

Time Commenced	18:35
Time Finished	20:15

## GENDER & SEXUALITY DIVERSITY FORUM 30 SEPTEMBER 2010

### **Present:**

Councillor Marshall (in the Chair),  
Councillors Ashburner and Harwood

### *Community Representatives*

Toni Montinaro	Derbyshire Friend
Julie Goodall	Transcend
Jasmine Seymour	Transcend
Beth Seymour	Transcend/Rainbow Vision
Vanessa Boon	Energise/Ambassador for Women's Enterprise
Nasreen Iqbal	Normanton Women's Engagement Project
Susan Boon	Women in Neighbouring Communities

### *Council and Other Officers*

Fasal Hussain	Community Safety Partnership
Pam Thompson	Consultation Support Officer
Liz Moore	Human Resources
Ann Webster	HR Consultant - Equality and Diversity
Ian Chennery	Voluntary and Community Sector Partnership Manager
Rachel Harvey	Transport Planning Group Manager

### **In Attendance:**

Emma Woodward	QUAD
Kathy Frain	QUAD
Mark Sobey	Derby Safeguarding Children Board

## 13/10 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor F Winter, Councillor Radford, Dionne Reid, Alice Buckle, Dawn Robinson, Tracy Arnold, Nasreen Sabir, Angela Cole, Bernadette Pinnock, Lyn Anglin, Barrington Anglin, Amara Iqbal, Arshia Iqbal and Shirley Howard-Johnson.

## 14/10 Introductions

Members of the Forum introduced themselves and were welcomed by the chair.

## 15/10 Notes of the Last Meeting – 20 July 2010

The notes of the meeting held on 20 July 2010 were agreed as a correct record, subject to:

“Fasal Iqbal” being altered to “Fasal Hussain” on the attendance list.

In relation to minute 06/10 (Community Safety Partnership), Toni Montinaro clarified that he was interested to find out how the Community Safety Partnership was engaging with the various issues surrounding Gender and Sexuality.

## 16/10 Work Programme 2010/11

Pam Thompson invited contributions to the 2010/11 work programme. Members of the Forum requested updates on the review of the Housing Allocations Policy and the Children and Young People’s Approved List. Susan Boon offered to give a presentation on the work of Women in Neighbouring Communities. The Forum agreed that it would be helpful to view the Forward Plan so that they could have an input on upcoming Council decisions.

### **Agreed:**

- 1. That Pam Thompson would email the link to the Forward Plan to Forum members.**
- 2. That members of the Forum would contact Pam Thompson with any other suggestions for items.**
- 3. That Susan Boon would give a presentation on the work of the Women in Neighbouring Communities.**

## 17/10 Question and Answer Session

An information sheet on Rainbow Vision was circulated to members of the Forum. It was suggested that it would be helpful if organisations from each of the Diversity Forums attended the other Forums to give presentations on their work.

Angela Cole provided a report to the Forum on girls excluded from schools, as requested at a previous Forum meeting. Vanessa Boon outlined the problems associated with girls who are excluded and the isolation they suffer whilst in Pupil Referral Units. Mark Sobey reported that it was an issue that the relevant organisations were aware of and that they were now examining it. Members of the forum requested that Angela Cole attend a meeting of the Forum to give them further opportunity to discuss the issue.

### **Agreed:**

**To invite Angela Cole to a future meeting of the Forum to discuss the issues surrounding girls excluded from schools.**

## **18/10      Safeguarding Children and Child Protection**

Mark Sobey, of the Derby Safeguarding Children Board, outlined child protection and safeguarding issues in relation to gender and sexuality. He reported that these included forced marriages and genital mutilation. He added that one aspect of research had been to ask pregnant women how much pressure they felt under to continue with traditional beliefs and expectations and that the feedback had been positive. Regarding sexuality, it was reported that problems included bullying, harassment, hate crimes and self-harm as a result of sexuality orientation, and that support needed to be provided for those suffering. It was added that children feeling isolated from their parents and friends may be more vulnerable to the dangers of the internet.

Members of the Forum questioned whether there were any gender-specific trends in relation to the numbers of children in need, why Boys over 14 could not be accepted in to refuges with their mothers and asked to see Personal Education Plans for struggling children. Concerns were raised at the language and terminology used in teaching materials and the non-inclusion of homosexuality in sex education lessons. It was reported that the numbers of full-time equivalent social workers was 65.2 for adult social work and 80.6 for children and young people and a comparison of the figures for previous years was requested.

## **19/10      Girls Excluded from Schools**

This item was considered under 17/10.

## **20/10      Local Transport Plan 3**

Members of the Forum received a presentation from Rachel Harvey on the new Local Transport Plan consultation. It was reported that the plan is a statutory document that would be broken down in to 4 themes: Active Travel, Public Transport, Traffic Management and Asset Management. The Forum was invited to submit feedback on suggested priorities for the plan and identify any gaps within the scoping report. A volunteer to complete an equalities impact assessment on the plan was sought. Members of the Forum commented that they were impressed with the consultation taking place on the plan.

**Agreed:**

**That Susan Boon would volunteer to complete an equalities impact assessment on the plan.**

## **21/10      Voluntary and Community Sector Reference Group for Grants**

Ian Chennery outlined the draft terms of reference of the Voluntary and Community Sector Reference Group for Grant Review Actions. It was reported that the Reference Group would include 6 to 8 representatives from a range of voluntary and community sector organisations and Derby City Council grant funding areas, and members of the Forum were invited to join the group. It was added the one purpose of the review was to make the grant process more transparent and to this end the grant process and a database of those organisations receiving grants would be published on the internet.

**Agreed:**

**That Toni Montinaro, Nasreen Iqbal, Susan Boon and Beth Seymour would volunteer to join the Community Sector Reference Group.**

**22/10      Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on 23 November 2010, at 1pm – 3pm.

NOTES END