



# Equality Forum

Agenda and Reports

For consideration on

## Tuesday, 18th January 2011

In the Lancastrian, Town Hall, Chorley

At 6.30 pm



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Dear Councillor

07 January 2011

## **EQUALITY FORUM - TUESDAY, 18TH JANUARY 2011**

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Equality Forum to be held in the Lancastrian, Town Hall, Chorley on Tuesday, 18th January 2011 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 6 October 2010 (enclosed). A schedule is enclosed outlining queries raised at the last meeting (pages 9-12).

4. **Preparing for the 2011 Census (Pages 13 - 14)**

There will be a presentation by Caroline Gee, Area Census Manager, and Paul Sudworth, Chorley Council on the forthcoming Census 2011. A briefing note has been attached to the agenda and can be found on pages 13-14.

**What is the purpose of the item?**

To explain that the 2011 Census is taking place on 27 March, how important it is that everyone takes part and what support and help is available locally and through helplines.

## Questions for the Forum

Can they be part of the help and support that is offered locally to people who might need help completing their own forms?

Would they be willing to organise support for people at community centres or would they be willing to help staff events at Libraries or with the Chorley SMILE mobile?

Do they know of any other groups of people in the area who might need to discuss the Census before it takes place?

### What are we going to do with the information?

If people can help by organising support for completing forms, I would have a separate conversation about when & where it would happen and allocate a member of Census staff to attend the event. I would also share some guidance information for people who will be helping others and include the event when speaking to the local media.

If people can help by staffing completion events at the Libraries or with the Chorley SMILE Mobile, I would like contact details for them so that a member of Census staff could speak with them and arrange for them to support the most appropriate event.

If they know of any other groups in the area who might need to discuss the Census before it takes place, I would like contact information of a person for the group or groups they know of so I can contact them separately. If they cannot give me the details, I will give out a business card so my details can be passed to whoever is appropriate for them to contact me instead.

Caroline Gee can be contacted on 07801 331284 or e-mail [B104@census.gov.uk](mailto:B104@census.gov.uk) or Paul Sudworth can be contacted on 01257 515294 or email [paul.sudworth@chorley.gov.uk](mailto:paul.sudworth@chorley.gov.uk)

## 5. Consultation on the new Chorley Council Website

There will be a presentation by Vicky Witts and Asim Khan, Chorley Council, on the proposed new Chorley Council website.

What is the purpose of the item?

This item is to inform residents and groups of the new Chorley Council website, but also to get some initial feedback on accessibility issues relating to all strands of equality. In particular, we will be requesting that members of the Equality Forum help with the user testing of the website prior to its launch.

Vicky Witts can be contacted on 01257 515713 or e-mail [vicky.witts@chorley.gov.uk](mailto:vicky.witts@chorley.gov.uk)

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

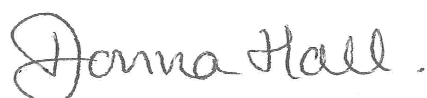
7. **Notices / Feedback / Publicity**

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



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Chief Executive

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### **Distribution**

1. Agenda and reports to all Members of the Equality Forum Councillor Greg Morgan (Chair), Councillor David Dickinson (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Anthony Gee, Alison Hansford, Beverley Murray and Rosie Russell for attendance.
2. 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

**Wednesday, 6 October 2010**

**Present:** Councillor Greg Morgan (Chair), Councillor David Dickinson (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Anthony Gee, Alison Hansford, Beverley Murray and Rosie Russell

**Officers:** Chris Sinnott (Head of Policy), Sarah James (Performance, Partnership and Equality Manager) and Cathryn Barrett (Democratic and Member Services Officer)

**Partner officers:** Colin Everett (District Partnership Officer) and Mike Collinson (Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust)

