

Time commenced : 6.30 pm  
Time finished : 8.30 pm

**DISABLED PEOPLE'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
11 SEPTEMBER 2003**

Present: Councillor Webb (in the Chair)  
Councillors Troup and Rehman

**Representing Groups**

Amarjit Raju – Disability Direct  
Martin Austin – Freedom Forum  
George Sanders – CAMTAD  
Mary Walters – Interpreter, Communications Unlimited  
Pat Taylor – Derbyshire Association for the Blind  
John Conaway – Translinc  
Edith Storer – EMASH  
Pat Fletcher – Derbyshire Coalition for Inclusive Living  
Linda Lucas – DCIL  
Sarah Fletcher – Derby Access Group  
Marta Hancock – Disability Direct  
Maurice Kilminster – Derby City Osteoporosis Group  
Trevor Ford – Derwent Housing Association  
Alison Hicking – Derby Deaf Forum  
Beverly Boman – Shop Mobility

**City Council Advisors**

Ann Webster – Equalities Advisor, Chief Executives  
Yvonne Pearson - Project Manager and Chair - Towards Work,  
Disability Partnership, Social Services  
Mick Watts - Access Officer, Development and Cultural Services  
Sarah Turner - Members Services Officer, Corporate Services  
Phil O'Brien – Civic Services Manager, Corporate Services  
John Holdridge – Best Value Implementation Manager, Social Services  
Muzar Syed – Head of Equalities, Chief Executives

**13/03 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Chera and Dhamrait,  
Mahroof Hussain - Overview and Scrutiny Officer, Nancy Pountain – Derby Access  
Group.

**14/03 Late Items Introduced by the Chair**

There were no late items.

**15/03 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## 16/03 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

**The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2003 were approved as a correct record subject to the following amendments:**

**To include Alison Hicking's name in the list of apologies for the meeting.**

## 17/03 Matters Arising

### **European Year of Disabled People – Invitation from Osnabruck**

Ann Webster advised the Committee that the trip to Osnabruck had been reduced to four days and that airline tickets had been distributed to the representatives. Organisers in Osnabrück would be collecting the representatives and their carers from Dusseldorf, but as yet arrangements for getting them from Derby to Birmingham Airport had not been made. Phil O'Brien and John Holdridge offered to look into transport arrangements to Birmingham Airport.

### **Tactile Paving**

Mick Watts advised that he would be contacting DAB regarding the trial areas of tactile paving in the city to receive feedback.

## 18/03 New Social Services Transport Contract

John Conaway from Translinc invited comments from the Committee, on the two vehicles that were inspected prior to the meeting. These vehicles were examples to be used in the new transport contract for Social Services. Mick Watts stated that it had been good to have the opportunity to look around these vehicles and see first hand the high standard of technology that had been invested in. He commented that the twelve-seater mini bus which had a pull out step needed to be outlined in yellow, in line with other parts of the vehicle, to make it move accessible for partially sighted people.

## 19/03 Summary of the Towards Work Disability Partnership

Yvonne Pearson advised the Committee that the group had met twice since the last DPAC meeting. At one of the meetings, Alison Simpson from EMDA, presented the Derbyshire Research on barriers to employment for disabled people. EMDA were keen to work with the group to move this issue forward. Since this meeting, Alison had changed roles and the group were waiting for EMDA to advise where they plan to take this.

### **Job Broker**

Yvonne advised that there was a new job broker in Derby called SEETEC.

### **JobcentrePlus**

Publicity had been distributed to advertise the additional service for Deaf people at the Wardwick JobcentrePlus.

### **Pathways to Work**

Pathways to Work or reform of Incapacity Benefit pilot had a very high profile. Maria Eagle came to Derby for a review meeting and to meet the people involved in the pilot and the partner agencies.

### **Employer's Network on Disability**

It was advised that this still remained fragile with a few really committed members but the future was looking bright.

Ann Webster had identified some underspent funding which the JobcentrePlus had given permission to use for the network to put on information and training events for employers. This was clearly very badly needed.

Ann Webster advised that she had received complaints from Deaf people on the upcoming recruitment fair, as they were not going to provide a sign language interpreter. Ann advised that she spoke to the Derby Evening Telegraph, who had organised the event, who had said there would not be interpreters available. Ann advised of the legal requirements to provide a signer and the Derby Evening Telegraph would now be providing one for the event. Ann Webster asked Disability Directs Disability Discrimination Act worker to also explain to the Telegraph their legal requirements under DDA.

Pat Taylor commented that she had contacted the Derby Evening Telegraph asking if guides would be provided at the Job's Fair for visually impaired people. They advised her that this was not something they would be doing. She advised them that if it was not accessible to all then they shouldn't be holding the event. Ann Webster commented that she had also advised them this. Yvonne stated that this event would be used as an example for barriers against disabled people.

