



Equality Forum

Agenda and Reports

For consideration on

Tuesday, 19th January 2010

In the Lancastrian, Town Hall, Chorley

At 6.30 pm



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Dear Councillor

11 January 2010

EQUALITY FORUM - TUESDAY, 19TH JANUARY 2010

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Equality Forum to be held in the Lancastrian, Town Hall, Chorley on Tuesday, 19th January 2010 commencing at 6.30 pm.

AGENDA

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair will welcome everyone to the meeting.

2. **Apologies for absence**

3. **Minutes (Pages 1 - 12)**

To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Equality Forum held on 19 October 2009 (enclosed). The schedule is enclosed outlining queries raised at the last meeting.

4. **Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy**

Martin Sample, Private Sector Housing Officer will present the revised private sector housing assistance policy which is currently out to consultation.

What is the purpose of the item?

To update the Equality Forum on the revised private sector housing assistance policy which is currently out to consultation and planned to replace the housing renewal grant policy in March 2010.

Questions for the Forum

Feedback on the Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy and its implementation will be greatly received.

What are we going to do with the information?

Where appropriate feedback will be used to update the policy prior to it being submitted to Executive Cabinet for approval in March, and how it will be implemented thereafter.

Martin can be contacted on martin.sample@chorley.gov.uk or call 1257 515704.

5. **Aiming High For Disabled Children**

Lee Boyer, Sport, Play and Physical Activity Manager will present the 'Aiming High for Disabled Children' programme.

What is the purpose of the item?

To respond to the Equality Forum's request for information regarding activities for disabled children. The presentation will outline the Aiming High for Disabled Children: Better support for families' programme which was launched in May 2007. The transformation programme is delivered jointly by disabled children's services and the department of health.

Lee can be contacted on lee.boyer@chorley.gov.uk or call 01257 515816.

6. **Open Forum to discuss any issues for each equality strand**

- a) Age
- b) Disability
- c) Ethnicity
- d) Faith
- e) Gender

- f) Rurality
- g) Sexuality

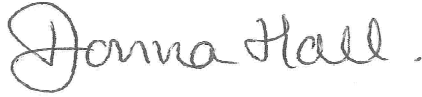
7. **Notices / Feedback / Publicity**

Members of the Forum are welcome to inform other members of upcoming event, give feedback or notices.

8. **Any other item(s) that the Chair decides is/are urgent**

9. **Networking break**

Yours sincerely



Donna Hall
Chief Executive

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Distribution

1. Agenda and reports to Members of the Equality Forum for attendance.

This information can be made available to you in larger print or on audio tape, or translated into your own language. Please telephone 01257 515118 to access this service.

આ માહિતીનો અનુવાદ આપની પોતાની ભાષામાં કરી શકાય છે. આ સેવા સરળતાથી મેળવવા માટે કૃપા કરી, આ નંબર પર ફોન કરો: 01257 515822

ان معلومات کا ترجمہ آپ کی اپنی زبان میں بھی کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ یہ خدمت استعمال کرنے کیلئے براہ مہربانی اس نمبر پر ٹیلیفون

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Equality Forum

Monday, 19 October 2009

Present: Councillor Greg Morgan (Chair), Councillor (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Laura Lennox, Rosie Russell and Iris Smith

Officers: Lesley-Ann Fenton (Assistant Chief Executive (Policy and Performance)), Gary Hall (Assistant Chief Executive (Business Transformation)), Claire Thompson (Performance, Partnership and Equality Manager) and Ruth Rimmington (Democratic and Member Services Officer)

Partner officers: Pam Sutton (Lancashire County Council District Partnersip Officer), Jeanette Hickey (Lancashire Constabulary), John Miller (NHS Central Lancashire / LGBT community), Mike Collinson (Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust) and Rubina Bhatti (Community Outreach Development Officer, Lancshire Fire and Rescue)

Also in attendance: Eileen Bee (Disability Forum Co-ordinator), Julia Berry (Heapey Parish Council), Glynn Bretherton (CADNWA), Estelle Brown (Chorley Pensioners Association), Brain Curwen (Walking for health), Yvonne Curwen (Walking for health), Judy Daniels (Disability Forum), Clamantina Finlayson (African-Caribbean Community), Diane Gradwell (Citizens Advice Bureau), Kinga Grzeczynska (Polish Catholic Community / Lancashire Teaching Hospitals), Ginny Jones (Chorley Pensioners Association), Francis Maguire, Joyce Morris (Creative minds / Eccleston Parish Council), Terence Reynolds (Disability Forum Chair) and Geoff Smith (Chorley and South Ribble MIND)

09.EF.55 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced those on the top table. Attendees were reminded to introduce themselves, state the organisation they represent and to use the microphone when addressing the meeting.

