

EQUALITY COMMISSION FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Public Authority 2007 - 2008

This report template includes a number of self assessment questions regarding implementation of the Section 75 statutory duties from **1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008**. This template also includes a number of questions regarding implementation of Section 49A of the DDO from the **1 July 2007 to 31 March 2008**. Please enter information at the relevant part of each section and ensure that it is submitted electronically (by completing this template) and in hardcopy, with a signed cover letter from the Chief Executive or, in his/her absence, the Deputy Chief Executive to the Commission by **30 September 2008**.

In completing this template it is essential to focus on the application of Section 75 and Section 49. This involves progressing the commitment in your equality scheme or disability action plan which should lead to outcomes and impacts in terms of measurable improvement for individuals from the equality categories. Such outcomes and impacts may include changes in public policy, in service provision and/or in any of the areas within your functional remit.

Name of public authority (Enter details below)

EASTERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL

Equality Officer (Enter name and contact details below)

S75:
RICHARD DIXON, CHIEF OFFICER, EHSSC, LESLEY HOUSE
25-27 WELLINGTON PLACE, BELFAST, BT1 6GQ
TEL 02890 321230

DDO (if different from above):

S75 Executive Summary

•What were the key policy/service developments made by the authority during this period to better promote equality of opportunity and good relations and what outcomes were achieved?

(Enter text below)

The EHSSC is entering the final phase of its operations and will be abolished in March 2009. As a result, the Council has not undertaken any new policy or service development initiatives in year.

As an independent organisation, which represents the views and opinions of the general public in all areas of health and social services, mainstreaming the need to promote equality into the work of the Council is essential to it fulfilling its primary role.

As a small organization the Council is provided with administrative support by the EHSSB. The Board screens all administrative policies, including recruitment and selection.

The Council did not produce any new policies in the past year

•What are the main initiatives planned in the coming year to ensure the authority improves outcomes in terms of equality of opportunity and good relations for individuals from the nine categories covered by Section 75?
(Enter text below)

The EHSSC is entering the final phase of its operations and will be abolished in March 2009. As part of this process of dissolution, the four Health and Social Services Councils have jointly commissioned Disability Action to produce a Disability Action Plan to inform the work of the incoming Patient and Client Council which will replace the functions of the current Councils.

•Please give examples of changes to policies or practices which have resulted in outcomes. If the change was a result of an EQIA please tick the appropriate box in column 3:-

As the Eastern Health and Social Services Council will be dissolved in March 2009 it has not undertaken any changes in its policies and practices in year.

	Outline change in policy or practice	Tick if
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	which have resulted in outcomes	result if EQIA
Persons of different religious belief	•	
Persons of different political opinion	•	
Persons of different racial groups	•	
Persons of different age	•	
Persons with different marital stage	•	
Persons of different sexual orientation	•	
Men and women generally	•	
Persons with and without a disability	•	
Persons with and without dependents	•	

Section 1: Strategic Implementation of the Section 75 Duties

- Please outline evidence of progress made in developing and meeting equality and good relations objectives, performance indicators and targets in corporate and annual operating plans during 2007-08.

Section 2: Screening

- Provide an update of new/proposed/revised policies screened during the year.

No new policies were considered or introduced in year due to the imminent dissolution of the organization.

Title of policy subject to screening	Was the <u>F</u> ull Screening Report or the <u>R</u> esult of initial screening issued for consultation? <i>Please enter <u>F</u> or <u>R</u></i>	Was initial screening decision changed following consultation? <u>Y</u> es/ <u>N</u> o	Is policy being subject to EQIA? <u>Y</u> es/ <u>N</u> o? If yes indicate year for assessment.

Section 3: Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)

- Please provide an update of policies subject to EQIA during 2007/08, stage 7 EQIA monitoring activities and an indicative EQIA timetable for 2008-09.

No new policies were considered or introduced in year due to the imminent dissolution of the organization.

EQIA Timetable – April 2007 - March 2008

Title of Policy EQIA	EQIA Stage at end March 07 (Steps 1-6)	Outline adjustments to policy intended to benefit individuals, and the relevant equality & good relations categories due to be affected.

