

24th Jan 2006

Diversity a growing issue as Lyons Review bites

By 2010 several thousand civil service jobs will be relocated outside London and the Greater South east following the Lyons Review. Developing workplace diversity is set to become a real issue as the relocations begin. Kanthi Ford of KFVC was speaking to a group of Local Authorities and City Development Agencies in Cardiff recently as she counselled them to look to their current provision:

“The size and cultural diversity of London makes it difficult to find the range and breadth of facilities, networks, cultural activities and meeting places for ethnic minority groups, found in any other area of the country. Traditionally London has easily identified areas where groups from particular minority groups live, can shop, speak their own language, worship and expect reasonable services such as GPs, hospitals and schools to be tailored to their particular requirements. People from many ethnic minority groups have stronger family ties and are more likely to expect to care for older family members and rely on childcare from an extended family.

In addition, London has concentrations of white people from different nationalities, particularly with the expansion of the EU, who will not have English as their first language.”

Many cities are not being as proactive as they could be in making adequate provision for all.