

Equality and Diversity Panel (EDP)

Purpose:

A panel made up of representatives from community organisations that have an interest in equalities issues. Members provide expert advice on their equality area, based on their involvement with people with experience in equalities issues. The panel meets monthly to discuss draft equality impact assessments.

Panel members' responsibilities:

- Consider and comment on equality impact assessments carried out on council services, policies and strategies
- Identify any gaps in the assessment, and make suggestions on what should be considered in the assessment.
- Make suggestions on how services, policies and strategies can be improved to ensure everyone is treated equally.
- Provide information on topics tabled for discussion, in particular, putting forward their community's differing views.
- Feedback to their forum on discussions at the EDP, then bring any follow up comments back to the EDP.

Positive outcomes:

- Goes towards meeting statutory requirements to involve people of different ethnicities, disabled people, men and women, in decision making.
- Members of the community provide useful information to ensure that council activities are meeting people's needs and aspirations.
- Noticeable service improvement after feedback is acted on.
- Members of the community are more likely to support initiatives and change because they were involved in the review or development process.
- An opportunity for people representing different equality areas to come together and to share and listen to others' views and opinions

Membership:

- Southwark Race and Equalities Council
- Southwark Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Network
- Anti-Homophobic Forum
- Southwark Disablement Association
- Southwark Disability Forum
- Southwark Travellers' Action Group
- Southwark Pensioners' Forum
- Southwark Multi Faith Forum
- Willowbrook Centre
- Organisation of Blind Africans and Caribbeans
- From Boyhood to Manhood
- Southwark Refugee Communities Forum