constabulary's lead for the Equality, Diversity and Human Rights area of business.

7.2 The Commissioner's Responsibility

7.2.1 The Commissioner has a statutory duty under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 to hold the Chief Constable to account for the exercise of duties relating to equality and diversity.

7.3 External Governance

7.3.1 The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is responsible for assessing compliance with the specific duties, and for their enforcement. The EHRC has powers to issue a compliance notice if it believes an organisation has failed to comply with the specific duties and can apply to the courts for an order requiring compliance.

8. Recommendation

8.1 It is recommended that the Board notes the contents of this paper.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Source Document(s)	Cambridgeshire Constabulary General Duty Equality Data 2013 - 2014 Cambridgeshire Constabulary Equality Objective Framework
Contact Officer	Chief Superintendent Simon Megicks, Corporate Development Department, Force Headquarters