

Time commenced : 6.30 pm
Time finished : 8.10 pm

DISABLED PEOPLE'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE 4 NOVEMBER 2004

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

Representing groups

Pat Taylor – Derbyshire Association for the Blind
Judy Bateman – Derby Access Group
Nancy Pountain – Derby Access Group
Trevor Ford – Derwent Housing
Maurice Kilminster – Derby City Osteoporosis Group
George Sanders – CANTAD
Alison Hicking – Derby Deaf Forum
Amarjit Raju – Disability Direct

Mary Walters – BSL Sign Language Interpreter,
Communications Limited

City Council Advisors

Yvonne Pearson – Project Manager, Carers and Disabled
Peoples' Employment, Social Services
Pam Thompson – Consultation Support Officer, Policy
Directorate
Sarah Turner – Members Services Officer, Corporate Services
Mick Watts – Access Officer, Development and Cultural
Services
Ann Webster – Equality Standard Project Manager, Policy
Directorate

15/04 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hird and Rehman, Martin Austin – Freedom Forum and Disability Direct, Marta Hancock – Disability Direct, Edith Storer – East Midlands Arthritis Self Help Group and Mike Bishop – Derbyshire Association for the Blind.

16/04 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items. However, the Chair advised the Committee that item 6 on the agenda – Tenants Harassment Complaints, had been withdrawn and would be presented to the Committee at their next meeting.

17/04 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

18/04 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2004 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

19/04 Minutes of the DPAC – Project Group held on 4 and 18 October 2004

Proposals for Reception Area Standardisation

The minutes of the Working Party would be received by the Committee at a future meeting.

Derby Station

Nancy Pountain advised that a meeting had taken place with Brian Found from Midland Mainline, who advised that he had applied to National Express, the parent company of Midland Mainline, for funding for the lifts. The outcome of this would be known some time in December. Nancy asked members of the Committee to write to Midland Mainline or National Express asking for lifts to be installed.

Mick Watts stated that under the DDA, Midland Mainline were required to provide lifts for disabled passengers. The Access Group were going to write to National Express and Mick encouraged organisations and individuals to write to them.

Ann Webster advised that the Disability Rights Commission had an information document titled 'What to do if you are discriminated against'. This could be found on their website. A model letter could be downloaded from the website, to use as a template to write to organisations who were not fulfilling their requirement under DDA.

20/04 Control of A Boards on the Highway

Mick Watts advised that Council Cabinet would consider the zero tolerance recommendation made at the last Disabled Peoples' Advisory Committee and a response of the Director of Development and Cultural Services, on the 9 November. Officers were asking for more time to investigate other authorities' approaches to A Boards in their cities. He hoped that Council Cabinet would consider a report, with the outcome of these investigations, in spring 2005.

Mick Watts advised that there were other authorities that had taken a more proactive on A Boards and he needed to see how this had been achieved. Mick suggested having this item regularly on the agenda to ensure that committee were briefed on how the investigations were going. Mick asked members to give him details of any local authorities that they know of, who operate a zero tolerance policy with A Boards.

Nancy Pountain commented that many disabled people would be able to challenge A Boards in the city under DDA.

Resolved that in the event of Council Cabinet turning down the recommendations of the Committee, that the Chair would write to other

authorities who have more rigorous policies, for information on their procedures.

21/04 European Day of Disabled People: DDA Access

Mick Watts advised that the European Day of Disabled People would be on 3 December 2004 and the event would be used to promote the No Limits Information Website, which offers information, for disabled people and employers on training towards work, and in work support, and also the Disability rights Commission's Open 4 All campaign. Ann Webster advised that she had been in contact with Marks and Spencer and the local manager would be speaking with his Area Manager to get approval to have a desk at the front of the Derby Cornmarket store. This would include a laptop with information on the No Limits Information Website, leaflets and information on the Disability Rights Commission's Open for All Campaign. Another option for holding the event would be the Eagle Centre.

Mick Watts requested the help and support of DPAC members to attain the event. Any DPAC members interested in attending the event were asked to advise Pam Thompson.

Resolved to progress the option of using Marks and Spencer for the European Day of Disabled People on 3 December. If this changed, all groups would be advised.

