

**TAMESIDE COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICE PARTNERSHIP**

**MINUTES OF A PROVIDER GROUP MEETING**  
**HELD ON 12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2002**

**Present:** Annette Goodfellow - Tameside CAB (in the Chair)  
Pam Tweedie - Dial Tameside  
Julia Bentley - Trading Standards & Consumer Services, TMBC  
Alan Franco - CLS Co-ordinator, TMBC  
Michelle Brennan - Planning & Partnership Consultant, LSC  
Linda Walker - Partnership Secretary, TMBC  
Gill Williams - Tameside County Court  
Gary Collins - TREC (RDS)  
Elizabeth Simpson - Welfare Rights Service, TMBC

**Apologies:** Jim Gourley - Ashton and District MENCAP  
Andrew Shanahan - Beevers Solicitors  
Ahmed Ali - TREC  
Roger Thompson - Welfare Rights Service, TMBC  
Chris Clover - Training and Dev Officer, TMBC  
Trish Deaville - Pluck Andrew and Co  
Steve Moss - NCHT  
Manilal Mistry - TREC  
Peter Holden - Thompson and Cooke  
Penny Jones - Probation Service

**1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2002 were approved as a correct record.

**2. SOUTH MANCHESTER RACE DISCRIMINATION SERVICE**

Gary Collins, Legal Action Officer, advised that Tameside Racial Equality Council had now established a Race Discrimination Service which covered Tameside, Trafford, Manchester, Stockport and Salford. Work had been undertaken to establish links with organisations to explore the possibility of providing a service from existing locations. In the medium to long term work would concentrate on the development of a website, telephone information service and providing training. Leaflets and posters were distributed and providers were asked to help in publicising the service by displaying them at various locations.

**3. BEACON COUNCIL STATUS**

Alan Franco reported that Steering Group members had attended a showcase event in London on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2002 which was also attended by the other 7 local authorities who had received beacon status under this theme.

He stated that it had provided a good opportunity to look at the work being undertaken by other partnerships and he agreed to keep providers informed of any events being organised that would be of particular interest.

He also reported on the preparations which were underway for the local launch on 15<sup>th</sup> October. He briefly outlined the draft programme for the day and referred to the content of the workshops. There would also be exhibition space for providers to display their information boards, along similar lines to those produced for the assessment team visit last Autumn. He extended an invite to those present and to any of their colleagues who would be interested in attending.

#### **4. PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES BUDGET**

##### **(a) Welfare Benefits Take-up Project – Older People**

Alan Franco distributed copies of a monitoring form which represented a cumulative summary from 14<sup>th</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2002 which indicated that good progress was being made. He also circulated copies of a short report which stated that the project would contribute to a public service agreement which the council had with the government to increase the take up of the Minimum Income Guarantee.

##### **(b) Mental Health and Debt Advice**

Elizabeth Simpson updated the group on progress with this project. One senior and three money advice workers had been appointed and the recruitment process for the remaining vacancy would shortly commence. A referral procedure and advice sessions had been set up which covered the Hospital, Mind Centre, the Council Offices and Brindle House, Hyde. Visits had been made to Mental Health Teams and workers in the voluntary sector and arrangements were being made to contact user groups. The team had also received an invitation to speak at the North West Discussion Forum for banking and other lending organisations.

Elizabeth distributed statistical information for quarter ended August 2002 for information.

#### **5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2002.