

Scottish Local Government Information Unit

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Paolo Vestri Director

PV/WJS/9.0

30 August 1995

Mr Andrew Cowe
Chief Executive
North Lanarkshire Council
P.O. Box 14
Civic Centre
MOTHERWELL
ML1 1TW

Dear Mr Cowe

Please find enclosed a leaflet about a forthcoming conference **Opportunities for Equality?: New Council Services and Equal Opportunities** which will take place in Glasgow City Chambers on Monday 23 October 1995. This conference is being organised by the Scottish Local Government Information Unit and the Equal Opportunities Commission Scotland.

I am sure this conference will be of interest to councillors and officials in your authority. I would be grateful if you could ensure that the conference details are placed on the relevant committee agenda.

Yours sincerely

**PAOLO VESTRI
DIRECTOR**

Enclosure



REGISTRATION FORM

210

**Opportunities
for Equality?**

23 OCTOBER

Name and address of organisation:

Tel No: _____

Name and designation of delegates attending:

Any special dietary or access requirements:

Delegate fee: £60 + VAT, (£70.50)

Fee enclosed £ _____

Please invoice _____

Make cheques payable to: S.L.G.I.U.

Please return booking form to:

**Scottish Local
Government
Information Unit
(S.L.G.I.U.)**

Room 507, Baltic Chambers,
50 Wellington Street,
Glasgow G2 6HJ.
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Produced and Printed for the
Scottish Local Government Information Unit by
SALTIRE GRAPHICS, Templeton Business Centre,
Glasgow G40 1DA

Opportunities for Equality?

**New Council Services
and
Equal Opportunities**

23 October 1995



Scottish Local
Government
Information Unit

COTLAND



EQUAL
OPPORTUNITIES
COMMISSION



CHAMBERS
BERRIS
GEOFFREY
SOUARE

GLASGOW

Opportunities for Equality?

New Council Services and Equal Opportunities

This conference will bring together elected members, senior officials and the major organisations involved in shaping and guiding the development of equal opportunities policy and practice in Scotland.

As major employers, local authorities have played a large and important role in leading the development of good practice in recruitment and employment. Equal opportunities policies are standard in most local authorities.

Local authorities also have a duty to ensure equal opportunities in the delivery of services in order to counter discrimination. However, research shows that the policies adopted by Scottish councils to ensure adherence to equal opportunities principles vary widely. Many authorities have no structures in place to facilitate the co-ordination and monitoring of policy and practice on equal opportunities.

The establishment of the new councils in Scotland provides new opportunities for elected members and officials to work in partnership with the major advocacy organisations and local representative groups to consolidate the gains of the past in equal opportunities policy and practice.

Both the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Commission for Racial Equality have recognised the need for a strategic approach to equal opportunities policy in recent publications. The EOC's "Quality Through Equality" focuses on good practice in Scottish authorities, highlighting innovative service delivery and policy development. The CRE encourages the use of its new framework for measuring and developing good practice in "Racial Equality Means Quality: A Standard for Racial Equality for Local Government in Scotland".

The SLGIU and Equal Opportunities Commission have organised this conference to explore key issues:

- What has been achieved in equal opportunities policy and practice in Scottish local government;
- How discrimination manifests itself in relation to a range of groups and the issues of concern to them;
- How to integrate equal opportunities with service delivery and develop a strategic approach to equality and anti-discriminatory practice;
- How these considerations can be taken on board in relation to a number of specific service areas.

Programme

9.30-10.00	Registration & Coffee
10.00-11.15	Introduction & 1st Plenary: "What have local authorities achieved in equal opportunities and what new opportunities now present themselves?" Chair & Introduction: Morag Alexander, Director, Equal Opportunities Commission Scotland • Councillor Margaret McGregor, Convener of CoSLA Equal Opportunities Committee • Linda Knox, Scottish Local Authorities Management Centre
11.15-11.30	Coffee
11.30-12.45	1st Workshops: "How does discrimination manifest itself?" 5 workshops focusing on a range of key issues, each led by a representative of a national advocacy organisation: • Children: Celia Carson, Early Years Officer, Children in Scotland • Race: Martin Verity, Director, Commission for Racial Equality Scotland Richard Fenton, Director, Disability Scotland • Disability: Morag Gillespie, Director, Scottish Low Pay Unit • Poverty: Morag Alexander, Director, Equal Opportunities Commission Scotland • Gender:
12.45-13.45	Lunch
13.45-15.00	2nd Plenary: "How can equal opportunities be integrated with service delivery?" Chair: Councillor Jean McFadden, Glasgow City Council • Creating a strategic approach to equal opportunities: Neil McIntosh C.B.E. Chief Executive, Strathclyde, R.C. • Local authorities in partnership with other organisations: Anne McGuire, Depute Director, Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations
15.00-16.15	2nd Workshops: "How can we ensure equal opportunities in the delivery of specific services?" 6 workshops each focusing on a specific service: • Leisure & Recreation: Gillian Duncan, Women in Sport Officer and Kash Taank, Ethnic Minorities Officer, Glasgow City Council • Housing: Russell Rowbotham, Director of Housing, Dundee District Council • Education: Elizabeth Reid, Director of Education, Lothian, R.C. • Economic Development: Anne Hamilton, Women's Officer, and a Social Strategy Officer, Strathclyde Regional Council Peter Cassidy, Senior Deputy Director Social Work, Fife, R.C. • Social Work: • Planning & Transport: Sarah Boyack, School of Planning & Housing, Edinburgh College of Art (Formerly Central Region Planning Department)
16.15-16.45	Summary and open discussion — Lesley Riddoch, Journalist and Broadcaster.

Delegate fee: £60 + VAT (£70.50)