

Time commenced - 6.30 pm
Time Finished – 8:30 pm

MINORITY ETHNIC COMMUNITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE 16 JUNE 2005

Present: **Representing Derby City Council**
Councillor Burgess - in the Chair
Councillors Rehman, Richards and Willitts

Representing Communities

Ferid Kevric – Bosnian Community
George Mighty – Caribbean Community
Angella Mighty – Caribbean Community
Lloyd Newby - Caribbean Community
Jules Bappa – Derby African Association
Mohan Manku - Indian Community
Nasreen Iqbal - Pakistani Community
Kamal Amier - Somalian Community

Community Advisors

Shirley Howard - Caribbean Community
Tony Walsh – Derby Race Equalities Council - REC

Council Advisors

Sue Glithero - Director of Policy
Pam Thompson - Consultation Support Officer
Carol Mee – Public Relations Officer
Rajesh Lall – Education Officer
John Brown – Head of Sport and Leisure
Ann Webster – Equality Standard Project Manager

Also present

Amar Bashir – Racial Harassment Officer - Derby REC

01/05 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Khan, Isabella Stone, Gurmail Bolla, Nezrine Hudson, Mohammed Sharief and Gurdev Singh Dhillon.

02/05 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

A late item was introduced by the Chair on the Statement of Community Involvement – SCI. It was reported that the first stage of the SCI was being developed and a working draft had been prepared for comment. If anyone had any comments or questions on the emerging SCI, they were asked to

contact either Kathryn Armstrong – Prior, Senior Planning Officer or Andrew Waterhouse, Team Leader.

Agreed to note the report.

03/05 Declarations of Interest

Tony Walsh declared a personal interest in item 13/05 as he managed the Derby Cultural Diversity Community Group.

04/05 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 April 2005 were confirmed as a correct record.

05/05 Community Cultural Event

The Committee considered an oral presentation by Shirley Howard about the Community Cultural Event which was held in November 2004. A booklet about the event had been circulated but it included no pictures of the girls and women who had attended the event and no awards were given to girls or women. Shirley felt this misrepresented the attendance of the event and asked that in future women and girls should be included in brochures such as this. Councillor Burgess responded that we had received assurance at the last meeting that the Pakistani Community Association would do whatever they could to make sure that anyone using the Centre did not have that sort of seating arrangement. Sue Glithero said she would speak to the services within the Council who had sponsored the event to make them fully aware of the equalities issues involved.

Resolved to note the presentation.

06/05 Proposal for an Information Exchange Protocol for the Sharing of Racist Incidents Data

The Committee considered an oral presentation by Amar Bashir of Derby REC the newly appointed Racial Harassment Officer, on a proposal for an information exchange protocol for the sharing of racist incidents data. Amar had found that information on racist incidents was difficult to find as it was not collated. He proposed an information exchange protocol so that all agencies involved in the collection of racist incidents data could share information so a clearer picture could be created.

Councillor Burgess suggested that Amar should contact the Community Safety Partnership as they were already collecting a lot of the data Amar was requesting, as were other departments of the Council. There was a danger that he was trying to duplicate something they were already doing. The Council and the Police had already entered into an information sharing protocol. It was also pointed out that the Council collected data on Racial

Incidents as a Best Value Performance Indicator and Ann Webster would be happy to share that information with Derby REC.

Resolved that Amar Bashir should contact the Community Safety Partnership.

07/05 Race Equality Policies in Derby Schools

The Committee considered an report from Tony Walsh suggesting that a mapping exercise be carried out to determine the current situation with race equality policies in Derby schools.

Rajesh Lall responded that all schools in Derby in 2001 received comprehensive guidance on the requirements of a race equality policy. Derby City Council was very keen to work in partnership with agencies within Derby and had worked with REC before. There were issues regarding confidentiality because of the changes caused by the Children's Act so procedures were in the process of being reviewed.

Councillor Burgess queried whether schools had to give the Council details of their policy. Rajesh Lall responded that the schools did not have to it was up to the individual school. Education were keen to work in partnership and Rajesh Lall would be happy to meet with representatives of the REC to further explore the possibility of a joint mapping exercise. Councillor Burgess asked whether it was possible for MECAC formally to request the information. Rajesh Lall responded that he would looking into this to see whether it was possible and report back.

Agreed to explore the possibility of MECAC requesting the information from schools.

08/05 Bemrose School Transport

It was reported to MECAC that this item had been on a previous Forward Plan but had now been withdrawn. The information had been requested by Shokat Lall and, as he was not at the meeting, the information would be provided directly to him.

09/05 Presentation on the Sport Facilities and Physical Activity Strategy

Phil Barefoot, Principal Consultant of Strategic Leisure, gave a presentation to the Committee on the Sport Facilities and Physical Activity Strategy. The Strategy would be called "Getting Derby Active" and set out a framework and plan to increase Physical Activity. There was a discussion about the merits of activities being offered in the Pakistani and Indian religious centres. It was reported that a Physical Activity Alliance had been developed and that members of MECAC would be welcome on the Alliance.

Resolved to note the report.

