

GEO Policy Review

Response from Children & Young People's Services (CYPS) Equality & Diversity Network 13th April 2011

The Government states in this Policy Review paper that it is "*keen to get the balance right between appropriate regulation to help meet the equality duty and public bodies being held to account by the public and users for their record on improving equality.*"

We in the Children and Young People's Services Equality & Diversity Network feel that the previous draft regulations had a better balance and that reducing the amount of information to be published will make it harder for public bodies to be held to account by anybody. There should be clear requirements for the process and the analysis. We feel that relying entirely on members of the public to make the effort to acquire the information actually weakens the legislation.

In these respects we strongly endorse the comments made by the Institute of Equality & Diversity Practitioners.

We would like to see regulations that, in particular:

1. Re-instate the word "**sufficient**" in publication of sufficient information to demonstrate compliance
2. Re-instate the requirement to publish
 - a. equality **analysis**
 - b. the information it was based on
3. Re-instate the requirement to publish
 - a. details of **engagement** undertaken
 - b. including engagement on setting objectives
4. Remove the reference to "**one** or more" objectives
5. Re-instate the requirement to set out how progress towards objectives will be **measured**

6. Re-instate the requirement to consider significant national equality **issues** that may be specified by a Minister