

Time commenced : 6.30 pm
Time finished : 8.10 pm

**DISABLED PEOPLE'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE
19 JANUARY 2006**

Present: Councillor Turner (in the Chair)
Councillors Chera and Troup

Also in attendance: Councillor Wynn

Representing groups

Martin Austin – Freedom Forum
Judi Bateman - DCIL
John Emery – British Sign Language Interpreter
Nigel Johns – Derbyshire Association for the Blind
Rob Jones – Disability Direct -
Marta Hancock – Disability Direct
Alison Hicking – Derby Deaf Forum
Nancy Pountain – Derby Access Group
Amarjit Raju – Disability Direct
George Sanders – Camtad
Emma Walker – British Sign Language Interpreter

City Council Advisors

Andrew Auld – Head of Communications and Consultation
Emma Bates – Community Development and Voluntary Sector support
Manager
Mick Connell – Assistant Director – Community Care
Ray Cowlshaw – Chief Executive
Rachel Levy – Constitutional Services Officer
Donna Norris – Corporate Recruitment Advisor
David Romaine – Scrutiny and Complaints Manager
Pam Thompson – Consultation Support Officer
Ann Webster – Equality Standard Project Manager
Mick Watts – Access Officer

Also in attendance:

Rob Jones – Disability Direct

44/05 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hird, Hussain, Rawson and Webb, Andy Finley – Derby Access Group, Pat Fletcher – DCIL and Pat Taylor – Derbyshire Association for the Blind.

45/05 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

The Chair introduced the following late items as they needed to be considered before the next scheduled meeting of the Committee.

Consultation on new Primary Care Trust Arrangements in Trent: Ensuring a Patient Led NHS.

Equality Grants to Voluntary Groups Review.

46/05 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

47/05 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2005 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

48/05 Towards Work Disability Partnership

Rob Jones – Chair of Towards Work Disability Partnership – explained to the Committee how the Towards Work Disability Partnership operated and that it was made up of a variety of groups aimed to make organisations aware of disability in the work place. The Committee were informed that an event was taking place to make disabled people more aware of how they could get into work. The aim of the event was to give free advice application techniques, CV writing skills and interview skills. It was noted that the event would take place on 3 February at the Assembly Rooms, 10am to 4pm.

Rob Jones informed the Committee that the Towards Work Disability Partnership wanted to attract more members and if there was any interest to contact him.

49/05 Derby's Young People's Website and Youth Forum

The Committee received a report from the Assistant Director of Policy promoting the use of the young people's website for people aged 11 to 19 years old. The Committee were informed that the website would be officially launched on 18 February at the Youth Parliament Elections event at the Assembly Rooms. It was noted that the website was managed by a steering group that was made up of staff from the Education and Social Services departments. The aim of the site was to engage young people in consultation and moderated discussion boards. It was hoped that the young people themselves would become involved in suggesting topics and moderating them.

The Committee were informed that the main method of engaging young people in consultation was through the Derby Youth Forum, the forum was open to all young people aged 11 to 19 years old. It was noted that the core group of the forum were keen to increase the current number of young people in the group and the Committee were encouraged to contact Jackie Scruton if they knew anyone who would be interested in becoming a member.

Nancy Pountain – Derby Access Group, commented that parents were now restricting their children from using chat rooms and asked how that would affect the use of the website. Andrew Auld responded that schools were being encouraged to use the website during lesson times to make young people aware of it.

A question was raised regarding the accessibility of the site and whether it had been scrutinised. It was noted that due to the site being part of the Derby City Council's website, it would be scrutinised in the same way.

Resolved to note the report.

50/05 Establishing an Integrated Mental Health Partnership in Derby

The Committee received a report from the Corporate Director – Corporate and Adult Social Services regarding the public consultation that had been completed on the Further Integration of Specialist Mental Health Services in Derbyshire. It was noted that the integration would involve the transfer of approximately 80 members of staff and the creation of a pooled fund including the Social Services Department's current budget for Adult and Mental Health Services of £2.6m.

The consultation indicated that there was support for the further integration from the Primary Care Trusts and other stakeholders. Staff had raised concerns regarding their employment including their future terms and conditions and whether all transferred posts would be protected from any change. Overall the feedback was positive about the preferred option but the concerns raised would be addressed before the proposed start in April 2006.

Councillor Turner raised concerns regarding the transfer of staff and how the change in job positions would effect the decisions that were made within the service, for example patient referrals. Mick Connell reassured the Committee that all staff transfers would be protected under TUPE and that there would be no adverse impact on any decisions that related to service users as a result of the proposed change.

A question was raised regarding the budget for the service and whether the savings that were made would be put back into front line services. Mick Connell responded that this would be the intention but would be subject to review given the need for all partners to consider budget pressures overall on an ongoing basis.

Nancy Pountain asked if there would be any redundancies when the change took place. It was noted that jobs would be safe although there could an overlap in some of the job roles in the future but this would be the case even if the current arrangements remained in place.

Resolved to note the report.

51/05 Budget Consultation 06/07 – 08/09

The Committee received a presentation from Councillor Chris Wynn – Cabinet Member for Children's and Education Services, and Ray Cowlshaw – Chief Executive, on the Council's Vision and Priorities and the Council's Budget Proposals for 2006/07.

