

## **UPDATE ON EQUALITY FORWARD WORK FOR DSSG MEETING 21<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2009**

### **Future of Equality Forward**

As you may know our funding comes to an end on 31<sup>st</sup> July and the Funding Council have agreed not to continue funding the unit. A sub-group of the SFC Access and Inclusion Committee are consulting on what support colleges and universities may need with regard to equality and diversity. This is likely to take 12 months. We are hoping that the resources available on the Equality Forward website will still be available during that period.

### **Current work on disability**

1. As part of our Spring Seminar Series, we are holding a seminar on 26<sup>th</sup> May from 12-4pm in Stirling Management Centre on “Promoting meaningful student engagement in equality issues”. Dr Helen May from the Higher Education Academy will introduce participants to a developmental project run by the HEA and the Equality Challenge Unit to further the involvement of disabled students in institutional practice and procedures. Participants will be given a practical tool to enable them to review the student engagement strategies they are using as well as critique how those strategies are implemented.
2. Equality Forward is funding SKILL Scotland to undertake a tailored staff training programme in colleges and universities throughout Scotland. Submissions were invited from colleges and universities and an Advisory Panel recommended that training be offered to 11 colleges and 8 universities. This will be rolled out in June and July.
3. We are also organising follow-up sessions regarding Single Equality Schemes, taking into account the recent publication of the Equality Bill. For universities, the session will take place on 17<sup>th</sup> June in the Albert Halls, Stirling. For colleges, the session will take place on 18<sup>th</sup> June in the Albert Halls, Stirling.
4. In collaboration with Scotland’s colleges, we are taking forward work on supporting student mental health by updating the Student Mental Health and Wellbeing website, including updating and developing new case studies on mental health improvement.
5. We are also collaborating with BRITE on supporting a seminar for both colleges and universities on 26<sup>th</sup> May in Stirling on “Visual

Impairment: Orientation, Independent Mobility and Navigation Techniques”

6. Equality Forward are funding and organising the administration of the Higher Education Disability Network Annual Meeting in Stirling University on 12<sup>th</sup> June.

**Finally, thanks to all those of you who have worked with us and supported us over the past 3 years. Suzanne Marshall**