

Women's Health & Equality Consortium



Working for Health Equality Using the Gender Equality Duty to improve women's rights in the public sector

Equality legislation can improve women's service provision where Gender is truly considered in all areas of policy making and public body functions. However, too often the discrimination and disadvantage that women face is not given proper weight, hence exacerbating inequalities. We are keen to see proactive public agencies who acknowledge gender differences rather than promoting gender-neutral approaches, and who are supported by appropriate guidance, training and resourcing.

We invite you to learn and share the practical knowledge and ideas of how we can make the Gender Equality Duty and the currently proposed Equality Bill 2010 draft non-statutory guidance more effective in tackling INEQUALITY.

Working for Health Equality: Information, policy shaping and networking events for women's agencies

Programme

04 March 2010 - London

11 March 2010 - Birmingham

16 March 2010 - Manchester

10am – 4.30pm

EQUALITY matters to women - with a powerful lever in the Gender Equality Duty how can we further use the duty to get better public services and support for women's issues? Come and have your say!

Delegate fee: FREE

Funded by the  DH Department of Health

To book a place at any one of these events please complete the attached booking form.
For further information: Call 07500 553813; Email - lorraine.dongo@ywca.org.uk



The Women's Health and Equality Consortium (WHEC) is a partnership committed to tackling women's health and social inequalities through building a shared understanding of the issues and the value of the sector with government departments and statutory authorities. The Consortium is working to develop the sustainability of the health and social care women's sector and support the development of its capability to understand and engage with the reformed health and social care systems. WHEC current partners are: YWCA England and Wales (as lead partner) Maternity Action, Women's Resource Centre, Positively Women, FORWARD UK and Rape Crisis England and Wales.

Women's Health & Equality Consortium

The Events explained.....

WHEC with the support of [W.A.I.T.S](#) (*Women Acting In Today's Society*) and [WAST](#) (*Women Asylum Seekers Together*) is running these events to provide another opportunity to focus on the Gender Equality Duty (GED) and its impact on women's issues and service provision. [Louise Whitfield](#) from Pierce Glynn Solicitors will run a short introductory session on the GED followed by case studies (see more details in the box below). Participants will explore current policy and practice issues, in particular the implications of current misunderstanding and non use of the GED by the relevant authorities. Evidence from the women's sector will be presented and discussed in smaller groups. These will help us demonstrate how to support women's issues/services.

The conference will also discuss the current [Equality Bill 2010: Draft Non-Statutory Guidance Consultation](#). There are separate consultations on the three draft guides, i.e. Employment, Services, Public Functions and Associations and Education which the Equality and Human Rights Commission is running (the consultation closes on 16 April 2010). We will look at the three draft guides choosing to comment on and contribute to the sections of the guidance most relevant to women with a particular focus on the health and social care sector.

Come and learn about the key developments in the GED policy and how these impact on the day to day lives of women in our communities today. Help shape policies the sector should be campaigning for as we move forward. **Don't Miss Out.**

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE GENDER EQUALITY DUTY FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH SERVICES

Louise Whitfield from Pierce Glynn Solicitors will run a short introductory session on the Gender Equality Duty (GED) followed by case studies covering various topics including:

- The gender equality duty: what it is and how it works
- How the GED applies to health services
- How you can use it to help users access services
- What you can ask health providers to do
- The law about women-only services
- What documents you can ask for from local health bodies
- Other sources of information and support

The aim of the session will be to enable participants to go away with the basic tools for finding out whether their local healthcare providers are meeting the gender equality duty, and if not, how to challenge such failures.

Louise has trained numerous voluntary sector organisations on the equality duties and brought a number of legal challenges to force public bodies to re-think the provision of services. She represented service-users of Southall Black Sisters to challenge a funding withdrawal and has recently acted for clients who have been refused treatment by their local hospital trust, Primary Care Trust (PCT) and GP.

Women's Health & Equality Consortium

Working for Health Equality

Using the Gender Equality Duty to improve women's rights in the public sector

Draft Programme

10:00 AM Reception and refreshments

10:30 AM Chair's welcome and opening remarks

10:35 AM Gender Equality Duty (GED) Today

Speaker : Louise Whitfield, Pierce Glynn Solicitors

11:20 AM Panel Discussion – how well the GED is working

Panel Speakers: Women's Health and Equality Consortium (WHEC)

Women Acting In Today's Society (WAITS) – only in Birmingham

Women Asylum Seeking Together (WAST) – only in Manchester

11:50 AM GED - facilitated Breakout Sessions (includes coffee, tea and refreshments)

1:00 PM LUNCH & NETWORKING

2:00 PM Equality Bill 2010: Draft Non-Statutory Guidance Consultation

Speaker: To be confirmed, Equality & Human Rights Commission

2:45 PM Equality Bill – facilitated Breakout Sessions (includes coffee, tea and refreshments)

3.55 PM Final discussion: Where do we go from here?

4:20 PM Close of event

04 Mar 2010 – London : 11 March 2010 – Birmingham : 16 March 2010 - Manchester

Women's Health & Equality Consortium

Working for Health Equality: Using the Gender Equality Duty to improve women's rights in the public sector
Booking Form

Fax back to: +44 (0)7092 981597 or Email to: lorraine.dongo@ywca.org.uk

If you would like to attend any one of these events, please complete this booking form. Please use a separate booking form for each delegate. Confirmation will be sent to you via email.

Please select your **event Location** below:

<input type="checkbox"/> LONDON Date: 4 th of March 2010 Venue: Mary Sumner House, 24 Tufton Street, Westminster, London SW1P 3RB
<input type="checkbox"/> BIRMINGHAM Date: 11 th of March 2010 Venue: The Birmingham and Midland Institute, Margaret Street, Birmingham, B3 3BS
<input type="checkbox"/> MANCHESTER Date: 16 th of March 2010 Venue: King's House Conference Centre, King's Church, Sidney Street, Manchester, M1 7HB

Title:	First Name:
Surname:	

Job title/role:
Organisation/Group:
Address:
Postcode:

Telephone:	Mobile:
Email:	Web:

Please tick if you are NOT happy for your telephone, email and web details to be listed in the conference delegate listing

Access Requirements (Please tick)

Wheelchair user Signer
 Other (please specify) _____

Dietary Requirements (Please tick)

Vegetarian Vegan Halal Wheat free
 Other _____

Women's Health & Equality Consortium

Commitment to diversity (Please tick)

To assist us in monitoring the diversity of conference delegates please indicate which of the following best describes your ethnic origin:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> White British | <input type="checkbox"/> White Other | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Asian British |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black/Black British | <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed Asian and white British | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed Black and White British | <input type="checkbox"/> BAME Other _____ (please specify) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Male | <input type="checkbox"/> Female | |

Interest in Event:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Professional | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|

If professional, which sector do you work in?

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary | <input type="checkbox"/> Community |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public | <input type="checkbox"/> Private |

How did you find out about this event?

If you need help with travel costs please contact Lorraine Dongo on +44 (0)7500 553813 or email lorraine.dongo@ywca.org.uk