

**Cherwell District Council : 2014/2015  
Equalities - Quarter 2**

Ref	Objective/Measure Definition	Quarter 1 30/06/2014	Quarter 2 30/09/2014	Direction of Travel	Comments on Performance
Theme 1 : Fair Access and Customer Satisfaction					
CEQ1 1	To provide accessible and meaningful consultation events throughout the Cherwell community	G	G	⇒	<p>The next Cherwell Faith Forum planned in Banbury on the 10 February 2015. One of the key objectives for the forum is to continue to improve attendance and awareness of the forum among local faith communities and groups. This will be discussed at Cherwell Faith Forum Committee meeting in November.</p> <p>Attended the Ethnic Minorities Consultative Forum; this group is run by the Oxfordshire County Council to ensure consultation and engagement with different ethnic minorities living in local area. This was the first meeting of the group and one of the first objectives is to build on attendance (meeting attended by 6 people representatives of Asian, young people, representatives of local schools). It will be possible to link up with the group and to bring council consultations/policies for their review. The next meeting is planned in November/December.</p> <p>During this period the consultation wall was available at the "Love of Reading" and "Aspire and Achieve" Connecting Communities events. This helped to engage with local residents and communities; 3 people were keen to learn about volunteering initiatives and we were able to link them with Arch Oxfordshire, an organisation looking for volunteers to support young people with reading problems. Further feedback was also passed to the children centres.</p>
CEQ1 2	Monitor specific objectives related to older people held within the Recreation Strategy	G	G	⇒	A broad range of activity is being provided for older people either individually or in groups through a service level agreement with Age Concern and other projects and events. The recreation strategy objectives are being met on time and within budget.
CEQ1 3	To review the delivery of our Services	G	G	⇒	CDC capture whether their formal complaints across all service areas are linked to discrimination. Quarter 2 - 1 complaint received - Protected Characteristic - Disability. Complaint once investigated was invalid. Work is on going to expand the range of regular customer satisfaction reporting through Housing Services.

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Theme 2 : Tackling Inequality and Deprivation					
CEQ2 1	Continue to break the cycle of deprivation within the district (Brighter Futures in Banbury Programme)	G	G	⇒	The multi agency work targeted in the Brighter Futures wards has continued to supplement the core services provided by key partners. There have been many new initiatives commenced. The Cherwell Community Bank as the local credit union has been increasing its presence locally and is planning for a Sunshine Centre launch. Preparation is also well underway for the second partners engagement event on 3 December, this time focussing on the voluntary sector.
Theme 3 : Building Strong Communities					
CEQ3 1	Improve opportunities for community groups to work together to build strong communities	G	G	⇒	Approximately one third of Cherwell's population is rural. Consideration of potential impacts does occur in some cases, but usually informally. There is no mechanism in place for monitoring the regularity and consistency of these considerations. Street wardens continue to develop good relations with the Hub in prevention of CSE and the Prevent terrorism agenda. CSCP Action plan is being reviewed and those targets achieved or no longer viable are being replaced to reflect the Police and Crime Commissioners new plan for 2015.

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CEQ3 2	Attend Thames Valley Police (TVP) Advisory Panel to improve consultation & community relations	G	G	⇒	Attendees at the recent event had an opportunity to discuss some of the demonstrations which happened in Banbury in relation to the situation in Gaza. The demonstrations were peaceful and were not a police issue however attendees felt this topic should be raised at the next Faith Forum. This will be raised at the next Faith Forum Committee meeting in November.
CEQ3 3	Increase CDC's knowledge/understanding of wider community to ensure we fulfil residents needs within our services	G	G	⇒	Successful Knowing our Communities session with Dementia as the topic was held at both Cherwell and South Northants Council. Very well attended to listen to the speaker from Alzheimer's Society In October. Disability Sports Development Plan has now been completed and will be posted on the Council's website.
<b>Theme 4 : Positive Engagement and Understanding</b>					
CEQ4 1	Work with local schools, colleges & sixth forms to engage with the districts younger generation	G	G	⇒	Parliament trip and other projects planned for Local Democracy week. Cherwell District Council youth website is updated regularly. Continued attendance at Oxfordshire County Council quarterly meeting alongside community groups to review the implementation of the Children and Young Peoples plan.
CEQ4 2	Explore and establish links with minority representation/community groups to help us improve our services	G	G	⇒	In addition to Job Clubs, Food Banks and regular stands at venues to promote and provide Council Services, the Customer Service Officers attended the following:- Aspire and Achieve Sunshine Centre Event Connecting the Community Event Age UK drop in Banbury Play Day in People's Park Seniors Forum CDC Outreach Presentations were also given at:- Seniors Fair, Steeple Aston Begbroke Coffee Morning Stop Hate UK 24 hour Hate Crime reporting service is available to all within the district - plans put in place during Quarter 2 for promotion of Stop Hate UK for Hate Crime Awareness Week during Quarter 3.  Contact still established between Ministry Of Defence & HMP Bullingdon Prison via invite to attend all community engagement/forum events and to be involved in all Council consultations.
CEQ4 3	Raise internal awareness of diversity in community	G	G	⇒	Contact still established between Ministry Of Defence & HMP Bullingdon Prison via invite to attend all community engagement/forum events and to be involved in all Council consultations.

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<b>Theme 5 : Demonstrating our Commitment to Equality</b>					
CEQ5 1	Ensure the Council meets all government requirements	G	G	⇒	Cherwell District Council continues to monitor all Equality legislation to ensure compliance.
CEQ5 2	Review CDC performance against Achieving criteria to maintain/improve standards	G	G	⇒	Planning for the 2014/2015 assessment will start during Quarter 4 of this year with completion of assessment taking place during Quarter 1 of 2015/2016.
CEQ5 3	Ensure staff and services promote and embed equality into their work	G	G	⇒	The E-Learning module introduced 2 years ago is used for all new starters and as refresher training. In addition some sessions have been delivered via face to face training. Member training is a Democratic consideration that will be completed during 2015
CEQ5 4	Review whether Corporate Equality Steering Group is having beneficial service impact to the Council Steering Group	G	G	⇒	During Quarter 2 a consultation has taken place with all steering groups members where it was agreed that the steering group will become an e-mail group only as meetings are no longer beneficial and viable. These Officers will continue to be member champions within their service areas and a point of contact for the Corporate Policy Officer.