

Progress towards equality: Reaching out to communities

Criteria for assessing local advice agency applications

Location

We need one agency in Scotland, one in Wales and one in each English (government office) region.

Membership

Agencies should be a member of either AdviceUK, Citizens Advice, Citizens Advice Scotland or Law Centres Federation. (Any other organisation you collaborate with to deliver the project do not have to be a member of one of these networks.)

Topic area

Projects must cover on one or more of the following topic areas:

- Equality and non-discrimination in employment
- Equality and non-discrimination in the provision of goods, facilities and services
- Public equality duties
- Multiple discrimination
- Cross-sectional discrimination
- Human rights

Grounds

Projects should cover one or more of the following grounds:

- Gender
- Transgender
- Marital or civil partnership status
- Race, colour, nationality or ethnic origins
- Sexual orientation
- Disability
- Age
- Religion or belief

Audience

The main target audience for the project should be the public. However intermediaries, suppliers and policy makers etc can also be targeted as part of a project.

Local advice agencies should identify their specific target audience based on their understanding of local need, their area of expertise and their ability to reach

that target audience. If local agencies are targeting intermediaries they should demonstrate how this will achieve outcomes for the public.

Delivery mechanisms

The delivery mechanism should be appropriate for the topic and audience.

Outcomes

Projects should aim for one or more of the following outcomes:

- Raised awareness of rights and routes to a solution
- Better understanding of rights and routes to a solution
- Improved confidence and skills
- Better integration of equalities and human rights issues in policies and procedures
- Better implementation of equalities and human rights laws

Budget

Local advice agencies should present a realistic budget of up to £5,000.

Capacity

Local advice agencies should have the skills, experience and infrastructure to successfully carry out a local PLE project:

- They must nominate a competent member of staff to take responsibility for the development and management of the local project, including publicity, monitoring and reporting.
- They should have a thorough understanding of equality laws and good practice.
- They should have a clear understanding of public legal education good practice
- They should be financially secure and have sufficient financial resources to see through the project.

Equal opportunities

Local advice agencies should demonstrate how they will ensure equality of opportunity and meet the diverse needs for people accessing their project.

Interest and commitment

Local advice agencies should demonstrate why they are interested in delivering a local equalities PLE project.

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European Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity - Progress (2007 - 2013)

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The Decision no 1672/2006 establishing a Community programme for employment and social solidarity – PROGRESS was adopted by the European Parliament and the Council on 24 October 2006 and published in the OJ on 15 November 2006. Its overall aim is to support financially the implementation of the objectives of the European Union in the employment and social affairs area as set out in the social Agenda and thereby contribute to the achievement of the Lisbon Strategy goals in these fields.

Progress' mission is to strengthen the EU contribution in support of Member States' commitments and efforts to create more and better jobs and to build a more cohesive society.

To that effect, PROGRESS:

- provides analysis and policy advice on PROGRESS policy areas;
- monitors and reports on the implementation of EU legislation and policies in PROGRESS policy areas;
- promotes policy transfer, learning and support among Member States on EU objectives and priorities;
- relays the views of the stakeholders and society at large.

The seven-year Programme targets all stakeholders who can help shape the development of appropriate and effective employment and social legislation and policies, across the EU-27m, EFTA-EEA, Croatia, Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia and EU candidate countries and Serbia.

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<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=327&langId=en>

