

## MINORITY COMMUNITIES DIVERSITY FORUM 15 JULY 2010

**Present:** Councillors Jennings (Chair), Davis and Roberts

### *Representing Communities*

Michael Mudzamiri	ZimDerby Community Group
Tirathpal Naute	Derby Millennium Network
Abdullah Muhammad	Community Caru group
Abdullah Shajan	BP Bangladesh
J Pearson	Derby Irish Association
Tony Walsh	Derby Irish Association
Kirit Mistry	Derby REC
Lloyd Newby	DWIEA
Divine Mensah	Derby African Association
Francis Ngosa	Derby African Association
Nasreen Iqbal	Pakistan Community
Matthew Allbones	Community Action
Joe Kupranec	Association of Ukrainians
Hazel Simpson	Family Action/Derby Black Parent Forum
Zbigniew Wojcik	EMAC Derby Ltd.
Nasreen Sabir	Hadhari Nari Project
Ann Watts	Derby Refugee Forum

### *Representing Derby City Council*

Pam Thompson	Consultation Support Officer
Rod Wood	Director of Human Resources
Ann Webster	Equality and Diversity Manager
Rajesh Lall	Education Officer
Gavin Thompson	Head of Policy, Research and Engagement
Maggie Fennell	Change Manager
Jeremy Mason	Housing Strategy Officer
Tariq Iqbal	Performance and Learning Advisor

**In Attendance:** Su Benton

Fresh Start (Derby City NHS)

## 01/10 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Naitta, Shokat Lal, Anna Guatama, Father Tim O'Sullivan, David Callow, Ferid Kevric, Jaz Rai, Shirley Howard-Johnson and Irka Wolociuha.

## 02/10 Election of Vice-Chair

Kirit Mistry was appointed Vice-Chair for the 2010/11 Municipal Year.

## 03/10 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

## 04/10 Notes of the last meeting held on 20 May 2010

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

### **64/09 Apologies for Absence**

Rajesh Lall being added to the apologies list and Abdulla Shahjah being altered to Abdulla Shahjan.

## 05/10 Updates from Previous Meeting

### **72/09 Funding for New Communities**

Gill Collinson provided a list of organisations that had been awarded commercial contracts by Derby City PCT. The Forum requested that clarification be sought regarding which organisation Dawn Littlewood represents, the period to which the funding relates and how many BME related projects had been funded.

#### **Agreed:**

**Pam Thompson to seek clarification from Gill Collinson about the list of commercial contracts awarded by Derby City PCT.**

## 06/10 Work Programme 2009/2010

Pam Thompson informed the group that sessions to receive feedback on the previous work programme and plan the new work programme would take place on 6 September 2010 at 13:30 and 17:30. Councillor Jennings added that the Forum should be mindful of the current financial situation and the effect this has on their communities, adding that the Forum would have a key role to play in bringing representations to the Council.

## 07/10 Question and Answer Session

Councillor Jennings took questions from the floor.

It was confirmed that the Migrant Impact Fund had been suspended, although clarification was to be sought on this point.

Councillor Jennings also confirmed that given the requirement on the Council to make savings, BME funding could not be ring-fenced, although this would be subject to the same value for money scrutiny as other funding areas.

Tirathpal Naute asked Councillor Jennings about whether equality impact assessments would be done before cuts to groups were

decided. Ann Webster replied that the Council was aware of the Southall Black Sisters successful challenge in the courts against Ealing Council about funding cuts, equality impact assessments and breach of the Race Relations Amendment Act. The officers responsible for the community grants budget would be made aware of this too.

## **08/10      Child Protection and Safeguarding Children in BME communities - Part 1: Smoking**

The Forum received a presentation from Su Benton (Fresh Start) on support for members of BME communities to stop smoking. It was reported that the support provided by Fresh Start for BME smokers includes Clinics, the use of interpreters, work with EMAC and a campaign coinciding with Ramadan. It was noted that Derby Fresh Start's quit rate was 5% higher than the national average and that Derby had the best quit rate in the East Midlands in 2008/09. It was added that Fresh Start provides support up to a year after quitting smoking and that outreach work has included providing school nurses in secondary schools.

**The Forum noted the presentation**

## **09/10      Delivery of Council Services from Temporary Accommodation**

The Forum received a presentation from Maggie Fennell (Change Manager) on the delivery of Council services from temporary accommodation. It was reported that translators and interpreters would be available to members of the public whilst the Council is in temporary accommodation.

**The Forum noted the presentation**

## **10/10      Tackling the Under-representation of Pakistani Employees**

Tariq Iqbal updated the forum on the positive action taken designed to tackle the under-representation of Pakistani employees in the workforce. He reported that the initiative had received at good level of response from members of the Pakistani community and 200 people were registered and active on a Council database to show interest in working for the Council. These people had then received job skills related training. He added that the initiative had been successful in getting representatives in to posts with higher turnover and that by the end of 2009, the number of Pakistani employees in the Council's workforce had increased by 18% on the previous year. Members of the Forum raised concerns that Pakistani employees were not in the more senior management roles and Officers commented that they were aware of this. It was noted that the new census figures, with

more detailed ethnic origin categories, might show that other communities are unrepresented and that the focus of work may change as a result. The Leader of the Council and Director of Human Resources congratulated Tariq Iqbal on the progress of the project and the Forum applauded this. The Leader also reaffirmed the Council's commitment as an equal opportunities employer.

**The Forum noted the report**

**11/10 New Homelessness Strategy: Part 1**

Jeremy Mason consulted the Forum on the new homelessness strategy, reporting that the previous strategy was currently being examined in depth to understand its strengths and weaknesses. He added that the next stage would be to analyse the changes to the context in which the strategy operates and consider what responses would be required. Concern was raised about help for Migrant workers who had not yet received their official documents and were not covered in the strategy, therefore not receiving help from the Council as a result. Jeremy Mason reported that this was because Central Government does not recognise "non-eligible groups" in the allocation of funding for this area and it was suggested that a sub-group be convened to examine the problem. Members of the Forum also requested a more detailed breakdown of the statistics relating to homelessness rates by ethnic origin.

**Agreed:**

- 1. Jeremy Mason to establish a sub-group to examine Homelessness amongst groups who are not currently eligible under Central Government funding.**
- 2. The sub-group to include Zbigniew Wojcik, Hazel Simpson, Michael Mudzamiri, Tirathpal Naute and Abdulla Shajan.**
- 3. Jeremy Mason to provide a breakdown of statistics relating to homelessness by ethnic group/origin**

**12/10 Black Employees Support Network**

**The Committee noted the Report**

**13/10 Date of the Next meeting: 16 September 2010**

It was agreed that Kirit Mistry, Zbigniew Wojcik and Abdullah Shahjan would attend the next pre-meeting (Time and Date TBA)

NOTES END