

Time commenced : 6.35pm
Time finished : 8.30pm

GENDER DIVERSITY FORUM 20 NOVEMBER 2007

Present: **Representing Derby City Council**
Councillor Higginbottom (Chair)
Councillor Redfern
Councillor Bolton

Community Representatives

Bernadette Pinnock – Friendship Group
Susan Boon – Women in Neighbouring Communities
Gill Taylor – Soroptimists International
Karen Maclean – Derby T-Junction
Arshia Iqbal – Normanton Women's Engagement Project
Nasreen Iqbal – Normanton Women's Engagement Project
Albertina Paka di Phoba – Voice of Congeese Women
Toni Montinaro – Derbyshire Friend
Shirley Howard-Johnson – Friday Friends for Women
Spencer Phillips – ARC
Emma Boyes – Derbyshire Friend
Theresa Peltier – Derbyshire Black Police Association
Cherry Henry – Hadhari Nari
Dawn Makawana – Derbyshire Women's Centre
Jennieve Ferguson – Friendship Group

Council and Other Officers

Pam Thompson
Hilary Davis – Public Health Specialist Nurse, Derby PCT
Rita Sylvester – AD Performance and Commissions, CYP

27/07 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Berry, Winter and Willoughby, Famida Bhatti, Imran Rehman and Shazia Qayum.

28/07 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

29/07 Introductions

The Forum members introduced themselves and welcomed new members. Tony Montinaro announced that he would stand down as Vice-Chair of the Forum, as he felt that he could better serve the Forum if he was able to act as advocate for other representative groups.

Agreed to hold an election for a new Vice-Chair at the next Forum meeting

30/07 Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 September were noted, subject to the addition of Shirley Howard-Johnson's apologies.

31/07 Update on matters arising from the previous meeting

The Forum received updates on the Council's decision making process, Anti-Social Behaviour and Working for the Council – Employment Statistics. It was also noted that the forum needed to step up action for participation in International Womens' Day. Shirley Howard-Johnson, Nasreen Iqbal, Susan Boon, Toni Montinaro, Arshia Iqbal, Bernadette Pinnock and Dawn Makawana volunteered to assist with the International Womens Day preparations. Other members were also welcome to assist.

Noted.

32/07 Work Programme 2007/08

It was agreed that in future the Work Programme would try and incorporate a presentation from one Forum member and one non-forum member. Several of the Forum Members had attended the Diversity Day, and it was felt that perhaps the Forum was not necessarily addressing the areas of concern with regards to gender. It was generally agreed that the Forum needed to consider issues which needed particular attention with regards to gender issues.

Noted.

33/07 Men's Health

The Forum received a presentation from Hillary Davis, Public Health Nurse for the Derbyshire Primary Care Trust, on Men's Health. The presentation drew from the 10 year strategy, which is aimed at bringing about improvements in men's health. It was noted that this was not a battle of the sexes, but an attempt to bridge the gap between men's and women's health.

It was reported that the PCT were seeking support and ideas to help raise awareness of men's health issues. The PCT had already begun to try and target men outside the usual health environment, for example by using Derby City Libraries to raise awareness amongst other groups. This was reported to have been successful, and it was hoped that it would continue in the New Year. The Forum discussed the ways in which it could assist the PCT in raising awareness of men's health issues, and it was agreed that a useful platform to would be the forthcoming Derby Goes Pink events planned for September 2008. It was noted that the Forum was willing to support the PCT in raising awareness but that the PCT still needed to provide a pro-active force, for example by offering the Well Man check in all GP surgeries.

Agreed to note the presentation and to contact Hilary Davies with any further suggestions

34/07 Parenting Strategy

The Forum received a report on the parenting strategy of the Council. The strategy represented the Council's overarching position on the strategy for parents, and brought together all of the Council's huge breadth of activity across the city so that any parent in need of any kind of support would know where to turn and receive an excellent service.

The Forum welcomed the presentation, but did note that there were particular problems regarding applying strategies such as these to the community in general can be more problematic that first appreciated as there were many ways in which people could be excluded. However, it was noted that there were success stories in Derby, and that the CYP team would be happy to talk to the Forum about those in the future.

Noted.

35/07 Hadhari Nari Domestic Violence Service Provision

The Forum agreed to defer this presentation to a later meeting due to time restrictions.

Agreed.

36/07 Open Discussion

Following the presentation on the parenting strategy, the Forum discussed the recent news story of a parent who had been imprisoned following her daughter's non-attendance at school. It was noted that this seemed to be a very contentious issue, and there was little information around regarding how this became a legal matter rather than an issue between the child and the parent. It was reported that legal proceedings came a long way down the statutory line, and this should be seen as a last resort after all other actions had failed. It was agreed that as this was an area that the Forum were particularly interested in, then they would ask for further information to come to a future meeting. The Forum were particularly interested to find out if legal proceedings were usually carried out against the mother, and if so why it was the mother.

Agreed to invite the Head of Service for Education and Welfare to come to a future meeting to talk about the processes for legal action in these cases.

37/07 Next Forum Pre-Meeting

Any Forum members interested in attending the next pre-meeting were asked to contact Pam Thompson. It was agreed that the next pre-meeting would also look at re-arranging the work plan.

Agreed.

MINUTES END