



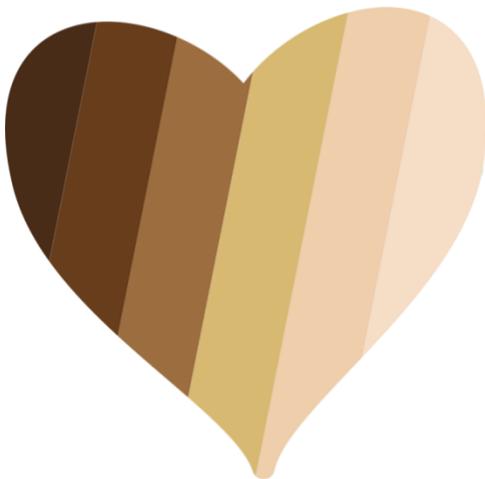
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Stevenage Borough Council

Establishing an Equalities Commission



STEVENAGE EQUALITIES COMMISSION



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Summary

The council has worked with communities across the town to form an Equalities Commission following the tragic killing of George Floyd in the USA in 2020. The Commission has been shaped through a community listening exercise and the appointment of an Independent Chair to drive actions for change and inclusion across the town.

Background

Following the killing of George Floyd in Georgia, USA and the concerns raised through Black Lives Matter movement, nationally and locally the council passed a motion to establish an Equalities Commission. A listening exercise with communities was launched during Black History Month with an Independent Chair appointed to support the formation of the commission. The commission has since formed with a strong community voice and the commitment of key stakeholders from the public, voluntary and private sectors. The council has facilitated this commission and has been keen to reflect on how it can further its own equality objectives.

Achievements to Date

- Conducted a town-wide listening exercise through various mechanisms including; faith groups, street-based engagement, business and employee engagement. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic digital engagement was also important.
- Recruited an Independent Chair to drive an objective community-led commission.
- Has secured initial funding through Cllr Local Community Budgets to facilitate its formation.
- Has pro-actively worked with a wider network of VCS organisations to tackle immediate health inequalities emerging from the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Has gained the commitment of the Police, NHS, County and Borough Council along with local businesses to respond to recommendations.
- Is pro-actively linking with other community-led initiatives to drive inclusion, such as the arts and heritage forum driving inclusive mural artwork (pictured).
- Has launched a webpage and a wider community voices network to drive future actions.

Next Steps

The commission is working through a number of themes of inclusion and gathering local evidence to shape a series of recommendations. The commission will report initially in December 2021 with a final set of recommendation in June 2022. This will also inform the council's own review of its Equality Objectives

For further information contact:

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