

6 February 2006

SHA Chief Executives
England SHAs

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Dear SHA Chief Executives

**Developing NHS guidance on Single Equality Schemes and
Equality Impact Assessments**
A consultation event for Strategic Health Authorities
To be held on Monday 13th March 2006
**10.00 a.m. – 15.30 p.m. @ ETC Venues, 51-53 The Hatton,
London, EC1N 8HN**

As you may recall, the SHA Race Equality Leads met in November last year to consider the challenge to the NHS in meeting the increasing obligations in equality and human rights such as the forthcoming gender and disability public sector duties. I am extremely pleased there was such a broad agreement as this event to moving beyond race to the wider equalities, in particular on moving towards the production of Single Equality Schemes.

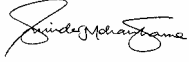
To help take forward your preparations for the new legislative changes (in particular the disability duty comes into force at the end of this year and the gender duty in April 2007), I will be hosting another SHA event on **Monday 13th March 2006**. I would like to use this event to consult with you on whether you would find it helpful to have NHS-specific guidance on producing a Single Equality Scheme and, if so, what such guidance should cover. We know, for example, from our previous meetings that Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is one area where there is strong support for NHS guidance. As part of the day, we will therefore be looking at EIA in more detail. We will also be examining the requirements and implications to the forthcoming disability and gender public duties.

You are welcome to pass this invitation on to your SHA equality lead, to your executive and non-executive director leads, or to colleagues with the equalities brief in your local NHS. This letter will also be sent out to colleagues in your organisation via the other communication mechanisms including the HR Directors bulletin and the bulletin for Non-Executive Directors. I enclose an application form for the workshop. Please return completed forms to Evelyne Doh at **singleequalityscheme@dh.gsi.gov**.

I look forward to seeing you or your representatives on Monday 13th March 2005.

Equality and Human Rights Group

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Surinder Sharma', written in a cursive style.

Surinder Sharma
National Director of Equality and Human Rights



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APPLICATION FORM

First Name _____

Surname _____

Job Title _____

Organisation _____

Address _____

_____ Post code _____

Tel no _____ Email _____

Special Requirements (*e.g. hearing loop, wheelchair access, vegetarian, gluten free etc*)



Please return this form by 28th February by email to Evelyne Doh at
singleequalityscheme@dh.gsi.gov.uk or by fax to 0207 972 1663.