

Time commenced : 6.35pm
Time finished : 8.17pm

GENDER DIVERSITY FORUM 17 JUNE 2008

Present: **Representing Derby City Council**
Councillor Winter (Chair)
Councillor Bolton
Councillor Leeming

Community Representatives

Arshia Iqbal – Normanton Women’s Engagement Project
Nasreen Iqbal – Normanton Women’s Engagement Project
Toni Montinaro – Derbyshire Friend
Emma Boyes – Derbyshire Friend
Bernadette Pinnock – Friendship Group
Vinnie Sanghera – Derbyshire Constabulary
Gill Taylor – Soroptimists International
Famida Bhatti – Refuge
Joginder Bains – Rights for Non-British Spouses
Susan Rhodes – T Junction
Shirley Howard-Johnson – Friday Friends for Women

Council and Other Officers

Pam Thompson – Consultation Support Officer
Justina Nurse – Derby CVS
Liz Moore – HR
Andrew Beddow – Sport and Leisure
Yvonne Luce – Derby Community Safety Partnership
Christine Collingwood – Consultation Support
Anneke Bambery – Head of Museums
Ann Webster – Derby City Council

01/08 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cherry Henry, Susan Boon, the Derby Women’s Centre and Tracy Arnold.

02/08 Introductions

The Forum members introduced themselves and welcomed new members.

03/08 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 April 2008 were agreed as a correct record and noted.

04/08 Update on Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

Cllr Sara Bolton requested that the vice-Chair be elected at the next meeting, and that an Agenda item be added to this effect.

Agreed to add the item 'Election of vice-Chair' to the Agenda of the September meeting.

05/08 Work Programme

The Forum discussed the forthcoming items on the work programme. Pam Thompson advised that items 17-20 were to be heard at that meeting, and that a maximum of two items would be heard per meeting in the future. Pam advised the Forum that a Workshop was to be piloted by the Disabled People's Diversity Forum in July to consider the work of their Forum. If the pilot was successful, it was envisaged that the Gender Diversity Forum would hold a similar Workshop later in 2008.

Toni Montinaro raised concerns that the Community Safety Partnership item had not yet been completed. He also suggested that some items needed to be revisited as a general introduction to some subjects were not sufficient. Pam advised that the Workshop would provide an opportunity to make the themes on the Work Programme more specific.

Ann Webster suggested that the Work Programmes of all three Diversity Forums should be integrated within the three-year Equality and Diversity Plan to promote partnership working.

Councillor Bolton advised that officers from the Children and Young People's Department should be invited to item 22 in addition to Karma Nirvana. She also advised that Mick Seller was now the contact for item 30.

Agreed:

- 1) to note the update and make the changes to the Work Programme suggested by Councillor Bolton.**
- 2) to review the progress and prioritisation of the Work Programme thoroughly at a future meeting.**
- 3) to consider how the Work Programme could be integrated into the Equality and Diversity Plan.**
- 4) to consider the Work Programme at any forthcoming workshop.**

06/08 Volunteering

The Forum received a presentation from Justina Nurse of Derby Community Volunteer Service (CVS). She outlined the core functions of the CVS and the reasons people chose to volunteer. Justina advised that 64% of adult volunteers in England were women. There was a much closer gender balance for volunteers in education. Justina advised that there was not currently a strategy to encourage male or transgender volunteers, but she would suggest this to the CVS.

The Forum thanked Justina for her presentation. Members asked that the CVS look for ways to close the gender imbalance of volunteers, praising the hard

work done by the Service with young people and disabled volunteers. Members also agreed on the need for a network of Men's Centres to complement Women's Centres.

Agreed:

- 1) to note the report.**
- 2) to invite Justina Nurse to a future meeting for an update.**

07/08 Rights for Non-British Spouses

Joginder Bains - Rights for Non-British Spouses - gave a presentation on the issues facing non-British spouses living and applying to live in the UK. She detailed the legislation regarding residency rights for foreign nationals marrying a UK citizen, the experiences of women with limited leave to stay in Britain and the differing levels of state support provided to non-British spouses by local authorities.

The Forum thanked Joginder for her presentation. An open invitation was extended to attend a public meeting to discuss the Two Years Probationary Period Rule and the No Recourse to Public Funds. The meeting was to be held on Sunday 20 July at 3pm, at the Indian Community Centre in Derby.

Members agreed to invite Joginder to provide feedback on the public meeting at the September meeting. Sheila Downey – Assistant Director, Adult Social Services - would also be invited to explain the City Council policy on supporting non-British spouses who had left their partners due to domestic violence.

Agreed:

- 1) to note the report.**
- 2) to invite Joginder Bains and Sheila Downey to the September meeting for further discussions.**

08/08 Play Strategy

Andrew Beddow – Head of Sport and Leisure – gave a presentation on the Derby City Council play strategy. He advised that this covered the 0-21 age group, and so was focused on the needs of both children and young people.

Members thanked Andrew for his presentation. The Forum agreed on the need for young people to be consulted on projects designed for them. This link between the availability of facilities for young people and levels of anti-social behaviour was also discussed.

Christine Collingwood advised that the Voices in Action group were reviewing amenities in their local area, and mapping out where facilities for play and activities were most needed. Andrew agreed to meet Christine and members of Voices in Action to discuss their findings.

Agreed:

- 1) to note the presentation.**

2) That Christine Collingwood and / or Voices in Action should meet with Andrew Beddow, and an update be brought to a future meeting.

09/08 International Women's Day

Pam Thompson and Emma Boyes advised Members on the progress of preparations for International Women's Day 2009. The event was to take place on Saturday 7 March 2009.

Pam and Emma advised that one planning meeting had been held, concentrating on lessons learned from the successful 2008 event. These included the need for better signposting and marketing, clearer definitions of roles and responsibilities, continuing the development of partnership working and securing funding further in advance of the event.

The next meeting was to take place on Thursday 10 July at 5.30pm at the Council House, Corporation Street. One decision at that meeting would be the appointment of a Chair for the International Women's Day 2009 committee.

Noted.

10/08 Open Discussion

Toni Montinaro informed Members of the recent death of Karen McLean of T Junction. Ann Webster advised that the LGBT Employees Network were to publish a guide to Good Customer Service for Transgender customers in Karen's memory. It was also mentioned that the Forum name should be reflective of the groups represented on it, therefore a name change should be considered.

11/08 Next Forum Pre-Meeting

The next pre-meeting would be held on Wednesday 23 July at 3.00pm, and Pam Thompson asked for volunteers from Forum members representing organisations.

Agreed that Joginder Bains, Vinny Sanghera and Toni Montinaro would attend the pre-meeting.

MINUTES END