

# **Procurement and the Equality Standard**

**Mandy Wright**  
**14 February 2008**





# Procurement and the Standard

---

- **Why getting this right is important**
- **What I would look for if I was assessing your authority**
- **Where to look for evidence**
- **Doing all this more efficiently and effectively**

# Why getting procurement right is important

---

- **Crucial to achieving standard**
- **The three statutory equalities duties apply to procurement and cannot be delegated**
- **Procurement key to service transformation and greater efficiency**
- **Government commitment to third sector commissioning**
- **Opening opportunities to BME and other 'diverse' suppliers**

# What I would look for on equalities and procurement

---

- **A confident approach**
- **A knowledgeable approach**
- **Corporate and departmental action**
- **Clarity about liabilities and who owns them**
- **Understanding of relevance and proportionality**

# What I would look for on equalities and procurement

---

- **EIAs reflected in contracts - and done for contracting process itself**
- **Monitoring *and* good contract management in place**
- **Consideration of impact on suppliers**
- **A partnership approach**
- **Consideration of equalities issues at key stages of procurement**

# What I would look for at each stage of procurement

---

- **Renewing a contract**
- **Writing the specification for the service**
- **Drafting contract conditions**
- **Advertising the contract and deciding who to invite to tender**
- **Evaluating bids and awarding the contract**
- **Monitoring and managing the contract**

## Where would I look for evidence?

---

- **Corporate and departmental policies and protocols on procurement**
- **EIAs**
- **In contracts!**
  - **If not in the contract, unlikely to get done**
- **Minutes of contract management meetings**



## **Doing all this more efficiently and effectively**

---

**By working together and by sharing good practice**

- **Regional/national common pre-qual process**
  - **which would include post contract monitoring**
- **More common contract clauses**
- **Library of shared service specific specs and clauses**
- **Clever use of Community of Practice**
- **Development of training support with new RIEPs**

To register your interest in the Equalities and Procurement Community of Practice please visit:  
[www.communities.idea.gov.uk](http://www.communities.idea.gov.uk)

For more information on IDeA: [www.idea.gov.uk](http://www.idea.gov.uk)

For more information on equalities and procurement and on using a common pre-qualification standard, contact:  
[mandy.wright@idea.gov.uk](mailto:mandy.wright@idea.gov.uk)