

Corporate Equalities Plan 2012/13 : Quarter 2

	Quarter 1 30/06/2012	Quarter 2 30/09/12	Comments on performance
Fair Access and Customer Satisfaction			
To ensure Cherwell District Council and our Partners treat the public fairly regardless of their background or way of life	G	G	Effective consultation events taken place this quarter via Connective Community and Knowing your Community methods. Faith forum and disability form planned in Q3
To improve our services to the older generation within the Cherwell district	G	G	Excellent progress against the Housing Strategy for Older People. Start on site has now been achieved at Cassington road Yarnton for the delivery of 50 units of Extra Care Housing. The scheme will be known as Erdington House and should complete by March 2015. This will complement the 130 units of Extra Care already delivered in Cherwell which is the highest delivery across Oxfordshire. In addition 60 units of extra care housing at Thornbury House, Kidlington are due to start on site in early 2013. Recreation Strategy for Older People is still under development.
To ensure all our services both internal and external are accessible to all Equality Groups at a high standard	G	G	One complaint received in Q2 on grounds of equality was not upheld.
Tackling Inequality and Deprivation			
To break the cycle of deprivation within the district (Brighter Futures in Banbury Programme)	G	G	2012/13 priorities and agreed actions established with relevant finance allocated where needed. Good multi agency engagement. Theme leaders in place. Successful Woodgreen connecting communities event in august. Review of updated data and partnerships governance underway.
Building Strong and Cohesive Communities			
Promote integration between communities and groups through the use of sport, leisure, cultural activities and opportunities for community involvement	G	G	The council continues to promote Taking pART, a scheme that matches community groups with an artist who will help them develop new skills, enjoy creating new work and participating in a new experience. Creation of a new joint post between Cherwell District Council and Thames Valley Police to foster good community relations due to start October 2012.

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Positive Engagement and Understanding			
Gain better engagement and work with young people within the district	G	G	Youth Councils supported in Bicester and Banbury.
Establish links with minority representation/community groups to help improve services	n/a	G	Cherwell Customer Services specialist attended events in Q2 in addition to Council Tax and Business Rates property inspections - Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington Job clubs, Disability Forum, Bicester & Banbury food Bank, Voluntary Organisations, Rotary Club Family Day, Nethrop Library & Horsefair Doctors surgery. Q2 has seen the disbandments of Oxfordshire Mantra Hate Crime Steering Group. In its place Cherwell district alongside all Oxfordshire districts and Thames Valley Police have commissioned a 24 hour hate crime reporting service called Stop Hate UK.
Raise internal awareness of diversity within our community	G	G	Three successful Connecting community Events took place this quarter
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Review and publicise all documentation in line with government framework	G	G	Data published in line with the government legislation requirements
Review CDC performance against Achieving criteria to maintain/improve standards	G	G	Self Assessment is due to take place during Quarter 3
Ensure staff and services promote and embed equality into their work	G	G	Cherwell's Equality Fair and Aware training programme has continued its schedule to get all office based staff trained by the end of the financial year. Depot staff training is currently under development.
Maximise output from the Equality & Diversity Steering Group	G	G	The Group continues to focus on equality compliance, training, complaints and subjects that impact on the Council. Next meeting will focus on the Equality Self Assessment and a membership review. and specific subjects that impact on the whole council