



Reference: FOI-788

Request:

What is the council's policy on promoting diversity and inclusion in the community, and can you provide information on any related initiatives or programs?

Response:

The Authority's policy on promoting diversity and inclusion is refused in answer to this request under section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, information accessible to the applicant by other means.

The reason for this is that this information is published on the North Tyneside website here <https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/page/7696/equality-and-diversity>

The Authority has a Corporate Equality Objectives that include improving engagement with North Tyneside's diverse communities.

The Authority seeks to deliver its policy and objectives through our Embedding Equality Programme. It contains 6 workstreams one of which focuses on community engagement. Its current objectives are to:

- Appoint an Equality Engagement Advisor
- Develop, agree and implement a work programme to improve engagement with underrepresented communities with protected characteristics
- Develop more shared engagement activities with partners

Recruitment of the Engagement Officer is underway and they will be responsible for working with partners to deliver the work programme. This will build on existing community engagement activities including:

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- The Elected Mayor's Ethnic Diversity Community Taskforce which works with members of our ethnic and religious communities.
- Our Working With Events which engage with voluntary and community sector organisations across the borough, which includes organisations working with or representing groups protected under the Equality Act 2010.
- The work undertaken by our Participation, Advocacy and Engagement Team which supports our Young Mayor, Youth Council and SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) Youth Forum.
- Events and awareness raising activities delivered as part of our Equality and Diversity Calendar including our attendance at Northern Pride and the North Tyneside Together Event, organised in partnership with the Ethnic Diversity Community Taskforce.

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