



LEADING THE WAY: Nadja Rein (Project Director), Varsha Parmar (Supporting Staff/CREC Co-ordinator), Kevin Ryan, Charnwood Arts Director, and Farid Seyidob, one of the participants from Azerbaijan during the event in Baku.

Raising profile of Youth in Action

DELEGATES from Charnwood have attended an international training course which aims to raise awareness of the Youth in Action programme.

Charnwood Racial Equality Council (CREC) applied in partnership with Youth Across Frontiers on behalf of the Azerbaijani Organisation for a youth project to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Nadja Rein, CREC's Community Cohesion Officer, and Varsha Parmar, CREC Co-ordinator and Loughborough Council of Faiths, attended a New Action Model of Youth Partnership international training course along with Kevin Ryan, Director of Charnwood Arts, and Edward Gitau, a member of Youth Across Frontiers.

It aimed to raise visibility and awareness of the Youth in Action programme and the participants were from the United Kingdom, Azerbaijan, Germany, France, Hungary, Poland, Turkey, Georgia, Russia, Belarus, Moldova and the Ukraine.

Cllr Peter Lewis, Charnwood Borough Council's Champion for Equalities, said: "The work this organisation does has been acknowledged far beyond Loughborough.

"Once again, our town in the heart of England forms part of a wider international community and it is something we should celebrate with pride."

CREC is aiming to encourage youngsters from Charnwood to participate in these kinds of events and have a number of new projects in the pipeline.

Anyone wishing to get involved should contact Nadja Rein, Community Cohesion Officer at the CREC on (01509) 261 651 or email nadja.rein@btconnect.com

One vision!

A MOVE to create a single equalities organisation in Charnwood has been welcomed as a positive move for the Borough.

Charnwood Racial Equality Council (CREC) is looking to expand its brief to cover all equalities following the creation of the Equality and Human Rights Commission in October last year.

The Commission amalgamated the previous Commission for Racial Equality, Disability Rights Commission and Equality Opportunity Commission to be the focal point for all equality activities.

It will also work in the areas of religion and belief, sexual orientation and age equality.

A consultation has been held with staff and members of the community about the



CREC is all set to become a single equalities organisation

change - and the result was unanimous for the CREC to take the lead in this direction.

"We would not be taking away from the need to keep race high on our agenda," said Varsha Parmar, a co-ordinator at the CREC, "but would also work to ensure that our work reflects all the other

equalities.

"This would be a fundamental shift for the direction of the CREC.

"We have involved and consulted with the community and will work together to provide the best possible services to ensure the citizens of Charnwood can learn, work and live free from discrimination

and prejudice and from fear of harassment and violence."

Cllr Peter Lewis, Charnwood Borough Council's Champion for Equalities, said: "This careful transition to becoming a wider equalities and human rights organisation is to be welcomed.

"Clearly partnerships with others in these sensitive matters are vital.

"But through working together, I believe much more can be achieved on behalf of all who come to us for support and advice."

To find out more about the work of the CREC, log on to www.charnwoodrec.org