

Time commenced : 6.30pm
Time finished : 8.15pm

GENDER & SEXUALITY DIVERSITY FORUM 24 NOVEMBER 2009

Present: Councillor Winter (Chair)

In Attendance:

Community Representatives

Lynette Anglin – Friendship Group
Mary Rowland – Women in Neighbouring Communities
Julie Goodall – Transend
Nasreen Iqbal – Normanton Women’s Engagement Project
Toni Montinaro – Derbyshire Friend
Satinder Panesar – Refuge – Asian Women’s Services
Helen Ham – Confidence & Equality Derbyshire Police
Dionne Reid – Women’s Work
Beth Seymour – Transcend
Gill Taylor – Soroptomist International of Derby

Council and Other Officers

Christine Collingwood – Consultation and Engagement Manager
Laura Butler – Constitutional Services Officer
Liz Moore – HR Consultant CAS and Resources
Ann Webster – Equality and Diversity Manager
Tracy Arnold – Derby Community Safety Partnership
Carolyn Wilkinsons – Principal Consultant – PMP Genesis

20/09 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Shirley Howard-Johnson, Amara Iqbal, and Arshia Iqbal.

21/09 Late items to be introduced by the Chair

Their were no late items.

22/09 Notes of the Previous Meeting

The notes of the meeting held on 29 September 2009 were agreed as a correct record.

23/09 Updates on matters arising from the previous meeting

Christine Collingwood reported that the My Place bid for the Young People’s Centre has successfully gone through and that news on the next phase was due to follow soon.

Minute Number 15/09 – A representative of The Quad would be invited to a meeting of the Diversity Forum to plan the use of facilities for the Transgender Remembrance Day next year.

The Forum noted the update.

24/09 Work Programme 2009/2010

The Forum considered the work programme and objectives for 2009/10.

It was agreed to look at the work programme in more detail at the next meeting.

Toni Montinaro asked how the new Chief Executive and structure changes would affect the Diversity Forums. Christine Collingwood informed the Forum that the Chief Executive was very keen for the Diversity Forums to look at issues raised by his departments.

Christine Collingwood reminded the Forum of the two special meetings that members were encouraged to attend, on Thursday 10 December 2009, 6-8pm (Grants to Voluntary and Community Organisations) and Tuesday 12 January 2010, 6-8pm (Council Budget)

The Forum noted the Work Programme and the meeting dates.

25/09 Open Discussion / Questions and Answer Sheet

Beth Seymour passed on information about the Trans Equality Index to Ann Webster.

Satinder Panesar asked why children were not able to attend schools near refuge centres when mothers are placed at the centres with their children. She also asked whether funding could be provided to enable women at the centres to place their children in childcare while attending training courses.

It was agreed that the questions would be passed on to the appropriate directors for a response at the next meeting.

The Forum agreed to the responses for the questions at the next meeting.

26/09 Open Space Assessment

Carolyn Wilkinson attended the Forum for a discussion on the adequacy of existing open space, sport and recreation facilities within the city. The aim was to find out what facilities were available, what improvements could be made and what new facilities could be introduced.

The Forum's main concerns were lighting within the parks and walk ways around the open spaces, and the lack of toilet facilities available at the parks.

Forum members agreed that there had been an increase of dog walkers using Darley Park and that the grass would need more care and pathways would need lighting added.

Some members raised the question of children being able to use the gym facilities with them at the sports centres.

The Forum felt that the city had a lot of variety within the parks and sports facilities and a lot of open spaces.

Forum members were encouraged to contact Carolyn Wilkinson if they had more information or questions.

The Forum agreed to contact Carolyn if they wanted or had more information.

27/09 Working for the Council

The Forum considered the 2008/09 equality employment statistics. The statistics covered recruitment and selection, workforce profile, training and development, disciplinary, grievances, improving employee performance and moving forward with equality aims and objectives.

The Forum welcomed the statistics and also raised the question of disabled people feeling uncomfortable speaking about their disability with their employer. Ann Webster confirmed that people were reluctant to tell their employer of their disabilities but that an effort had been made to encourage more people to come forward.

Lynette Anglin asked what the Council would do to encourage black elderly people to work for Derby City Council. Ann Webster confirmed that there is a Minority Ethnic Job Register.

The Forum asked what had been done to encourage young minority workers to work for the Council. Ann Webster informed the Forum of modern apprenticeships within the Council.

The Forum noted the report.

28/09 International Women's Day

Dionne Reid updated the Forum on the progress for the International Women's Day. The main issues were lack of money, with a need for £6,000 to cover the whole event. The Assembly Rooms had been booked with the refreshments and a guest.

It was noted that the daytime meetings arranged to organise the event had been poorly attended. It was suggested that the next meeting be held in the evening to encourage more people to attend.

It was agreed that the date for the next meeting would be circulated to the Forum Members.

29/09 Next Meeting – 19 January 2010

The next pre-meeting was arranged for 16 December 2009. The Forum agreed the three representatives to attend the pre-meeting would be Councillor Winter, Nasreen Iqbal and Beth Seymour.

MINUTES END