

Black Members' Officer report for 2021/2022

UNISON Devon County Branch

My activities as Black Members Officer over the last year have mainly centred on work that has fed into the Race Equality Audit that was commissioned by Devon County Council (DCC).

'Let's Explore Race' Mentoring scheme:

As reported last year, I was one of the participants on to the 'Let's Explore Race' Mentoring scheme set up by DCC. The aim of the scheme was to help inform and educate senior management at DCC about issues related to Race, by them being mentored by a member of staff from an ethnically diverse background.

Points of learning from the scheme have now been released in the Race Equality Audit that DCC has recently published.

Race Equality Audit:

The Audit has now been released, as Phil Norrey has noted in his recent email communications. I was one of four members of staff who attended a meeting with Leadership Group *before* the document was published. We were invited so we could give them our views during their discussion about the Race Equality Audit. Leadership Group were very receptive to the points that were put to them as well as points raised by the Race Equality Audit.

I would encourage everyone at Devon County UNISON to read the document as it is damning and should be taken heed of. If any members want to speak with me about it, please feel free to get in touch. More information and related downloads can be found at: [Race Equality Audit 2021 - Equality and Diversity \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/race-equality-audit-2021)

Equality Reference Group:

I continue to work with the Equality Reference Group as the Trade Union rep. Due to Covid, the group has not met all that much over the last year. One activity that I was involved with for the group was helping to deliver Induction Training entitled 'Understanding and Supporting Devon's Diverse Communities', for DCC's new intake of councillors. The training was well received although there were only a handful of councillors in attendance.

Respect Show on Phonic FM (www.phonic.fm):

The show is sponsored by our branch and it aims to promote diversity through music. After having done a few shows as a guest since 2019, I was offered a slot on the rota to host the Respect Show (roughly once a month). Therefore, since September 2021 I have been hosting the show on my own. Shows I have done have been uploaded to Mixcloud so they can be heard again, including a special I did for Black History Month in Oct 2020. A link to the page where all my shows are listed is: <https://mixcloud.com/raj-prashar>

Raj Prashar, Black Members Officer, UNISON Devon County branch, 4th February 2022