Yvonne advised that the Job Centre Plus had offered admin support to the network, which was extremely welcomed.

Yvonne advised that the Pathways to Work pilot was putting on a jobs fair and the employers network had been invited to co-host the event. This should take place in November this year.

## **20/03 Fairer Charging and the Consultation Process**

The Committee received a presentation from John Holdridge – Social Services, on the consultation process for the Charges for Community Care Services. John advised that across the country, various authorities had been charging for community services for a number of years. There are vast differences in the rates charged and government guidelines had been issued for all councils to standardise their charges. The consultation process started on 11 August 2003 and would finish at the end of September 2003. The findings would be presented to Council Cabinet on 28 October 2003.

The Committee were advised that the consultation process included the following:

- consultation with a number of home care users
- articles in the media
- access to a website through the Derby City Council website

- consultation with various groups such as DPAC, WAC, MECAC.
- there were also plans to meet with carers' groups, Derbyshire Pensions Action Group and also DCIL, DCVS and many others.

John advised that Derby City Council already charged for the home care services on an assessed basis, and Meals on Wheels on a flat rate basis. The Council had an income of £686,000 from charging for home care services for those who were eligible to pay for them. The structuring for charging for community care services would mean that many more people would get services completely free. It would be up to an individual whether or not they had an assessment. If they chose not to have an assessment then they would pay the hourly rate.

A review of charging would be back dated to 1 April 2003 although John advised that Derby City Council would reimburse money from 1 April 2003 to anyone found to be exempt from charging but if anyone was required to pay more for their services, this would be dated from 1 December 2003.

There were two options available which were included in the consultation.

#### **Option A**

£4.50 per hour with a maximum of £31.50 per week.

#### **Option B**

£8 per hour with a maximum of £35 per week.

Anyone who had more than £19,500 disposable income, would be expected to pay the full rate with no maximum charge. It was stressed that no decision had yet been taken, a decision would not be made until feedback had been made. Amarjit advised John that it would be useful if a third party were involved and Amarjit Raju offered the services of the Disability Direct's Welfare Rights Section as it was always good to have details explained by third party.

Pat Fletcher asked if disability related costs were being looked at. The Chair advised that through consultation with groups and organisations, this issue would be looked at and advised that further information on levels decided so far, would be provided at the meeting with DCIL on 17 September.

Many members of the Committee expressed issues that they had with their own home care services. The Chair advised that the Council would try to ensure that what was provided met the needs of each individual.

## **21/03      Telecommunications – Consultation on Future Developments**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Corporate Services which sought members participation in the consultation exercise for future developments of the Council's telecommunication system.

Phil O'Brien – Civic Services Manager, advised the Committee that the Council had started a Service Access Best Value Review that would report in spring 2004. The

review aimed to improve how the citizens of Derby accessed Council services including accommodation, telecommunications and e-government. The Committee were asked to provide advice on best practice that they had experienced through dealings with other public sector organisations. Once information was received, an investigation would be carried out into the technology required to implement these suggestions.

The Committee were advised that by October 2005, the Council were required to provide 100% of its services electronically.

Ann Webster asked that as a sub group was being formed to look at access issues for disabled people, that disabled officers were represented on the group. Phil O'Brien advised that he would look into this and respond to Ann.

Yvonne Pearson raised concern over the provision of minicom services in the Council, in some departments there were not enough minicomms available. Phil O'Brien advised that after the Best Value Review, minicom availability was increased, but would look into the issue and report back.

The Committee asked if technical ISDN lines would be introduced – videophones, this would be of great benefit to deaf people and some minority ethnic groups.

The Committee were asked to forward any suggestions directly to Phil O'Brien and he would report back the findings at the next meeting of the Committee.

## **22/03      The Assessment of Pedestrian Crossings**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Development and Cultural Services which was presented to Council Cabinet on 5 August 2003 which detailed the changes to the way in which pedestrian crossings were assessed.

**Resolved to note the report.**

## **23/03      Best Value Review of Education and Social Services Transport**

The Committee were concerned that the Best Value Review did not appear to include any investigation or information about the quality of service for children and young people.

An example was given of an instance where disabled children going to nursery by taxi had to leave their wheelchair at home, be carried to the taxi and then put in a wheelchair once they got to school and the reason for this was the taxi did not have the correct facilities to secure them properly.

**Resolved**

- 1 to advise Council Cabinet that the quality of service and dignity of children and young people, and the security of wheelchairs, be investigated and should have been included in the Best Value Review.**

- 2 to express concern to Council Cabinet that the Committee had not been consulted in the process.**
- 3 to recommend that contracts with taxi firms are monitored to ensure they are being adhered to, particularly in relation to the securing of children in wheel chairs in taxis.**
- 4 to request that the relevant Officer attend the next meeting of the Committee to discuss the review in more detail and comment on the issues raised.**

MINUTES END