**Also in attendance:** Barry Moss, Eileen Bee (Disability Forum Co-ordinator), Katie Byrne (Chorley Youth Council), Brain Curwen (Walking for health), Yvonne Curwen (Walking for health), Gary Finlayson (Black British Community), Clementina Finlayson (African-Caribbean Community), Paige Hall (Chorley Youth Council), Victoria Hansford (Chorley Youth Council), Rita Jeffrey (Deaf Forum), Albert Jeffrey (Deaf Forum), Ginny Jones (Chorley Pensioners Association), Francis Maguire, Marilyn Porter (Crossroads), Terence Reynolds (Disability Forum) and Geoff Smith (Chorley and South Ribble MIND)

### **10.EF.88 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.

### **10.EF.89 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from (Cindy Bolton Chorley & South Ribble CVS), Estelle Brown (Chorley Pensioners Association), Dawn Clark (NHS Central Lancashire), Reverend Martin Cox (St Laurance's Church), Faruk Desai (Preston & Western Lancashire Racial Equality Council), Diane Gradwell (Chorley Citizens Advice), Deanna Hartley-Davis (Runshaw College), Ronald Kay (Deaf Forum), Maureen Kay (Deaf Forum), John Miller (NHS Central Lancashire), David Naden (Link-Ability), Jeannie Stirling (Homestart) and Marel Urry (Hoghton Parish Council).

**10.EF.90 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Equality Forum meeting held on 8 July 2010 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.**

**Matters Arising**Minute 10.EF.84 – Sustainable Community Strategy

Sarah James announced that the Sustainable Community Strategy had been approved and copies were now available. For your copy contact Sarah James on 01257 515348 or e-mail [sarah.james@chorley.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.james@chorley.gov.uk)

Q&A 2 (page 10)

Sarah James advised the Forum that Terrance Reynolds has agreed to undertake some work with Lancashire County Council regarding the questions raised relating to deaf children in education at the last Equality Forum. A meeting is being arranged with the Disability Forum and Lancashire County Council.

**10.EF.91 RURAL TRANSPORT**

Tony Morton, Lancashire County Council's Assistant Director for Sustainable Transport gave a presentation on Rural Transport.

Members of the meeting were informed that of the 24 bus services Lancashire County Council provide, 14 of them operate in rural areas, with most of them operating an hourly or two hourly services depending on the demand.

The majority of the bus fleet have low floor accessibility.

Lancashire County Council also provide community transport. The tender for this services was recently awarded to Dial-a-Ride from 1 October 2010.

In addition, car schemes were in operation in different parts of the borough. Tony explained that there are pools of volunteers who will pick up passengers, for a pre-booked journey, and take them to their destination.



Looking to the future, due to budget pressures all transport services are being reviewed, this may result in a reduction in services for some buses and the withdrawal of other services altogether. The request for public consultation on any decision that would effect a bus service was noted.

In response to a question raised by Councillor Dickinson, Tony advised that the three month trial bus service on a Tuesday which covered Brindle started slowly but in recent weeks there had been an increase in passenger demand. However, to make the service sustainable there needed to be at least 12 passengers using the service regularly.

For more information Tony Morton can be contacted on e-mail [tony.moreton@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:tony.moreton@lancashire.gov.uk)

#### **10.EF.92 YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN THE EQUALITY FORUM**

Members of the Youth Council gave a presentation on the purpose of the Youth Council and its role within the Equality Forum.

The purpose of the Youth Council was to ensure that young people were represented and listened to by decision makers. The Youth Council's membership consists of young people throughout the borough from different schools, faiths, and ages between 13-19 years old.

The four major areas of focus for this year for the Youth Council are:

- Transport
- Political Education
- Positive Images
- Sex & Relationships Education

The Youth Council also work in partnership with other young people organisations including the Children's Trust.

Members of the Forum applauded the work of the Youth Council and their members participation in the Equality Forum.

Members of the Youth Council took questions from the Forum.

Terrance Reynolds asked if the Youth Council could look at ways to encourage children with hearing loss to get involved. In response members of the Youth Council advised that they have already been looking at ways to encourage young people with disabilities to become involved in the Youth Council.

Frances McGuire asked if the Youth Council worked with other age groups. In reply the Forum was informed that the Youth Council focused on ages 13-19 but would be happy to work with other age groups.

