

Time commenced : 6.30pm
Time finished : 8.30pm

GENDER & SEXUALITY DIVERSITY FORUM 10 MARCH 2009

Present: Community Representatives

Tracy Adams – Derby Women’s Centre
Lynette Anglin – Friendship Group
Joginder Bains – Rights for Non-British Spouses
Emma Boyes – Derbyshire Friend
Michael Briscoe – Surestart Men’s Forum
Eileen Christie – Friendship Group
Claire Connor – Safe and Sound
Lisa Flowers – Umoja Group
Shirley Howard-Johnson – Friday Friend
Toni Montinaro – Derbyshire Friend
Albertine Paka Di Phobia – Voice of Congolese Women
Dionne Reid – Women’s Work – In the Chair
Susan Rhodes - Reflection
Beth Seymour – Transcend
Margaret Tomkins – Rights for Non-British Spouses

Council and Other Officers

Tracy Arnold – Community Safety Partnership
Jotinder Atwal – Service Manager at Ashtree House
Mike Clarke – Community Care Worker at Ashtree House
Evelyn Clay – Service Manager
Christine Collingwood – Consultation Support Manager
Daniel Cooper – Constitutional Services Officer
Pamela Thompson – Consultation Support Officer
Ann Webster – Equality and Diversity Manager

43/08 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bolton, Holmes, Leeming and Winter. Apologies were also received from Nasreen Akhtar, Gillian Croft and Julie Goodall.

44/08 Introductions

The Forum members introduced themselves and welcomed new members.

45/08 Notes of the Previous Meeting

The notes of the meeting held on 27 January 2009 were agreed as a correct record and noted.

46/08 Update on Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

There were no updates on matters arising from the previous meeting.

47/08 Work Programme 2008/2009 and Questions and Answers sheet

The Forum considered the work programme and objectives for 2008/09.

The Forum discussed the content and timings of the work programme. The Consultation Support Officer informed the Forum of some amendments to the work programme.

It was reported to the Forum that a new questions and answers sheet had been produced that would be available to members. The sheet could be used to request information for a future meeting or ask any questions relating to a subject at the Forum which they felt they had not had time to answer.

Agreed to approve the work programme and the suggested amendments.

48/08 Presentation on Transgender

The Forum received a presentation from Beth Seymour on the various issues and aspects of transgender.

The representative explained the difficulties which transgender people can experience and that had driven her to create the support group Transcend. Beth stated that she was disappointed that when the Quad opened there were no pictures of transgender representatives in the building's foyer. Dionne Reid suggested that a representative from the Quad could come to the Forum so that could be addressed.

The Equality and Diversity Manager asked Beth if she had experienced any poor service from any Council Services. Beth said she had not experienced discrimination from the Council.

Agreed to note the presentation.

49/08 Customer Service Improvement Programme

It was reported that this item would be deferred until later date.

50/08 Social Care Support for non-British spouses without recourse to public funds

The Forum received a briefing report from the Darley Assessment Team Service Manager on social care support for non-British spouses without recourse to public funds. The Officer informed the members of the process for providing support for non-British spouses without recourse to public funds and how each case was assessed.

The representatives from Rights for Non-British Spouses questioned the process and raised concern that the current policy was not transparent enough. The

representatives claimed that sometimes applicants have been turned away and do not understand the reasons for the Council's decision.

The Forum agreed to set up a focus group consisting of Margaret Tomkins, Joginder Bains, Toni Montinaro, Tracy Arnold and Derby City Council officers to discuss the issues surrounding social care support for non-British spouses with recourse to public funds in greater detail.

51/08 Corporate Equality and Diversity Plan

The Forum considered the Council's new draft Corporate Equality and Diversity Plan. The Equality and Diversity Manager asked for the Forum's comments on the new three year action plan. The officer informed the Forum that this document needs to be signed off by 1 April and asked for members to submit their comments by 19 March.

Toni Montinaro suggested that consultation documents needed to focus more on groups rather than grouping the public by the separate districts in the city. The Derbyshire Friend representative stated that the objective; 'We want to make sure that equality is embedded in community cohesion work,' needed to be targeted at all equality areas and not just on the grounds of gender and race. He also suggested that the Community Safety Partnership could improve its consultation practices analysing the best practice they have developed in a recent consultation exercise into domestic violence. Michael Briscoe asked for details of the engagement and support actions are planned for single fathers.

The Forum noted the draft Corporate Equality and Diversity Plan and agreed to submit any comments on the draft policy to the Equality and Diversity Manager.

52/08 Prostitution and Sexual Exploitation

The Forum received a presentation from Claire Connor from Safe and Sound on the issues and causes of sexual exploitation that can lead to prostitution. The representative explained the work of Safe and Sound and what methods they use to reduce the amount of sexual exploitation.

The Forum noted the presentation.

53/08 International Women's Day

The chair informed the meeting that the recent Women's Day event had been very successful with more than 350 people attending. The evaluation sheets had provided some useful feedback and the only negative comments were about the size of the venue. The chair said that this would be reviewed for next year's event.

The Forum noted the update.

54/08 Open Discussion

Michael Briscoe from Surestart Men's Forum informed the group that the centre would be holding a men's health event on the 21 March. Everyone was welcome and there would be entertainment provided.

Joginder Bains from Rights for non-British spouses reported to the Forum that her group would be hosting an International Women's Day dinner and dance also on the 21 March at St George's Social Club.

The Equality and Diversity Manager informed the Forum that the Crown Prosecution Service Hate Crime Scrutiny Panel is looking for new members. Anyone who is interested in taking part should contact Ann Webster at the Council House.

Toni Montinaro from the Derbyshire Friend organisation reported to the Forum that the Gay Pride Parade was now in the planning stages and would be taking place in early July.

The Forum noted the updates.

55/08 Diversity Forum Budget Consultation Response

Agreed to note the Diversity Forum Budget Consultation response.

56/08 Next Forum Pre-Meeting – 22 April 2009

The next pre-meeting will be held on Wednesday 22 April 2009 at 3pm, and Pam Thompson asked for volunteers from Forum members representing organisations.

Agreed that volunteers would contact the consultation support officer before the pre-meeting.

MINUTES END