

Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency Report on Progress against Disability Duties Programme of Work

July 2007

This report outlines progress made in implementing the programme of work as detailed in letter from Equality Commission dated 9 January 07, 'Exemption to the production of a Disability Action Plan'.

The Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency (NIMDTA) works closely with a consortium of Agencies and Special Bodies on equality issues, including disability. This work is supported and facilitated by the Equality Unit at the Central Services Agency (CSA).

Responsibility for taking forward the disability programme of work and the point of contact within NIMDTA will be:-

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NIMDTA is fully committed to meeting its obligations under the new disability duties and the programme of work as detailed in the Equality Commission correspondence of 9 January 07.

Mapping Exercise

NIMDTA has undertaken collaborative work with the consortium of agencies to develop a template for the mapping exercise to include areas of mainstreaming, employment, communication, accessibility and consultation (template attached). This mapping exercise is currently underway, and will be reported on in progress report of March 08.

The design of the exercise drew on the experience of consortium partners, gained in the development of disability action plans.

Section 4.0 of the current mapping exercise relates to gaps that exist in respect of responding to the needs of persons with a disability and will assist NIMDTA in identifying potential actions to include in the action plan of the new Authority under RPA. Consultation on these potential actions is dealt with in the section on Consultation below.

Screening

NIMDTA has identified the benefit of incorporating questions specifically relating to the new duties into the screening template. NIMDTA is represented by the Equality Unit on an HSC-wide working group, which has recently been formed to develop a new standardised screening template and guidance notes for use across health and social care organisations.

Training in NIMDTA has been reviewed and updated to incorporate the new duties. This includes training in Screening, EQIA, Equality Awareness, Disability Awareness, and Recruitment and Selection.

Consultation

The Agencies and Special Bodies consortium has put in place arrangements for consulting on the outcome of screening exercises on a regular basis with a composite list of consultees; the list includes specialist organisations working in the field of disability. Further to this NIMDTA engages with targeted voluntary sector organisations in earlier stages of the screening process to seek their input.

NIMDTA, along with its partners in the consortium of HPSS Agencies and Special Bodies, has made the commitment to consult with disabled people. In order to maximise our resources and those of consultees, we will investigate the scope for utilising a wider collaborative approach to consulting with disabled people on the proposals for action plans in the Health Sector, with other HPSS organisations, e.g. Boards and Trusts.