

## **1. SUMMARY**

The Equality and Human Rights Commission has requested meetings with all community planning partnerships. Ros Micklem, National Director of the Equality and Human Rights Commission Scotland, will meet with the full Community Planning Partnership on Friday 28 November 2008. Background to the Commission and further details about the seminar are provided below.

## **2. DETAIL**

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is an independent body that was established in October 2007 as a result of the Equality Act 2006. It replaced the separate commissions that existed previously: Race Equality Commission, Disability Rights Commission and Equal Opportunities Commission.

The aim of the Equality and Human Rights Commission is to reduce inequality, eliminate discrimination, strengthen good relations, and to promote and protect human rights.

The purpose of the informal seminar on 28 November is to start a conversation between the Commission and community planning partners. Ros Micklem will lead a discussion including the following topics:

- a summary of the Commission's role and current priorities
- an update from partners on our achievements in equalities work and current developments
- any concerns / issues that partners have (including any thoughts about how the Commission could add value to our work)
- an overview of the Public Sector Equality Duties, the Commission's role in supporting and enforcing them, and the relationship of the Duties with the Concordat and the Single Outcome Agreement
- any views from partners on the proposals for the new Equality Bill and any hopes in terms of Scotland-specific implementation.

## **3. ACTION**

Partners are invited to suggest items for the agenda and advise whether there are other topics that they would like to be included. Please contact Jennifer Swanson, Argyll and Bute Council, by 10 November 2008 with any feedback.