Councillor Anthony Gee asked if they could publicise more of the positive work the Youth Council did as it was felt young people have a poor press, which was not representational of most young people.

**RESOLVED – the Youth Council to receive some support from Chorley Council’s Policy and Communications Officers.**

Members of the Youth Council were presented certificates in recognition of their commitment and active participation on behalf of the Youth Council at the Equality Forum.

### **10.EF.93 TOWN CENTRE ACCESSIBILITY ACTION PLAN**

Sarah James updated the Forum on the progress of work identified in the Town Centre Accessibility Action Plan.

Work completed to date included:

- a number of drop kerbs had been created
- planters within the town centre that had been considered a hazard to those with disabilities had either been removed or repositioned to more appropriate locations
- work was due to commence in October/November to introduce tactile paving in the areas identified in the Action Plan

In addition Council officers were working with the Chamber of Trade to encourage shop keepers and market stall holders to be more aware of the problems their premises and market stall frontage displays could cause to people with disabilities.

In response to calls for enforcement action to be taken when a shop keeper or market stall holder persistently breached the conditions of their licence, Chris Sinnott confirmed that there were ongoing discussions between Chorley Council and Lancashire County Council over the devolution of their enforcement powers to Chorley.

It was acknowledged that there was still a lot of work to be done, and that members of the Forum would be kept up to date on progress.

## **10.EF.94 OPEN FORUM TO DISCUSS ANY ISSUES FOR EACH EQUALITY STRAND**

### **(a) Age**

- Councillor Rosemary Russell expressed her thanks to everyone involved organising and helping with the activities for older people on Friday, 1 October 2010.
- Ginny Jones was concerned that the lights at controlled crossing changed quickly, particularly the school crossing at Whittle-le-Woods.

Officers undertook to liaise with Lancashire County Council on this issue.

- Joyce Morris Intergenerational Project is developing in Ecclestone with excellent support from Shelagh Linley and Natalie Holt, Community Development Officers from People and Places and Michael Rushe of Active Generation.

### **(b) Disability**

- Judith Daniels asked if something could be done about the controlled crossing on Preston Road, situated outside the hospital ending on a cycle path?

Officers undertook to liaise with Lancashire County Council on this issue.

- Branches on the trees on Devonshire Road were severely overhanging and need pruning back.

Officers to liaise with Streetscene to arrange maintenance.

- Judith Daniels reported that there has been some broken glass on Devonshire Road near the Registry Office for sometime, which could cause serious injury to guide dogs.

Officers to liaise with Streetscene to arrange removal of the broken glass.

- Officers were advised that the disabled wheelchair swing at the play area on Devonshire Road had been broken for sometime, and asked if it could be repaired before the next Equality Forum meeting.

Officers undertook to look in to this issue.

- Councillor Beverley Murray requested a list of play areas with equipment for disabled children and how funding was allocated for this type of equipment.

A list of play areas within the borough, with equipment suitable children with disabilities would be made available for the next meeting.

- Eileen Bee asked when considering the design of any play area that they included play equipment suitable for children with disabilities.

### **(c) Ethnicity**

No issues were raised.

### **(d) Faith**

- Councillor Rosemary Russell asked why children from faith schools were being charged £2 per child for Lancashire County Council School transport.

Colin Everett, District Partnership officer undertook to liaise with colleagues and respond.

### **(e) Gender**

No issues were raised.

**(f) Rurality**

No issues were raised.

**(g) Sexuality**

No issues were raised.

**10.EF.95 NOTICES / FEEDBACK / PUBLICITY**

- Marilyn Porter announced that an event had been arranged for carers of people with dementia on 27 October 2010 from 1.30pm-4.30pm. Free care was available for those cared for. For more information contact 01257 230698.
- Claire Dillon announced Help Direct will be celebrating their second birthday by holding a joint event with Action for the Blind on 2 November 2010. A mobile information unit will be located on Fazakerley Street between 10am-4pm. Specialists would be on hand to offer help and advice.
- Terrance Reynolds asked that the Chorley Smile magazine be made available in sign language on the website.
- Sarah James announced that the new Equality Legislation came in to force on 1 October 2010.