•Where the EQIA timetable for 2007/08 (as detailed in the previous annual S75 progress report to the Commission) has not been met, please provide details of the factors responsible for delay and the details of the timetable for re-scheduling the EQIA/s in question.

(Enter text below)

No new policies were considered or introduced in year due to the imminent dissolution of the organization.

Ongoing EQIA Monitoring Activities April 2007 – March 2008

No activity due to the imminent dissolution of the organization.

Title of EQIA subject to Stage 7 monitoring	Indicate if differential impacts previously identified have reduced or increased	Indicate if adverse impacts previously identified have reduced or increased

2008-09 EQIA Time-table

No activity due to the imminent dissolution of the organization.

Title of EQIAs due to be commenced during April 2008 – March 2009	Existing or New policy?	Please indicate expected timescale of Decision Making stage i.e. Stage 6

Section 4: Training

- Please Outline training provision during the year associated with the Section 75 Duties/Equality Scheme requirements including types of training provision and conclusions from any training evaluations.

(Enter text below)

No relevant training initiatives were undertaken in year due to the imminent dissolution of the organization.

Section 5: Communication

- Please outline how the authority communicated progress on delivery of the section 75 duties during the year and evidence of the impact/success of such activities.

(Enter text below)

The Council provides a quarterly report to its members on all its activities incorporating any activity in relation to its equality obligations. The annual activity report is placed on the Council's internet site.

Section 6: Data Collection & Analysis

- Please outline any systems that were established during the year to supplement available statistical and qualitative research or any research undertaken/commissioned to obtain information on the needs and experiences of individuals from the nine categories covered by Section 75.

(Enter text below)

No new systems were established during 2007-08 to supplement available statistical and qualitative research.

No research was undertaken/commissioned to obtain information on the needs and experiences of individuals from the nine categories covered by Section 75.

- Please outline any use of the Commission's Section 75 Monitoring Guide.

(Enter text below)

Section 7: Information Provision, Access to Information and Services

- Please provide details of any initiatives/steps taken during the year, including take up, to improve access to services including provision of information in accessible formats.

The Council provides its complaints assistance leaflet in spoken word, Braille and the following languages

- Lithuanian
- Irish
- Ukrainian
- Urdu
- Chinese
- Portuguese
- Russian
- Latvian
- Polish
- Arabic

The Council provides its core 8 key information leaflets in Irish, Urdu, English and Chinese.

Section 8: Complaints

- Identify the number of Section 75 related complaints:
 - received and resolved by the authority; (including how this achieved);
 - which were not resolved to the satisfaction of the complainant;
 - which were referred to the Equality Commission.

There were no complaints made to the Council on Section 75

Section 9: Consultation and Engagement

- Please provide details of the measures taken to enhance the level of engagement with individuals and representative groups during the year.

(Enter text below)

Engagement with individuals and representative groups is a core function of Council's work programme.

As the Eastern Health and Social Services Council will be abolished in 2009 it has pursued a limited agenda. Two specific initiatives relevant to equality and good relations in year however, were:-

- Public engagement on Priorities for Action (PFA) (DHSSPS) target in 2007/2008 which included section 75 groups as part of a diverse programme of engagement on this subject.

- The Chief Officer chaired a diverse advisory panel, including Section 75 groups as a contribution to the development, by the Belfast Trust, of a Strategy for Service User Engagement and Community Development.

Section 10: The Good Relations Duty

- Please provide details of additional steps taken to implement or progress the good relations duty during the year. Please indicate any findings or expected outcomes from this work.

(Enter text below)

The Council is a co-signee to the Eastern Area Equality Best Practice statement on Good Relations launched in 11 March 2005.

As part of the Knowledge and Skills Framework for health and social care, equality (and good relations) is a key competency to be addressed in individual objectives. The KSF model was fully implemented in 06/07 with each member of staff undertaking training in its development and the drafting of their own annual plan.

Section 11: Additional Comments

- Please provide any additional information/comments

(Enter text below)