09.EF.56 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of David Brown (Chorley Pensioners Association), Cindy Bolton (CVS), Jean

Cronshaw (Clayton Brook Together), Councillor David Dickinson, Deanna Hartley Davies (Runshaw College), Albert and Rita Jeffrey (Deaf Club), David Naden (Linkability), Sarah Palmer (LCC District Partnership Officer), Marilyn Porter (Chorley and South Ribble Crossroads), Jeannie Stirling (Homestart) and Marel Urry (Hoghton Parish Council),

09.EF.57 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2009 were confirmed as a correct record.

In response to a query it was noted that two members of Chorley Council staff were trained as British Sign Language interpreters and additional staff would also be trained.

09.EF.58 EQUALITY FORUM FEEDBACK

The Chair gave a presentation outlining the result of the Equality Forum review.

The feedback showed that members liked the new format in general, with opportunities to air views on Council services and the network break.

The Forum discussed the suggestions for improvements and it was agreed to take these forward, including,

- To hold three task and finish groups per year to tackle specific equality related issues – the next one to be disabled access to the town centre.
- There was a need to retain the consultation items at the start of the agenda.
- To encourage under represented strands to attend.
- To hold informal networking before and after the meeting, rather than in the middle.
- To keep the start time as 6.30pm for the time being.

Suggestions for future agenda items included:

- Contact details and information on activities for disabled people, with contributions from LCC and the Disability Forum.

- Contact details and information on groups for older people, with contributions from LCC and Chorley Community Network.
- Information on gaps in service provision for children and how to get children engaged with Forums such as this.
- Information on activities for life.
- Information on counselling services for people who become disabled.
- Other partners, such as the Police, Fire Authority, PCT and LCC were invited to raise any consultation issues at future meetings.

An action plan for the Forum was suggested, aligned with performance indicators. This would be considered and a draft presented to a future meeting.

Estelle Brown raised a query about the possibility of car sharing or alternatively the provision of a wheel chair at the Town Hall. Estelle would lend a wheel chair for this purpose.

09.EF.59 DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION ACT AUDIT OF COUNCIL PREMISES

Gary Hall gave a presentation updating the Forum on work undertaken by the Council in relation to auditing Council premises for the Disability Discrimination Act.

Gary advised that the inspections undertaken this year had reports which were in draft format only as the Council wanted to receive feedback from this Forum on the approach and process before continuing. The assets considered so far were those which have not had any money spent on them in recent years and included Chorley Cemetery public conveniences and the changing rooms at Tatton Recreation ground. The next assets to be considered were proposed to be high usage, such as the Leisure Centres, but this approach was open for discussion.

It was agreed that a task and finish group be established with Eileen Bee, Judy Daniels and Estelle Brown. Some members of the Disability Forum had received training on how to conduct access audits. The Group would revisit the audits undertaken, review the work programme and the approach. If any other Forum members would like to be involved please contact Gary Hall on 01257 515480 or email gary.hall@chorley.gov.uk

In response to a query Lesley-Ann confirmed that the Council would make every effort to hold public meetings in accessible meeting venues. If there were instances where this did not happen please contact Lesley-Ann on 01257 515406 or email lesley-ann.fenton@chorley.gov.uk

It was confirmed that the asset audit would take into account the needs of children. The Council did not have a designated access officer, although Gary Hall held these responsibilities. Gary undertook to speak to planning officers on how best to ensure that new planning applications granted adhered to the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act.

Estelle Brown offered to take a Councillor or officer round in a wheel chair to show difficulties faced. Gary would arrange this and undertook to tackle partner and other organisations on any problems which arose.

09.EF.60 NETWORKING BREAK

The Forum members decided to have the networking break at the end of the meeting.

09.EF.61 OPEN FORUM TO DISCUSS ANY ISSUES FOR EACH EQUALITY STRAND

(a) Age

Councillor Rosie Russell reported that a rumour was circulating regarding Shop Mobility possibly having to close.

Ginny Jones advised that Red Rose Runners were looking for some funding, she highlighted how important this services was to Chorley pensioners and the need to ensure the service continued.