**10.EF.96 NETWORKING BREAK**

At the conclusion of the meeting the Chair encouraged members to take part in the networking session.

Chair

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**Equality Forum  
Q&A  
6 October 2010**

- 1. A bus stop had been put on the corner of Cowell Lane which is very dangerous. Could this be moved?**

Lancashire County Council have attempted to make contact with the attendee who raised this question to discuss this matter further, but have currently received no response. The placement of the bus stops was initially decided following detailed discussions with the Police and local Councillors. If there are still concerns, I would be grateful if they could contact Tony Moreton at [tony.moreton@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:tony.moreton@lancashire.gov.uk)

- 2. Judith Daniels explained when crossing the road at the crossing on Preston Road outside the hospital it ends in a cycle lane. Could something be done?**

Lancashire County Council have advised that in terms of the provision of cycle lanes, when deciding whether to provide an off road cycle facility or not we look at pedestrian, cycle, vehicle flows, number of HGVs and vehicle speeds. The standard minimum width of a shared use path is 3 metres, as opposed to 1.8 metres for a footway. This allows a cyclist and a pedestrian room to safely pass.

Lancashire County Council can also make a path safer for cyclists and pedestrians to share by using various pavement changes by introducing measures such as different pavement surfacing, kerb heights etc.

For more information contact Alasdair Simpson on e-mail: [alasdair.simpson@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:alasdair.simpson@lancashire.gov.uk)

In terms of the hospital crossing, there are ongoing discussions between the Hospital and the Disability Forum regarding safe access.

- 3. Branches on the trees on Devonshire Road are severely overhanging and need attention.**

Chorley Council officers have advised that an initial assessment has been conducted and there were no signs of overhanging trees. A member of grounds maintenance team will check and prune if necessary on their next visit to the area.

- 4. Judith Daniels reported that there has been some broken glass on Devonshire Road near the registry office for sometime. This could cause serious injury to guide dogs**

Chorley Council officers have confirmed that this has been removed.

- 5. Jennie Jones was concerned that the lights at controlled crossing changed quickly, particularly the school crossing at Whittle-le-Woods.**

Alan Capstick from Lancashire County Council advised that an assessment had been arranged for the traffic signal installation in Whittle-le-Woods, to ensure that it is operating satisfactorily. Any alterations will be made following this assessment.

Alan Capstick can be contacted on e-mail [alan.capstick@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:alan.capstick@lancashire.gov.uk)

- 6. Officers were advised that the disabled wheelchair swing at the park on Devonshire Road has been broken for sometime.**

Chorley Council's Parks Team have informed us that the wheelchair swing had been damaged a number of times during use since its installation. Therefore, we are looking at alternative provision, as repairs to this one are not cost effective. We are hoping to provide a new swing that will be DDA compliant, while interesting to everyone, and robust. It will be replaced with a basket swing as found on several other sites, allowing children of various abilities to play together. It is hoped that this will be completed by end of January 2011.



- 7. Councillor Rosemary Russell asked why children from faith schools were being charged £2 per child for Lancashire County Council School transport.**

In a statement County Councillor Susie Charles, Lancashire County Council's Cabinet Member for Children and Schools, said: "In the current financial climate we have to review the services that we provide as a County Council".

"Asking parents to contribute to the cost of travel to a faith school which is not their nearest school will enable us to save a significant amount of money, while still subsidising the service by more than half."

"Although most local authorities have traditionally chosen to provide free discretionary transport on denominational grounds, it is very costly. Councils faced with spiralling costs and budget reductions are increasingly having to look at these arrangements and a number of authorities have already either completely withdrawn support, or are asking for a contribution from parents."

- 8. Do drivers of mobility scooters have training before using them as some drivers put themselves and other people in danger.**

A spokesperson for Shopmobility advised a person requesting use of equipment must provide documents with their name and address on, such as passport, utility bill, driving licence etc. Then they register them on their database, and provide them with a membership card. Training is then given in the safe use of equipment which involves being taken out on the equipment and being assessed.

