

This report was considered at the meeting of the Crime and Community Safety Partnership on 9 June 1999

STEPHEN LAWRENCE INQUIRY

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1. Purpose

- 1.1 To inform the Partnership of the implications of the *Stephen Lawrence Inquiry* with regard to community safety issues.
- 1.2 To recommend a special meeting of the Partnership to discuss implementation of an appropriate action plan.

2. Summary

- 2.1 The attached document forms part of a report that was prepared for consideration by Milton Keynes Council in April 1999. It summarises the main recommendations of the *Stephen Lawrence Inquiry* in respect of local councils. It also summarises the response of the Home Office to these recommendations.
- 2.2 The Home Office has recommended that the multi-agency implications of the inquiry report should be overseen by local crime reduction partnerships. The Society of Local Authority Chief Executives, *Solace*, has made an additional recommendation that the partnerships should convene a special meeting, to be attended by the local Director of Racial Equality, in order to devise an appropriate response to the inquiry recommendations.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That the Partnership should convene an additional meeting to consider the implications of the *Stephen Lawrence Inquiry* and devise a suitable action plan in respect of the various crime reduction agencies in Milton Keynes.
- 3.2 That the Director of Racial Equality and the Chair of the Racial Equality Council should be invited to attend this meeting.
- 3.3 That the Director of Education and Early Years and the Head of Human Resources for Milton Keynes Council should also be invited to attend. Partnership members may also wish to invite other relevant persons.

- 3.4 It is recommended that the meeting be held on Friday 2 July from 3.30 – 5.30 pm in Room 4 Civic Offices, as this time appears to be convenient to the representatives from the Racial Equality Council.

4. **Background**

4.1 Background issues are discussed in the attached report.

5. **Issues and Choices**

5.1 There are a number of recommendations in the inquiry report that can be tackled effectively only by a co-ordinated multi-agency response. These recommendations are summarised below and are examined in more detail in the attached report.

5.2 Recommendations 12 to 17 concern the reporting of racist incidents and crimes. They envisage the creation of “...*a comprehensive system of reporting and recording of all racist incidents and crimes*”. They also propose a radical extension of reporting centres, to include schools and other facilities used by the public.

5.3 Recommendations 48 to 54 concern the establishment of universal training for the police service in racism awareness and valuing cultural diversity. They suggest that local councils and police should consider setting up joint training in these areas.

5.4 Recommendations 67 to 69 set out the implications for schools, and advocate a pro-active approach by local authorities and school governors to combat prevent and address racism.

5.5 Other relevant recommendations concern the recruitment and retention of staff from minority ethnic communities, the need to ensure and update first aid training for front line staff and the promotion of community initiatives aimed at promoting cultural diversity and addressing racism.

6. **Implications**

6.1 Environmental

See attached report.

6.2 Equalities

See attached report.

6.3 Financial

There are likely to be considerable costs involved in implementing all aspects of the inquiry recommendations. In the short term, the training costs alone are likely to be significant, although there may be some economies of scale if joint training is to be considered as a viable option.

6.4 Legal

See attached report.

6.5 Staff and Accommodation

See attached report.

7. **Conclusions**

- 7.1 Any action plan devised by the Partnership in response to the *Stephen Lawrence Inquiry* should address the recommendations listed above in the light of the Home Office response. The main issues are summarised and discussed in the attached report.

Background Papers: The Stephen Lawrence Report (February 1999)
The Home Office Action Plan (April 1999)

Attachments: The Stephen Lawrence Inquiry: Implications for Milton Keynes Council (an extract)