Councillor Iris Smith requested play facilities in Astley Park for children aged 6, it appeared there was a gap in provision for this age group.

Joyce Morris reported that "Central Lancashire Arts Health Network, (Chorley district, Preston City, South Ribble Borough

and West Lancashire District Councils working in partnership with Lancashire County Council, Arts Council England NW and Central Lancashire Primary Care Trust - PCT) have commissioned a research project into current practice and provision to inform the development of an arts health initiative across the four boroughs. JAG Consultancy has been appointed to carry out this project. A series of workshops is being held to gather information and views from partners and stakeholders across public, private and voluntary sectors with a commitment to / interest in, arts health activity." Forms are being distributed to establish a databases and a questionnaire was distributed to this effect. About 12 people attended this particular meeting in the Lancastrian Room including Chris Bryan, Borough Arts Officer, who is helping establish the database.

There had also been a change in thinking relating to Adult Learning. The June cabinet re-shuffle saw the demise, after just two years, of the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) whose functions would be taken over by Lord Mandelson's Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. However, the £20 million transformation fund, designed to offer grants to start informal adult learning projects, will be set up nonetheless.

A meeting was scheduled on 23 November at St Mary's Parish Centre, Ecclestone at 10am till 12noon on intergenerational activities.

(b) Disability

Councillor Iris Smith advised that drivers who were wheel chairs users encountered difficulties in getting out of their vehicle in town centre car parks as the wheel chair ramp required 6 metres followed by 3 metres to get the wheelchair out of the car. It was suggested that a space on Farrington Street, Mealhouse Lane or Dole lane be converted in to an extended disabled space. Lesley-Ann requested any information on how these could be policed: it was thought there was such a space in Manchester.

Francis Maguire queried whether seminars could be held in Chorley, for example, a mental health seminar. It was noted that there were several meeting venues in Chorley.

(c) Ethnicity

No issues were raised.

(d) Faith

Jeanette Hickey reported that the street pastors were being launched on 30 October. The pastors would be in teams of 4.

(e) Gender

No issues were raised.

(f) Rurality

No issues were raised.

(g) Sexuality

John Miller advised that 1 December was World Aids Day. If any organisations would like to contact John for some red ribbons his email address was john.miller@disabilityforum.freemove.co.uk

09.EF.62 NOTICES / FEEDBACK / PUBLICITY

Councillor Iris Smith advised that an excellent production of RENT was currently being presented at Chorley Little Theatre.

Kinga Grzeczynska reported that Holocaust Memorial Day would be held on 27 January. The parade would be held on 23 January commencing at 11 am.

Joyce Morris highlighted an English Apple Day would be held on 7 November in Eccleston. This was the 6th annual event.

She also advised there would be a day of dance for elderly people, featuring dance styles from Asia, Egypt, clog and cabaret dancing on 23 January from 9am till 4pm in the Lancastrian, Town Hall, Chorley.

Diane Gradwell highlighted a service dedicated to access difficulties, including home visits and GP surgeries. Diane would forward further information on this to Lesley-Ann.

Francis Maguire raised a query on allotments. It was agreed that a report on allotment provision be presented to a future meeting. Joyce Morris advised there was a land share website where older people could invite people to use their gardens to grow fruit and vegetables.

Eileen Bee thanked Claire Thompson for all her work and assistance to the Equality Forum. Claire was leaving the Authority to relocate to London. The Forum members also thanked Claire and wished her all the best for the future.

Chair

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**Equality Forum Q&A
19 October 2009**

1. A query was raised about training additional staff as British Sign Language Interpreters.

Two members of Chorley Council staff are trained as British Sign Language interpreters. In recent years there has only been two occasions where sign language interpreters have been used. Therefore there are no plans to train more staff at this time however this will be continually reviewed.

2. Contact details and information on activities for disabled people was requested.

- **Aiming High**

Lee Boyer, Sports, Play and Physical Activities Manager will attend the next meeting to talk about the 'Aiming High' programme for disabled children which includes opportunities for disabled activities as well as funding opportunities.

Lee Boyer can be contacted on 01257 515816 or email lee.boyer@chorley.gov.uk

- **Stay Active**

The 'Stay Active' newsletter with information concerning activities for people with disabilities in the Chorley and South Ribble district, will be available at the next meeting. Although this newsletter predominately goes out to adults with learning disabilities, many of the activities are inclusive and suitable for all disabilities.