22/04 Towards Work Disability Partnership

Yvonne Pearson advised the Committee that she was leaving the Towards Work Disability Partnership and this would be her last DPAC meeting. Yvonne went into the background of the Towards Work Disability Partnership and their achievements to date, which included the creation of the No Limits information website, the establishment of the employers network on disability which had been funded by EMDA from 2002, the hosting of a disabled peoples jobs fair at the assembly rooms as well as improved access for Deaf people to the services of job centre plus.

The Committee were advised that the Towards Work Disability Partnership was created three years ago to implement the Welfare to Work Joint Investment Plan for Disabled People. It operated as a working party of the Disabled People's Advisory Committee. The Towards Work Disability Partnership was now well established and its work had exceed the proposed actions outlined in the original Welfare to Work joint Investment Plan. A new work plan needed to be developed and at this stage it seemed appropriate that the responsibility for leading this work should be moved through a voluntary sector organisation working with Disabled People. Disability Direct was the obvious choice given the additional capacity provided by EMDA funding, the presence of their DDA worker and the fact their work covered all groups of disabled people in Derby. Additionally, funding to cover the hire of sign language interpreters and refreshments had been identified by the Corporate Personnel Section of Derby City Council. The partnership would continue to meet at the Council House with no charge to Disability Direct.

The Chair thanked Yvonne for her contribution to the Committee during her time involved in the Towards Work Disability Partnership.

22/04 Work Programme

Pam Thompson asked the Committee to advise of any items that needed to be added to the programme for 2004/05. The following items would be included on the work programme:

- direct payments
- report from Amarjit Raju on the Committee Legal Services Partnership
- A Boards.

Councillor Webb asked members to discuss the work programme with their groups and bring any further items to be included on the work programme to the meeting in January.

23/04 Issues from Derby Deaf Forum

Alison Hicking reported issues raised at recent meetings of the Deaf Forum to the Committee. The Committee were advised that the closure of Derby College for Deaf People had affected the Deaf Forum and many Deaf Forum representatives were involved in meetings with the college and the Learning and Skills Council. A representative from Derby College would be attending the next meeting of the Forum to give an update on the situation.

Alison advised that changes at the Rycote Centre had caused a lot of confusion and anxieties within the Deaf Club. Things had not yet settled down but there was a dialog between the Adult Learning Service and the Deaf Club.

They were currently working with the police to have an emergency number to contact the police by text as many Deaf people did use mobile phones.

The AGM of the Forum would be 28 January 2005 and everyone was welcome to attend. A Deaf Information Day in May or June next year was being planned. Plans were still at a very early stage but it would be aimed at deaf and hearing people as well as local councillors and organisations and the aim would be to inform people what was available to promote different groups and show the work of the deaf forum.

Alison stressed that more funding was needed to carry out the work of the Deaf Forum.

Yvonne Pearson asked for an update on the situation regarding the Alive Video Phone project in Derby Libraries. Alison responded that the Derby City Library had refused video phones on the premises as the video phones needed ISDN lines and Derby City Council were on broadband. Ann Webster commented that the Alive project was working with Derby Advice and there would also be a video phone in the Council House reception. The issue was that broadband was shared and the more people using it, the poorer the quality. Pat Taylor commented that there was a lot of equipment in the library for visually impaired people and if Alison worked with her, they could possibly get more equipment for Deaf people.

24/04 Council Cabinet Forward Plan

Members identified the following items from the Council Cabinet Forward Plan for consideration at a future meeting:

Ref 14/04 Outcomes of the Consultation and Restructuring the Special Educational Needs Support Service – SENSS and Pupil Referral Unit – PRU

Ref 15/04 Agreement on the Outcome of the Consultation and Restructuring the Special Educational Needs Support Service – SENSS

Ref 44/04 Approval of Early Years Child Care placed Funding Grants

Ref 42/04 Proposal to Support Consumer Direct: National Call Centres for Consumer Advice

Ref 28/04 Progress of Rethink Rubbish Recycling Scheme and Forward Programme options for 2005

Ref 5/04 Derby CityScape Master Plan

Ref 22/04 To approve the outline policy for the Derby Joint Local Transport Plan 2006 – 2011, LTP2

MINUTES END