

# Consultation on changes to Bedford Race Equality Council

BREC is planning some changes to help it become more effective, efficient and resilient. A recent internal review led to a small number of proposals for improvement and BREC trustees would like to hear what you think of them.

## The proposed changes are to:

- 1) **Formalise BREC's expanding role** - BREC is already working across the 7 strands of equality (age, disability, gender, race, religion and belief, sexual orientation and gender reassignment) and is developing partnerships to complement equalities services provided by other local agencies. This change will confirm BREC's expanding role.
- 2) **Formalise BREC's expanded geographical area of benefit** - BREC is already providing services across Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire. This change will confirm this wider coverage.
- 3) **Change BREC's name to reflect the changes in '1' and '2' above.**

## Why make changes to BREC?

### a) The strategic role of the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC)

The EHRC is a major funder of BREC's work and to safeguard future funding BREC needs to continue to expand its services across the whole range of equality strands covered by the new Commission. Recent EHRC guidance stated that preferred applications for financial support would be those which demonstrated an ability to provide services, "...for people who wish to bring claims of discrimination under the various pieces of equality and human rights legislation".

### b) The effects of the recession and social changes.

The slowdown in the economy is having a significant impact on the most disadvantaged groups, especially as unemployment rises and public spending decreases. BREC must ensure through its continued work, that those most at risk from the effects of the economic downturn are protected.

### c) A more competitive funding environment

One impact of the recession is that there will be less funding to be distributed by public bodies and public and private grant-making organisations. These funders will be demanding maximum impact from their funding and organisations who meet several of the funders' strategic objectives will be more likely to receive adequate funding to maintain and develop their services.

## How you can get involved and have your say.

If you would like to know more about the proposed changes, please download the consultation document from the BREC website: <http://www.voluntaryworks.org.uk/brec/>

If you would like to take part in the consultation, you can complete an online questionnaire at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RPZCF2Q>.

For further information about the consultation, please contact Joe Greene at BREC:

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The deadline for submitting your responses to this consultation is: **30<sup>th</sup> April 2010.**