The newsletter and work is provided by Kevin O'Hara Leisure Co-ordinator and Kirsty Yates, Leisure/Development Worker who are funded through the Chorley and South Ribble Learning Disability Partnership Board, through the Joint Commissioning Board-LCC/PCT.

Kevin has offered to come along and give an overview of provision in the future.

Kevin O'Hara can be contacted on 01772 644130 or email kevin.o'hara@centrallancashire.nhs.uk

- **Chorley Wildcats**

Chorley Wildcats is a local organisation which covers all aspects of sports for children with disabilities. There are two age groups, 8-11 and 12-16. All children are given the opportunity to participate in all sports to develop co-ordination, fitness and general well being as well as developing their social and team work skills.

After going to visit the club, children are invited to join in on the next available session. Each session costs £2 and opening times are:

Saturday - 9am-11am

Sunday - 6pm-7pm

For further information contact Mike Mason on tel: 01257 515000.

- **Holly Trees Resource Centre**

Holly Trees Resource Centre, St Thomas's Road, Chorley, offers commissioned support for disabled people through the centre and outreach; it does not offer "activities" as such, the aim of any support will be to enable people to access ordinary community based activities. The governments paper "Putting People First" puts the emphasis on encouraging inclusive activities within community settings that are available to all citizens.

For further information contact Holly Trees Resource Centre on tel: 01257 273594.

- **The Active Generation Programme**

The Active Generation programme offers activities to the over 50's some of whom may consider themselves to be disabled. This includes arm chair exercise and other activities that can be adapted, again the long term aim is that people begin to feel comfortable with exercising and start to use more universal facilities.

For further information contact Michael Rushe, Active Generation Officer on 01257 515817 or email michael.rushe@chorley.gov.uk

3. An Equality Forum Action Plan aligned to performance indicators was suggested.

A meeting between Lesley-Ann Fenton and Jeanette Hickey has been arranged for the 15 January to initiate an action plan in order to focus the work of the forum.

4. Provision of a wheel chair at the Town Hall

Estelle Brown has kindly provided a spare wheel chair for the town hall.

5. Disability Discrimination Act – Task and Finish Group

The task and finish group which will review access audits and review the work programme and approach will be established in January.

6. Clarification on rumours that shop mobility is possibly having to close was requested

Shop Mobility has received core funding for 2009/10. The Director of People and Places, Jamie Carson, has contacted Maurice Waterhouse at Shop Mobility to get an update on their funding position and what that means for the shop in 2010 as well as to provide him with details on the process for applying for funding for next year to support them to continue to provide their valuable service.

7. Red Rose Runners are looking for funding to support their continued service

The Council provides an online funding service which provides details of any opportunities to access funding for local businesses, charities, community groups and social enterprises.

<http://www.open4community.info/chorley/Default.aspx>

8. A query was raised about the gap in play provision for six year olds at Astley Park.

In the new play area at Astley Park the Council has catered for the widest range of ages possible given the budget available.

Each piece of equipment caters for specific abilities. The play area is meant to be challenging and encourages calculated risk. While the larger modular unit says "eight years onwards" in its brochure, it is not to say that younger children cannot safely be accommodated.

More traditional equipment/features expected on play areas are considered dated in modern play design, and as a result, have pushed a generation of young people away from play spaces to take their risks in less appropriate venues - canals, train lines, busy roads etc.

It is the Council's intention to stimulate young minds and offer both physical and mental obstacles. The Council is confident that we have done that - and delivered excellent value for money at the same time.

In time the Council would look to expand our provision and this mid-range age group will be a target.

9. Councillor Iris Smith asked if the Council had considered implementing extended disabled car parking space to better enable wheel chair users to get out of their vehicle.

The current number of disabled parking places was deemed to be sufficient at this time, and there are no plans to develop any extended car parking space. This will be continually reviewed and the format of car parks will be reviewed if necessary.

10. A list of accessible meeting venues was requested

The Council is in the process of collating a list of accessible meeting venues. We also have a meeting venue checklist which we ask staff to complete when choosing a venue to ensure that is accessible. Copies of the checklist will be available at the next meeting.

11. Diane Gradwell offered to provide further information on the Citizens Advice Bureau – CABability Project

Details of the CABability project which brings together a number of services from different organisations for people who are housebound and cannot access the services in any other way will be available at the next meeting.

12. Francis Maguire raised a query on allotments.

A report will be circulated or a sort presentation will be given at the next meeting.