

Time commenced : 6.30 pm
Time finished : 8.40 pm

DISABLED PEOPLE'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE 13 NOVEMBER 2003

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

Representing Groups

Maurice Kilminster – Derby City Osteoporosis Group
Alison Hicking – Derby Deaf Forum
Sarah Fletcher – Derby Access Group
Nancy Pountain – Derby Access Group
Pat Fletcher – Derbyshire Coalition for Inclusive Living
Linda Lucas – Derbyshire Coalition for Inclusive Living
Marta Hancock – Disability Direct

Mary Walters – Interpreter, Communications Unlimited

City Council Advisors

Mahroof Hussain – Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination Officer
Chris Edwards – Assistant Director, Property Services
David Gartside – Head of Traffic, Traffic Management
Mike Moody – Project Officer, Social Services
Susanne Meehan – PE Adviser, Education
Mick Watts – Access Officer, Development and Cultural Services
Muzar Syed – Head of Equalities, Chief Executives
Mick Connell – Assistant Director, Social Services
Darren Allsobrook – Health and Safety Adviser, Social Services
Ann Webster – Equalities Advisor, Chief Executives
Sarah Turner – Members Services Officer, Corporate Services

24/03 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor H S Dhamrait, Amarjit Raju – Disability Direct, Martin Austin – Freedom Forum, Edith Storer – EMASH, George Sanders – CAMTAD, Pat Taylor – Derbyshire Association for the Blind and Trevor Ford – Derwent Housing Association.

25/03 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

26/03 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

27/03 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2003 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

28/03 Matters Arising

European Year of Disabled People – Invitation from Osnabruck

Ann Webster advised the Committee that the trip to Osnabruck had taken place and the participants would report back to the next meeting.

Fairer Charging Consultation Process

The Chair advised that at the Council Cabinet meeting on 28 October 2003 option A was the recommendation that was agreed by the Cabinet Members. It was agreed that anyone with a disposable income in excess of £19,500 would still be charged the maximum charge of £31.50.

A member of the Committee advised that this had not been relayed to them in conversations they had had with Social Services. Mick Connell stated that he would look into this issue but would be writing to all users within the next couple of weeks advising them of the Council Cabinet decisions and providing further information about the service.

Mick Connell advised that it was also agreed by Council Cabinet that they would continue the current charging arrangements for the small number of people receiving very high benefits and 24 hour intensive supported accommodation in the community.

29/03 The Breakthrough Project – New Sport and PE Opportunities for Disabled Children in Derby Schools

The Committee received a presentation from Suzanne Meahan, PE Advisor on the Breakthrough Project – New Sport and PE Opportunities for disabled children in Derby Schools. Suzanne advised that two years ago funding was secured for the improvement and development of school sport and physical education opportunities for children with disabilities. The project had evolved as a result of feedback from teachers who felt that there were problems in providing a broad and balanced curriculum for disabled children in mainstream secondary schools. Key barriers to participation were identified as effective access to facilities, the appropriateness of equipment for disabled children and a need for further training for both teachers and support staff.

Six schools were originally selected in Derby to pilot this project, these were St Benedict's, Woodlands, Murray Park, Derby Moor, Lees Brook and Noel Baker. Schools in Derbyshire were also part of the project. To date approximately seventeen secondary schools in Derby/ Derbyshire had been involved. It was hoped that as a result of the breakthrough project in these schools there would be:

- Improved access to PE and school sport for disabled youngsters
- Improved training for teachers and support staff and better equipment to meet the needs of disabled children

It was advised that the biggest obstacle was the lack of funding for the project and Suzanne asked if members of the committee could advise of any organisations she could approach for further funding. The Chair advised that Ann Webster and Mick Watts would investigate the possibility of funding from various agencies.