10/05 Forward Plan

Resolved to notify Pam Thompson of any items from the Forward Plan that Committee members would like to see on a future Work Programme.

11/05 Draft Equality and Diversity Plan 2005-2008

The Committee considered a report on the draft Equality and Diversity Plan 2005-2008. The Council had a general duty under the Race Relations Amendment Act to eliminate unlawful racial discrimination, promote equal opportunities and promote good race relations between people from different racial groups. In addition the Council had specific duties and these included producing a Race Equality Scheme every three years. The Equality and Diversity Plan included the requirements needed in a Race Equality Scheme but extended these requirements to gender, disability, sexuality, religion and age. The Council's Equality and Diversity Steering Group and Equality Standard Task Group, had worked on the plan for the last six months with departmental equality groups. Each department assessed their policies, procedures, functions and services for relevance to race equality and prioritised them for doing detailed equality impact assessments over the next three years. The equality impact assessments would cover race, gender, disability, age, sexuality and religion. As the document was so large it was proposed that a separate meeting be arranged with interested members of MECAC, Derby REC and members from Derby Millennium Network. Mr Manku praised the report, but pointed out that he felt it was important that images on council leaflets and publications should be representative of the community and include men wearing turbans.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the report**
- 2. to ask Ann Webster to write to all MECAC members to see who is interested in attending a separate meeting to discuss the plan.**

12/05 Equalities Complaints Monitoring

The Committee considered a report on Equalities Complaints Monitoring within the Council. The report dealt with formal complaints from employees against each other. It covered the complaints received from 1 January 2004 – 31 March 2005. The Fairness at Work policy, which went live on 1 February 2005, was the framework within which all employees were now investigated. The report showed that only four complaints had been received compared to nine in the period 1 January 2003 – 31 December 2003.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the report.**
- 2. to agree that future reporting periods will be 1 April to 31 March each year.**

13/05 Equality Grants to Voluntary Groups 2004/05

The Committee considered a report on Equality Grants to Voluntary Groups for 2004-2005. The Council set aside £3,500 to assist voluntary organisations to promote equality of opportunity. The money was divided between eight organisations as listed in Appendix 2 of the report. Tony Walsh commented that the criteria seemed rather vague. Sue Glithero explained the background but said that they could be reviewed for 2006/07 and a report brought back to MECAC.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the report.**
- 2. to bring back a report on criteria for 2006/07 grants.**

14/05 Potential Role for Advisory Committees in Health Scrutiny

The Committee considered a report on the potential role for Advisory Committees in Health Scrutiny. During the past year, the Social Care and Health Commission considered numerous health related items at its scheduled business meetings. The Commission also conducted two major topic reviews, including the one on car parking charges which had been debated at MECAC. Unlike other external organisations, the health bodies have a statutory duty to respond to the requests made by health scrutiny committees for information and to any recommendations resulting from scrutiny. The report asked for any suggestions on what the Advisory Committees could scrutinise this year regarding Health Scrutiny.

Lloyd Newby suggested that side effects to drugs were not currently explained properly by doctors and that a drop in clinic should be provided to enable patients and their partners to go and ask any questions they have about the medication they are on.

Resolved to note the report and pass any other ideas to Mahroof Hussain.

15/05 Review of Supplementary Language Classes

The Committee considered a report on the review of supplementary language classes. It was reported that the budget had been increased by £19,000 for 2005/06 and that grant applications for 2005/06 had been

received from the eight existing groups who received a grant in 2004/05 plus two groups who had received a grant in previous years. A reserve had also been held for emerging new groups. It was also reported that CRB checks would be carried out by the Council on all current employees of the groups funded by this grant. The Council would pay for these checks to be carried out.

Mr Manku suggested a review of the budget should happen more frequently in future as it had not previously been increased since 1997.

Resolved to note the report.

16/05 MECAC Newsletter

The Committee was asked to consider items for inclusion in the next MECAC Newsletter.

17/05 Easter Sports Activity Scheme in Arboretum Park

It was reported that following the last MECAC meeting, Suman Gupta spoke to John Brown – Head of Sports and Leisure about bullying taking place in the Arboretum Park Scheme. Within a few days of the information being supplied, the matter had been satisfactorily dealt with. The reason for reporting back to the meeting was that the department, when informed of any bullying whether racially motivated or not, had the policies and procedures in place to deal with the incidents immediately and Suman Gupta wanted MECAC to know how pleased she was with the speed and efficiency the matter was dealt with.

18/05 Letter to the Secretary of State on Failed Asylum Seekers

The Committee considered a letter which was sent from Councillor Burgess to the Secretary of State on the issue of failed asylum seekers. It was reported that no response had yet been received.

Resolved to note the report.

19/05 Schedule of meetings for items for 2005/2006

The Committee received the schedule of meetings for 2005/06:

8 September 2005	6.30pm
17 November 2005	6.30pm
12 January 2006	6.30pm
30 March 2006	6.30pm
15 June 2006	6.30pm

Resolved to note the report.

20/05 MECAC Work Programme

The Committee considered MECAC's latest work programme.

Resolved to note the report.

Chair of the next ensuing meeting
at which these minutes were signed