

Time commenced – 6.30pm
Time finished – 8.40pm

MINORITY COMMUNITIES DIVERSITY FORUM 28 MAY 2009

Present: **Representing Derby City Council**

Councillor Naitta (in the Chair)
Councillor Holmes
Councillor Roberts
Councillor Shanker

Representing Communities

Bimmy Rai – Derby Millennium Network
Kamal Amier – Somali Community
Ahmed Gopo – Bosnian Community
Farhad Neghipooran – Persian Cultural Association
George Mighty – DWLCA
Angella Mighty – DWICA
Lloyd Newby – DWICA
Jangir Khan – Pakistan Community Centre
Shokat Lal – Pakistan Community Centre
Yassir Mahmood – Pakistan Community Centre
M Sharief – Pakistan Community Centre
Zbigniew Wojcik – Eastern European Migrants Advocacy Committee
Ferid Kevric – Derby Bosnia Herzegovina Association
Mohammed Yaqub – Pakistan Community Centre
Francis Ngosa – Derby African Association
Divine Mensah – Derby African Association
Joe Kurpanec – Association of Ukrainians

Council and Other Officers

Christine Collingwood – Derby City Council
Ray Cowlshaw – Derby City Council
Tariq Iqbal – Derby City Council
Rajesh Lall – Derby City Council
Pam Thompson – Derby City Council
Ann Webster – Derby City Council
Rod Wood – Derby City Council
David Crooks – Derby City Partnership
Jo Hallagan – Derby Council for Voluntary Services
Kim Harpur – Derby Council for Voluntary Services
Stephen White – Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service

01/09 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Shanker, Shokat Lal, Kim Basi, Joe Kurpanec, Rajesh Lall, Father Tim O'Sullivan, Christine Collingwood, Nazreen Iqbal, Angella Mighty, Nazrine Hudson and Mohammed Sharief.

02/09 Notes of the meeting held on 12 March 2009

The notes of the meeting held on 12 March 2009 were agreed as a correct record and noted.

03/09 Updates

Community Grants

The Forum received an update on community grants from Perveez Sadiq. The Forum noted that a meeting had been held with officers to discuss funding proposals on behalf of Forum members, it was reported that there had been an acceptance in the group that the population in the city had changed and that some groups were not funded as well as others. Perveez Sadiq reported that a report had been referred to Council Cabinet concerning the resourcing of community grants and how the budget was managed. The Forum agreed that the meeting had a positive effect.

Additional Information

Terrance Mutyanbizin circulated a flyer informing the Forum of a march from the Methodist Church to the City Centre on Tuesday 16 June 2009. It was for the ComPow "Compatible with Human Rights, Justice and Peace in Development." All members were welcome to attend the event.

04/09 Work Programme 2008/2009

The work programme was noted.

05/09 Questions and Answer session

The Forum were reminded about the question and answers sheet that was attached to the agenda. The sheet could be used to request information for a future meeting or to ask any questions relating to a subject at the Forum.

Farhad Neghipooran submitted a question which the forum discussed as part of the updates.

It was agreed to use the Question and Answer sheet for any issues the Forum members might wish to raise.

06/09 Housing

The Forum noted the contents of the report which gives an overview of the Equalities Impact Assessment of the BME housing strategy. The Equalities Impact Assessment will help to improve regular links with diversity groups to influence the development and monitoring of the strategy with BME housing strategy. The Forum members requested further time to read through the document as it was tabled at the meeting and would contact Pam Thompson with any comments.

Dr Richard Martin informed the Forum of a consultation on a new Alcohol Treatment Service, the consultation period closed on 8 June 2009. The treatment service would be an open access centre to allow people to walk in off the street to be assessed and access help for their problem. The consultation was for an adult model similar to the children's' model that worked well. It was noted that there were over 5 million cases in 3 years that had 4-5,000 people that had a drinking disorder.

Agreed to note the report.

07/09 Spirita – Housing and BME Communities

The Forum received a presentation on the Equality Impact Assessments from Spirita and Hallmark. Spirita was established in April 2007 as a merger of three housing associations including Walbrook, who owned over 3,000 properties in Derbyshire. They were working to get homeless people into houses, many of which had been built or adapted to suit specific resident requirements. They were supporting a project for mental health in the different communities but not many residents came forward with details of requirements so they were going to retry the project. The organisation were also working towards a telephone translation line and interpreters to help communicate with the different communities.

Agreed to note the report.

08/09 BME Communities and Housing Waiting List

The Forum received a presentation from Lisa Callow, Trisha Gadsby and Kim Morgan from the Housing Options team on Homeless and the Housing waiting list. The presentation reported the need to receive a true representation of Derby's population to make sure there were no barriers to accessing their services. All new applicants would fill in a form with their requirements for housing. The organisation had noted that there was now more need for housing for young single people under the age of 25 who could not buy their own properties in the current climate, with this in mind they were increasing their housing stock. The officers also informed the Forum about homeless and reported that it had decreased in the last 3 years, this was because they now had more access to temporary homes. The officers could negotiate with landlords allowing tenants to stay in accommodations longer until a new home had been arranged.

It was reported that Milestone House was now open and was working well. It allowed people to temporary lodge until a home was found for them. Within Milestone House there was a GP Surgery, Nurses Room and support for people to help them with any issues arising.

Agreed to note the report.

09/09 Homelessness and EU Migrants

The Forum received a report from Zbigniew Wojcik which informed the members of the amount of Central / Eastern Europeans people sleeping rough. Zbigniew

confirmed that residents did not receive benefits because when they entered the country they do not register with the relevant authorities. A lot of these people were homeless, with many of them residing with friends on a temporary basis. The total number of known migrant workers sleeping rough when the report was produced was 27 people. Zbigniew informed the Forum of surgeries that were held on Tuesdays and Fridays between 4pm-6pm and on Sunday mornings between 11am and 1.30pm.

Agreed to note the report.

10/09 Next Forum Meeting: 16 July 2009
 Pre-meeting: 16 June 2009 – 5.15pm

The Forum noted that three representatives should attend the next pre meeting.

Minutes End.