- 9. What are the arrangements for the Chorley Smile Magazine to be viewed online?**

The Chorley Smile magazine can be viewed online, using a digital reader, which allows people to zoom in on the articles. There are no current plans to expand into a signed version on the website.

**11. What is happening with regard to pavement restrictions at certain town centre shops?**

This is regularly monitored by the Town Centre Manager, who upkeeps an informal dialogue with all town centre retailers and encourages retailers to ensure that the pavements are kept clear. As part of the Town Centre Accessibility Action Plan, Chorley Council is working with Lancashire County Council to develop an enforcement policy and guidelines. Progress on this is reported to the Equality Forum quarterly, and will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

**13. Disability Forum to meet with LCC regarding the Deaf Children in Education question**

Representatives from Chorley Council, Lancashire County Council, the Disability Forum and the Deaf Forum met with colleagues from the Educational Inclusion Service including a Hearing Impaired Specialist Teacher. At this meeting, information was given regarding the provision for hearing impaired children in mainstream education and in specialist education. It was a useful meeting, which helped to share information and gave an opportunity for representatives to ask questions of the service providers. The main outcome of the meeting was a recommendation from the Disability Forum and Deaf Forum that they would look to engage with parents of deaf children to ensure that they are aware of the full range of support that can be brought in by schools from the Educational Inclusion Service.

**14. Youth Council to receive some support from Chorley Council Policy and Communications**

Officers from Chorley Council Policy and Communications (Sarah James and Andrew Daniels) attended a special meeting of the Youth Council to provide some capacity building regarding marketing and media relations. A workshop including an exercise on the advantages and disadvantages of a variety of media techniques was undertaken, and the Youth Council were provided with a variety of contacts and information for further use. It was agreed that more support would be given as required.

## 2011 CENSUS

### **What is the census used for?**

The census is vitally important for communities, making sure that the facilities and services can be identified. All sorts of decisions are taken based on census statistics, from the number of car parking spaces needed at local supermarkets, to where to locate bank branches and even the allocation of fire engines. Numbers of school places, development of traffic systems and funding for local authorities are all heavily influenced by the census. It's all about planning ahead. The census, a rich source of statistics, affects all of us in one way or another, as decisions about the communities we live in take place all the time.

The 2011 Census is run by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

### **Key messages: The 2011 Census is coming**

The census collects information about the population every ten years. The next census in England and Wales is in March 2011.

### **A census counts everybody and describes society**

The population's characteristics are always changing. A census collects and shares facts about society's make-up.

### **Your community and family benefit**

You need to take part so that the services and facilities your community / family need can be identified. These services include schools, hospitals and emergency services.

### **A census is a fantastic source of historical information**

Everyone should be proud of playing their part in the census; the statistics are available for you. ONS's census is respected worldwide.

### **Define your identity in 2011**

You will know that you have played your part in helping tomorrow take shape in your community

### **Your census answers are confidential**

Personal census information is never shared with any other government department, nationally, regionally, or locally. The information collected is kept confidential by ONS and protected by law.

**Complete the census online ([www.census.gov.uk](http://www.census.gov.uk))**

Completing the census online is straightforward, convenient and secure.

**Returning your census questionnaire is required by law**

Completing the census is a legal requirement: the few people who don't complete their census questionnaire may be prosecuted for breaking the law, could face a criminal record and may be fined up to £1,000.

**The next census is on Sunday 27 March**

The answers you give on your census questionnaire should be about Sunday 27 March, so that ONS can take an accurate picture of the population on the same day.

**It's straightforward**

Completing the census is straightforward. Most questions can be answered by simply clicking, or ticking, in a box.

**Your census questionnaire is kept secure**

Your personal information is protected by lots of layers of security.

**Help and support is available**

The census is straightforward. Help and support is available from online help at [www.census.gov.uk](http://www.census.gov.uk) and by telephone from Friday 4 March

**Accessibility Resources & Completion Events / Activity / Support**

Accessibility resources are being produced and will be available through helplines from Friday 4 March. In addition, completion events and activity offering support are being developed, offered and publicised locally.