30/03 Reducing Health Inequalities Topic Review

The Committee received a presentation from Mahroof Hussain – Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination Officer on the Reducing Health Inequalities Topic Review that was undertaken by the Social Care and Health Commission. The Committee received an overview of the role of overview and scrutiny in local government, and a brief outline of the portfolio of the Social Care and Health Commission. The committee also received information on the topic review comprising of:

- The Modernisation Program – Health Act 1999
- The Health and Social Care Act 2001 reasons why health is scrutinised
- Why there are inequalities in health
 - Social Class
 - Deprivation
- Illustrations of Health and Inequalities
- Ethnicity
- Determinants of Health
- How the Review was Conducted
- Public Service Agreement Target
- National Health inequalities Targets

Councillor Webb thanked Mahroof for his informative presentation.

31/03 Moving and Handling of People Policy and Practice Arrangements

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Social Services detailing the Social Services Moving and Handling Policy and Practice Arrangements based on the Health and Safety executive's approach to risk assessments. The policy considered individual's needs and circumstances and the rights and safety of services users and employees. The Social Services Moving and Handling Policy followed the HSE's balanced approach. Managers were required to carry out risk assessments where moving and handling has been identified. The policy stated

that “the mobility needs of Service Users must be assessed. Hazards and risks identified should be minimised as far as is reasonably practical. Assessments must take into account the rights, wishes and safety of both Service Users and Employees. The use of aids and equipment is encouraged wherever they can to reduce risks.” Service Users and/or their advocate must be involved in the risk assessment process.

The committee were advised that moving and handling training was externally provided by Handling and Movement Consultancy and was commissioned by the departments training and education section. Managers and employees attended three days initial moving and handling training. Further one-day refresher courses were provided. Specific sessions on the training course included disability discrimination and human rights.

A member of the committee asked if it were possible to have training open to direct payment users. Darren Allsobrook, Health and Safety Advisor, advised that there was a moving and handling sub group and the issue of providing training for direct payment users had been raised and was being looked in to..

Resolved to note the report.

32/03 Implementing the Disability Discrimination Act and Equality Standard for Local Government in Corporate Services

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Corporate Services advising of the progress being made in Corporate Services on implementing the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act (1995)(DDA) and the Equality Standard for Local Government. Corporate Services had made progress in the following areas in regards to DDA requirements:

- Elections
- Access to buildings
- Fire evacuation procedures
- Building Design
- Personnel

Resolved to note the report

33/03 Best Value Review of Education and Social Services Transport

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Education detailing the final report and improvement plan of the best value review of education and social services transport. David Gartside, Head of Traffic, gave his assurance that during the consultation process most service users including adults, children, young people and carers, were consulted for their views.

At the last meeting of the committee, members asked that this report be deferred to allow officers to comment on their recommendations and answer any further questions from members.

David Gartside advised that all issues raised by the committee would be addressed. Ann Webster advised of specific issues involving small nursery children attending the Ronnie McKeith centre. David Gartside advised that he would contact Ann Butt, Team Leader Pre school/ Sensory/ Medical, to get more information about these concerns.

Resolved to note the report

34/03 Strategy for Improving Customer Care in Social Services

The committee considered a report of the Director of Social Services detailing the Customer Care Strategy. The focus of the strategy was on improving the culture, structure and processes affecting customer care in social services. The strategy looked at how the department could build on corporate standards and good practice and improve the experience people had in their contact with the department, and identified where the actions were being taken forward.

Resolved to note the report

35/03 Deaf Forum Feedback

The committee received feedback from Alison Hicking of the Deaf Forum on the activities of the forum over the last few months. The committee will advise that the Deaf Forum had launched a web site on the 27 October. Alison asked that members of the Committee access the web site and provide comments and feedback so that the site could be developed further.

On behalf of Deaf people in the community Alison asked whether there were any plans to keep the bus passes going after their expiry in October 2004. Mick Watts advised that Derby City Council were in discussion with the County Council about the concessionary scheme. As the city was focusing on increased bus use he anticipated the continuation of the concessionary travel scheme. A report would be presented at a future meeting on this issue.

36/03 Summary of the Towards Work Disability Partnership

Resolved to defer consideration of this item until the next meeting of the Committee.

**37/03 Minutes of the Disabled Peoples Advisory
Committee – Highway, Transportation and
Development Focus Group**

**Resolved to defer consideration of this item until the next meeting of the
Committee.**

MINUTES END