

## **Chair's Report 2013**

We have had a very productive year rolling out and consolidating our Accreditation process. We now have one Level 1 member and 10 Level 2 registered members, and several more who are close to achieving this. It is thanks to the sterling work of Kate Hinton and Ruth Wilson both members of the board that have honed the requirements of the evidence needed to be submitted. They have also developed better supporting processes for applicants through mentoring by our registered members. We would not have been able to develop the Accreditation without the external and independent support of the following:

Stuart Speeden (Independent), Simon Langley (National Grid), Paul Carswell (Crown Prosecution Service), Steve Rouse, Barry Fitzpatrick (Board Member) and Irene Gedalof (London Metropolitan University). Also our Registered Members who sit on the Accreditation Panel and also act as mentors for new applicants.

When we started it was with the purpose of creating a well-regarded, independent body to set and maintain high standards for our sector. As Chair I am immensely proud of the fact that we are well on our way to achieving this ambition. Money has of course been an inhibitor with some of our members losing their jobs especially in the public sector but we are proud to note that membership numbers have not dropped though they have not increased as fast as we would wish. The LinkedIn group was without a moderator for a period and we are pleased that Caroline Jones is well enough to resume moderating this important group. One difficult issue came to our attention recently which we have now modified, that was an impression created by the wording of the LinkedIn group that membership of the group also conferred membership of the Institute. It does not, there are nearly 1700 LinkedIn members and far fewer paid up members of the Institute, but both are now growing steadily.

Once again, our Newsletter has been the 'life blood' of our work. Nine (?) issues have been produced since last year's AGM and we are very grateful to Ruth Wilson for the continuing excellent standard of the Newsletters.

We had applied funding from Awards for All to enable us to put on 6 high profile public events which would give the public and the press the opportunity to explore key equality issues. We were successful in our bid but due to a mess-up by our Bankers Lloyds Bank we were not able to

receive the money in time. However another proposal has been submitted and we hope that we will again be successful and this time receive the grant.

Members will have noted our new Website ([www.iedp.org.uk](http://www.iedp.org.uk)). It was vital that we updated our old one and are grateful to the successful bidder Starfish Web Consulting for the great work done so far.

Perhaps one of the most challenging things we have done this year is respond to the Consultation on the Public Sector Equality Duty and are extremely grateful for the work that Board Member Barry Fitzpatrick did on our behalf. A summary of the response is set out in Newsletter 20(May 2013) and the response itself is on our website, under IEDP response to completed external consultations.

We are pleased to see the Equality and Human Rights Commission is improving and expanding its work in the field of human rights and have published several important and useful guidance but it is frustrating that the ability to obtain advice from the Commission has been restricted. As Chair I have been frustrated by the changes made by the Government in their arrangements to offer support and services to the public on equality issues. In the past I have been able to discuss strategic issues with the GEO. These days it is hard to find anyone at the DCMS where they now reside, and it is difficult to know who is responsible for what.

We had 8 Board meetings since last year's AGM, all of which were well attended. I am grateful to all Board members for their active participation both in the work of the Board and in the wider work of the Institute. In the past month the National Equality Standard has been launched it is aim at supporting the private sector and looks interesting and potentially useful. I have made contact with its CEO Arun Batra who works with Ernest and Young who are leading on the Standard. I shall be meeting him in mid June We hope that accredited members will be able to offer support to the Private sector companies who wish to meet the Standards.

Finally, I would like to thank NfP Business Services for their continuing administrative support and management of our financial affairs.

Linda Bellos  
June 2013

