

Start: 6.30pm
End: 8.30pm

DISABLED PEOPLES DIVERSITY FORUM 5 JUNE 2008

Present: Councillor Hird (Chair)
Councillors Chera and Grimadell

Representing groups

Judi Bateman – Derbyshire Autism Services Group
Trevor Ford – Derwent Sheltered Group
Andy Findlay – Derby Access Group
Alison Hicking – Derby Deaf Forum
Roy Jones – CAMTAD
Barbara Paling
Nancy Pountain – Derby Access Group
George Sanders - CAMTAD
Edith Storer – EMASH
Noel Walsh – Derbyshire Association for the Blind
Janet Warner – Derby Shopmobility
Luke Aitken – Voices in Action
Anthony Miller – Voices in Action
Stacey Reed – Voices in Action
Emma Renshaw – Voices in Action
Holly Weatherston – Voices in Action

City Council Advisors

Ann Webster – Equality and Diversity Manager
Andrew Auld – Head of Communications and Consultation
Christine Collingwood – Consultation Support Manager
Pam Thompson – Consultation Support Officer
Mick Watts – Access Officer
Chris Gregson - Constitutional Services Officer
Joanne Moore – Healthy Schools Project Worker, Emotional Health and Wellbeing
Suzanne Meehan – Education Officer, PE and School Sport
Pauline Hough – Community Cohesion Officer

Also Present

Helen Burdon – BSL Interpreter
Mary Walters - BSL Interpreter

1/08 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Webb, Richards and Turner, Amarjit Raju – Disability Direct, Pat Fletcher – EMASH and Sarah Fletcher – DCIL.

2/08 Appointment of Vice Chair

Resolved to appoint Judi Bateman – Derbyshire Autism Services Group as Vice Chair of the Disabled People's Diversity Forum for the 2008-09 municipal year.

3/08 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

Andrew Auld informed the Forum that the LGBT event 'Derby Goes Pink' would take place from Friday 26 September to Sunday 28 September 2008. He advised that there was an opportunity on Saturday 27 September for community organisations to take part in a parade from the City Centre to Bass Recreation Ground, or to host stands at the Recreation Ground on the same day. Andrew advised that everyone was welcome regardless of sexuality. More information was available at www.derbygoespink.com or through the Communications and Consultation Team.

Nancy Pountain asked if the event at Bass Recreation Ground would be on grass or hardstanding materials. Andrew Auld agreed to look into this matter and report back.

4/08 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

5/08 Notes from Previous Meeting

The Notes of the meeting held on 6 March 2008 were reviewed by the Forum and approved with no amendments.

6/08 Work Programme

An updated Work Programme was distributed to the Forum and noted.

Pam Thompson advised that there would be a discussion at the meeting scheduled for 4 September 2008 regarding the progress made by the Forum to date. A discussion would also take place regarding priorities for the following year.

Members agreed that the theme of the meeting on 4 September 2008 would be Housing. Members also requested that transport issues be considered by the Forum at the earliest available opportunity.

Andrew Auld asked that any suggestions regarding the Work Programme be submitted to Pam Thompson in advance of the next meeting.

7/08 Updates on matters arising from previous meetings

57/07 – Concessionary Travel Pass

A letter from the Department for Transport responding to concerns of the Forum on Concessionary Travel Passes was distributed to Members.

It was reported that a response from Derby PCT had been received regarding problems obtaining signatures from GPs to obtain travel passes. The PCT stated that signatures were classed as private work and that GPs were advised to charge for signatures.

Ann Webster asked if the decision of the LMC was fair and if it could be reviewed. Nancy Pountain asked if an Equality Impact Assessment had been undertaken before the decision was made.

Alison Hicking and Mick Watts reported that deaf bus users were still being charged for weekend travel. Emails had been sent to Arriva and Trent Barton calling for this practice to cease, and other concerns of deaf customers were also raised. It was reported that no response had yet been received.

Members asked that bus drivers be instructed not to pull away from stops until all passengers were seated, and also that stops be announced by the driver or recorded message in advance.

The Forum agreed to invite representatives of bus companies when the Forum next has a transport theme.

