The Treatment of Equalities in Regeneration Outcome Agreements

Report to Communities Scotland

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Executive Summary

- The majority of the Regeneration Outcome Agreements have a strategic commitment to equalities but vary considerably in terms of the detail provided to meet it. For example although a majority refer to the recognised equality groups only two attempt to systematically identify service provision that address equality issues.
- Equalities are perceived as a cross cutting theme identified as such in many ROAs. There are differences between local authorities in relation to the types of equality issues referred to.
- Equality issues are most commonly referred to in terms of community engagement and equality groups are treated as distinct entities by most ROAs. Some give consideration to the interface between deprivation and equality groups, and some ROAS acknowledge the overlap in relation to their outcomes.
- While the majority of ROAs do not refer to mainstreaming the concept is clearly evident in ten with a minority providing a clear account of their strategy. However the vast majority of ROAs adhere to the national priority, Engaging Young People, thus mainstreaming one equality group.
- The majority of the ROAs include a commitment to and provide some evidence of engagement with equality groups. Twelve have involved at least one equality group in the consultation process and another eleven ROAs are currently developing community engagement strategies that consider equality issues.
- The majority of ROAs make little attempt to specify the targeting of outcomes and outputs in terms of equality groups. However careful analysis indicates that many ROAs's outcomes are inclusive of some equality groups and that the provision of certain services is targeted at particular groups. The most frequently targeted equality group is children and young people, followed by people with disabilities; women (in terms of lone parents); ethnic minorities and older people. Only two ROAs identify activities in relation to sexual orientation and none refer to religious belief.
- The lack of consistency of information within and across the ROAs has prohibited the identification of the scale and funding of activities in relation to each equality area.
- The majority the ROAs make little or no reference to the monitoring and evaluation of equality issues. Few have an established monitoring system in place while around a third are developing or revising procedures.

- Only two ROAs explicitly refer to the equality legislation. The majority are making progress to comply with it In terms of engagement with equality groups but not in relation to the monitoring and evaluation of activities. There is a need for a more consistent approach to the disaggregation of data and indicators in terms of equality groups. Processes of engagement and monitoring need to be carried out n tandem.