

**Minutes of First Equal Network Meeting on
Hodson-Bay – 29th Feb. – 11.30 a.m. – 12.30**

Present: Liz Moran, M + C Specialtlers, Joe LeCumbre, Alan Lee, IO Systems, Enda Maloney, Hodson-Bay, Nicola Brownrigg, Alienware, Joe Ryan Athlone Extrusions, Tom Ryan, and Brian Friel Ganlys Hardware, Brendan O’Flaherty Right Price Tiles, Credit Union, Olive Grove

Apologies: Tony Derwin, Vitabond, Michelle Balacianu, Radisson SAS Athlone, Anne McNally Stella Maris Nursing Home, Marian Noonan One Direct (attending lunch) Linda Murray One Direct (attending lunch), Nick Moran, Athlone Town Football Club (attending lunch), Prince of Wales Hotel

Equality Officers Network

The first hour and a quarter was facilitated by Andy Pearce from Collane HR

A. Pierce introduced the idea of the network, where people can help each other in developing their equality policies and help each other with difficulties, sharing problems, issues of concern and generally helping each other out. In order to develop the network people will have to attend regular monthly meetings.

A. Pearce introduced the business case for implementing Equality in the workplace and the study completed by the Equality Authority. This was followed by a brief discussion on the business case for Equality.

Introduction to Dr. Carol Baxter Equality Authority

Agreement to the next network meeting to take place on Friday 4th April in the chamber offices in Magazine Road.

Agreement and general support for forging ahead and organise a couple of activities for network

Agenda for 4th April will be Review Complaint and Communication Process

Adjourned for lunch for **Work Life Balance Day Friday 29th February 2008**

Work Life Balance

This day, which has been marked annually since 2001, was initiated by the National Framework Committee for Work Life Balance Policies. They encourage and assist businesses to put in place a range of flexible working arrangements which help people to combine employment with other responsibilities and choices in their lives in the achievement of work life balance. These initiatives range from study leave flexible start times, e-working, part-time working, job-sharing and a wide range of other initiatives.