77/07 – Loop Systems

Mick Watts advised that the Loop in Meeting Room 2 of the Council House was now fitted and working. Andrew Auld advised that personal loops would be purchased so those with hearing impairments would be able to participate in meetings fully when Loop systems failed.

18/07 – Tuk-tuks and Rickshaws

Mick Watts reported that the licensing of tuk-tuks and rickshaws had been considered by the Taxi Licensing and Appeals Committee on 23 April 2008, and that the decision had been deferred to a future meeting. Mick produced a briefing note for that meeting detailing the views of the Forum and with the conclusion that the vehicles were inappropriate. Mick advised that the briefing note would be submitted to the next Taxi Licensing and Appeals meeting unless the Forum changed their stance on tuk-tuks and rickshaws.

8/08 Disabled children: Bullying

The Forum received a presentation from Jane Moore - Healthy Schools Project Worker, Emotional Health and Wellbeing. She covered the definition of bullying used, the types of bullying recognised and the motivation that can lead to bullying. Jane advised that disability issues were covered in all anti-bullying literature and that the exemplar anti-bullying policy had received an Equality Impact Assessment.

Jane reported that all schools were asked to return data on instances of bullying each year. The previous year, 95% of schools returned data and that 26 incidents of bullying motivated by a disability had been recorded.

Jane advised that there was no representative for disabled groups on either the Working Party or Strategy Group on bullying. She asked that anyone interested in joining either of these bodies contact Pam Thompson. Jane reported that the theme of Anti-Bullying Week in November 2008 would be Difference and Diversity, and invited ideas and contributions from Forum members.

The Forum thanked Jane for her presentation. Judi Bateman asked if literature to pupils and parents were distributed in other formats. Jane advised that this was done on request, and that a contact number was printed on the back of all literature. Judi suggested that this would be insufficient for pupils and parents with communication difficulties.

Members also raised the issues of bullying of siblings of disabled children or special education al needs, ways of identifying when children were being bullied and the increase in bullying by or between gangs and groups.

9/08 Disabled children: Physical Education

The Forum received a presentation by Suzanne Meehan – Education Officer – on physical education in school. Key issues identified for disabled pupils were the lack of teaching assistants in PE lessons, children being removed from PE lessons for physiotherapy sessions, inflexible transport times after school and whether access issues were prioritised in the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme.

The Forum thanked Suzanne for her presentation. Stacey Reed of Voices in Action agreed that too many PE lessons were lost to physiotherapy, and pupils were encouraged to challenge this. Suzanne agreed with the views of the Forum that consultation with representatives of disabled groups was essential when designing school facilities. Nancy Pountain asked if anything was being done to allow children who required school-to-home transport to stay after school. Suzanne advised that some schools were experimenting with late buses home, but that there was much more still to do.

The Forum agreed that representatives of disability groups were essential on the BSF Board. Councillor Hird agreed to write to Gurmail Nizzer – Head of Service, BSF and School Place Planning – asking how the needs of disabled

people were considered at present, and how disability groups would be able to contribute to the programme.

10/08 Deaf Forum

The Forum received a report from Alison Hicking on behalf of the Derby Deaf Forum. Alison expanded on the difficulties faced by people with hearing impairments when using public transport. She reported that there had been little or no progress by bus companies in the past two years, when issues were put to bus company representatives. Mick Watts advised that Chris Hegarty was aware of the importance of these issues and that Mick would continue to press for improvements.

11/08 DPDF Project group Minutes

Resolved to receive the Project Group minutes for 14 April 2008.

12/08 Open Discussion

No open discussion was held at this meeting.

13/08 Information on Forum Workshop

Pam Thompson advised that a workshop would be held for Forum Members in July. The aim would be to review progress made so far, and look for ways to improve the efficacy of the Forum. Members were asked to contact Pam with possible dates. The consensus of Members was that it would be preferable to hold the workshop over one or two evenings.

14/08 Date of next pre-meeting

The Forum agreed that Judi Bateman, Janet Warner and Noel Walsh would attend the next pre-meeting, at a date to be confirmed. Nancy Pountain was named as first reserve should any Member be unable to attend.

NOTES END