

Time commenced : 6.30pm
Time finished : 8:20pm

GENDER DIVERSITY FORUM TUESDAY 27 MARCH 2007

Present: **Representing Derby City Council**
Councillor MacDonald (Chair)
Councillor Winter

Ann Webster
Pam Thompson
Rachel Dickinson
Diena Trossell

Community Representatives

Kulvinder Bola – Rannack Group
Bernadette Pinnock – Friendship Group
Janice Platt – Pointer Panel Member
Nasreen Iqbal – DEA Business Link
Gill Taylor – Soroptinist International
Christine Blythe – Soroptinist International
Susan Boon – DACP
Cherry Henry – Hadhari Nan Women's Project

42/06 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Williams, Naranjan Lalria, Arshia Iqbal, Angela Neil, Chandra Sayal and Shirley Howard-Johnson.

43/06 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

The Chair announced that Councillor Williams, a Council representative on the Forum, had recently given birth to a baby girl. It was agreed that the chair would pass on the best wishes of the Forum to Councillor Williams.

44/06 Declarations of Interest

There were none

45/06 Minutes of Previous Meetings

The Minutes of the meetings held on 21 November 2006 and 23 January 2007 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

The payment of out of pocket expenses for representatives attending meetings of the forum was discussed.

Discussion Items

46/06 Domestic Violence Partnership Update

The Forum received a update from Dena Trossell on the work of the Domestic Violence Partnership.

Dena highlighted the local shortage of support services for men and told the group about the issues that were made by men at a consultation event at The Spot – such as the need for a men’s centre, counselling services and support workers for men, particularly to provide support during legal processes and child protection conferences. It was suggested that it would be useful if the Forum were able to help drive forward these initiatives.

Dena also provided information on the success of Multi Agency risk assessment conferences where all agencies could get together to discuss risks and identify solutions. This had benefited all involved by ensuring agencies did not work in isolation.

In response members of the Forum asked how their organisations could help the partnership it was confirmed that information sharing was the key. There was some concern that some organisations were not currently equipped to deal with domestic violence appropriately and signpost perpetrators and victims to the resources available. It was agreed that this was an issue that should be taken back to the Domestic Violence Partnership Strategy Group.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the report.**
- 2. to receive an update from the Domestic Violence co-ordinator on Domestic Violence provisions in the City to community groups and how to access Domestic Violence information and training.**
- 3. to receive an update at a future meeting on Partnership proposals for developing services for men.**
- 4. to include information on the work of the partnership in the diversity newsletter**

47/06 Equality Standard Progress Report

The Committee received a report from Ann Webster on progress made by the Council in working through the five levels of the Equality Standard for Local Government. It was noted that the Council had already worked through levels 1 and 2 and was to be externally audited on the achieving level 3.

The Council were looking for six nominations from each of the Diversity Forums to attend one of the two external reference/challenge group meetings with the Equality Standard auditors in September 2007.

Resolved:

1. **to note the update.**
2. **to ask members of the Forum to think about suitable people to nominate and confirm the appointments at the next meeting.**
3. **to ask members of the Forum to inform Ann Webster if they wish to participate in one of the teams taking forward Equality Impact Assessments.**

48/06 International Women's Day Debrief

Pam Thompson provided an update on the event organised for the 2007 Women's Day. It was noted that the event had been very successful with over 200 people attending to participate and watch the excellent entertainment provided. Pam had circulated an evaluation form to help inform the planning for a future event and it was agreed that a working group be set up to plan for 8 March 2008.

Resolved to appoint Cherry Henry, Dena Trossel, Nasreen Iqbal and Arshia Iqbal to the working group set up to plan for the 2008 Women's Day event.

49/06 Diversity Forums – Progress Report

Pam Thompson provided an update on progress made in progressing the development of the Forums and that members would be informed of the official launch when arrangements had been finalised.

It was noted that the Gender Diversity Forum would now focus on men, women and transgender issues and that participants would be representatives of organisations rather than attending as individuals.

Pam also provided further details on the working arrangements for the Youth Forum and the Older People's Forum.

Resolved to note the update.

50/06 Council Cabinet Forward Plan

The Forum considered items in the Council's latest Forward Plan but did not identify any items for consideration at a future meeting.

Information Items

51/06 Work Programme

The Committee received an updated work programme outlining the reports that would be brought to future Committee Meetings.

Resolved to note the report and ask Forum members to bring additional items to the next meeting to be considered for inclusion.

52/06 Cabinet Report – Pointer Panel Survey Results – October 2006

The report considered by the Council Cabinet at its meeting on 20 February 2007 was noted.

Issues Raised by the Forum

53/06 Crimewatch

It was noted that the Forum had requested information on the impact of the Crimewatch initiative on victims and perpetrators of crime.

54/06 Women in Leadership Roles

Additional information was circulated at the meeting.

55/06 BME Women in the Workplace

Additional information was circulated at the meeting.

56/06 Date of the Next Meeting

Noted that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 19 June 2007 – This meeting was subsequently cancelled and another meeting arranged for Tuesday 17 July 2007.

MINUTES END