The Committee commented that Social Services was to receive the largest budget increase and asked if this was to meet the cuts in homecare charges. Ray

Cowlshaw responded that the reason for the increase was due to Social Services being under funded by the Government.

Councillor Wynn explained that a meeting had been organised for the Minority Ethnic Communities Advisory Committee to receive a presentation on the budget, this would be held Monday 23 January. The Committee were informed that if they would prefer to have more time to consider the report before giving comment, they could do so and then attend the budget meeting on Monday. Members could also give their comments by e-mail to Councillor Williamson.

52/05 A Boards Update

Mick Watts – Access Officer, updated the Committee that although invited, Councillor Repton was unable to attend this meeting due to him having made other arrangements for the evening. The Committee were also updated that a question was put to Council regarding A-boards by Pat Taylor and the response was included with the agenda papers.

It was noted that a report had been prepared to put forward to Council Cabinet and the key points were to decriminalize the parking in the city and then to consider the action on the use of A-boards. It was proposed that the Council adopt a zero tolerance approach to A-boards which the Council would have to take charge in enforcing.

Ann Webster mentioned that at a recent conference on the new Disability Equality Duty, that she and the Chair had attended, the Disability Rights Commission had stated that issues such as A-boards would be highlighted when Councils did their equality impact assessments on highway issues.

Resolved to note the update.

53/05 Deaf Forum

Alison Hicking reported that there had not been a meeting of the Deaf Forum since the last DPAC meeting. The AGM meeting was scheduled for tomorrow. It was noted that at the present time the forum were looking for funding for the note takers at the forum meetings.

54/05 Workforce Statistics - Departments

The Committee received a report from the Deputy Chief Executive outlining the workforce statistics and assessing the progress the Council had made in achieving its objective of having a workforce that reflected the Community. It was noted that 2.8 per cent of the top 5 per cent earners had declared themselves as disabled people and the number of disabled people in this category was relatively high compared to the workforce as a whole where the percentage of disabled people was 2.4 per cent.

Resolved to note the report.

55/05 Recruitment Statistics

The Committee received a report from the Deputy Chief Executive outlining the recruitment statistics for the period April 2004 to March 2005 and general information on recruitment and positive action initiatives.

It was noted that there were 370 applications from disabled people which was 3.6 per cent of the total applications, 102 of these were short-listed and 19 were appointed. Disabled people were being short-listed at the same rate as general short-listing rate, but the appointment rate was low. However, there had been an improvement when compared to 2003/4.

Mick Watts suggested that comparisons with other Councils would be helpful when looking at this issue as the Council were unsure as to whether the appointment rates were good or bad. Donna Norris – Corporate Recruitment Advisor, agreed to look into it. It was noted that leaflets and information were distributed to staff regularly to encourage people to declare themselves as disabled employees. However, there were still disabled people in the workforce who still were not confident to formally tell us.

Resolved to note the report.

56/05 DPAC Project Group Minutes

Quad Development

It was noted that the planning application was due any time and the tenders would be asked for soon. The scheme was due to start in September. The Committee were informed that the recommendations they had made for Disabled people would be incorporated when the building started.

Derby Shopmobility Accommodation

It was noted that the shopmobility accommodation would be complete in April.

Temporary Bus Station Update

It was noted that DAB had been out to see the bus stops and had made the tape of information for blind people in the city. The tape would be completed once some minor changes had been made to some of the bus stops and released shortly.

57/05 Work Programme

Members considered the work programme for 2005/6. Pam Thompson - Consultation Support Officer, updated members on changes to the work programme.

58/05 Consultation on New Primary Care Trust Arrangements in Trent: Ensuring a Patient – Led NHS

The Committee received a report from the Social Care and Health Commission outlining the proposals of the reorganisation of the Derbyshire Primary Care Trust. The two proposals put forward were:

- To have a single Primary Care Trust that covers the whole of Derbyshire, including the city of Derby, or
- To have two Primary Care Trusts, one covering the city of Derby, and the other the rest of Derbyshire.

It was noted that both the City and County Councils were in favour of the second option, they consider that this would allow for a better focus of health care and would best serve the very different requirements of Derby and Derbyshire residents.

David Romaine – Scrutiny and Complaints Manager, asked the Committee to consider the report and nominate a member to give evidence to the Social Care and Health Commissions review of the restructure. It was agreed for Nancy Pountain to be the Committee's representative. It was noted that all of the Committee's comments should be sent to Nancy Pountain who would pass them on as part of the review.

Resolved to appoint Nancy Pountain to represent the Committee for the Consultation.

59/05 Equality Grants to Voluntary Groups Review

The Committee received a report from the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Community regarding the review of the use of the equalities grants and the current criteria. Emma Bates – Community Development and Voluntary Sector Support manager, reported that the grants criteria had evolved over time and now the grant seems to duplicate other small pots of money. The Committee were asked for the views on whether the grant should stay as it operates currently or revert back to the original criteria.

Ann Webster commented that she had introduced the equality grant in 1989 and it was originally intended for any voluntary or community group to apply for to help them remove barriers to equality in their organisation, such as translating leaflets into other languages, paying for a crèche worker to attend an event, providing a minicom. Over the years it seemed to have lost its way.

It was agreed for the Committee to consider the report in more detail and send any comments to Emma Bates after the meeting.

Resolved to note the report.

MINUTES END