

Equality Forum

Thursday, 12 April 2012

Present: Councillor Greg Morgan (Chair), Councillor David Dickinson (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Alison Hansford, Hasina Khan and Steve Murfitt

Officers: Lesley-Ann Fenton (Director of Partnerships and Planning), Chris Sinnott (Head of Policy and Communications), Michael Coogan (Strategic Housing Officer) and Cathryn Filbin (Democratic and Member Services Officer)

Partner officers: Alan Capstick (Lancashire County Council), Heather Corson (Chorley/South Ribble Borough Council), Jeanette Hickey (Lancashire Constabulary), Stephanie Iaconianni (Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust), Bob Minto (NHS Central Lancashire) and John Cairns (Lancashire Fire and Rescue)

Also in attendance: Jean Cronshaw (Chorley Older Peoples Forum), Diane Gradwell (Citizens Advice Bureau), Suzie Jones (Chorley & South Ribble Disability Forum Coordinator), Anne Jones (Lip speaker), Maureen Kay (Deaf Forum), Ronnie Kay (Deaf Forum), Barry Moss, Paul Higson (Lancashire Link), Jeannie Stirling (Homestart), Marilyn Porter (Crossroads) and Marel Urry (Hoghton Parish Council)

12.EF.24 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

12.EF.25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of David Brown (Chorley Pensioners Association), Dawn Clarke (Central Lancashire PCT), Peter Cogley (Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service), Brian and Yvonne Curwen (Walking for Health), Judy Daniels (Disability Forum), Matthew and Victoria Hansford and members of the Youth Council, Deanna Hartley Davies (Runshaw College), Albert and Rita Jeffrey (Deaf Forum),

Caroline Linfitt (Chorley Churches Together), John Miller (LGBT community), Geraldine Moore (Age UK Lancashire), Alison Rigby (Holly Cross) and Victoria Willett (Partnership Officer).

12.EF.26 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2012 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

12.EF.27 LANCASHIRE TEACHING HOSPITALS - OUR APPROACH TO EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

Members of the Forum received a presentation on the approach to equality, diversity and involvement by Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust by Stephanie Iaconianni.

Members of the Forum raised a number of questions which included:

- Did Chorley and Preston Hospitals have a policy for sending patients home at night?
- Why had some dental patients been transferred from West Bank dental surgery to a dental surgery in Ashton, Preston?
- Was there a policy of double booking appointments at the dental surgery in Ashton, Preston?
- What consultation took place, and who was consulted on the price increase for car parking at Chorley hospital?
- What was the total number of disabled parking bays at Chorley hospital?

Stephanie agreed to investigate these issues and a response would be sent to the individuals concerned. A response to all the questions would be included in the Q&A to be sent out with the agenda for the next meeting.

Following concerns raised by members of the Forum, Stephanie offered to meet with Maureen Kay and Suzie Jones to discuss possible improvements in the facilities for deaf people who present themselves at the Accident and Emergency Departments.

For more information Stephanie can be contacted on email Stephanie.IACONIAQNNI@lthr.nhs.uk. Stephanie's presentation can be viewed on Chorley Council's website.

12.EF.28 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Heather Corson, Community Safety Officer for Chorley and South Ribble Councils gave a presentation which raised awareness of the impact domestic abuse had within diverse groups and provided information to helplines and specialist agencies.

Following comments raised by Suzie Jones, Heather acknowledged that facilities for people with disabilities leaving violent relationships needed to be improved and encouraged people from all nine of the equality strands to feedback any suggested improvements.

For more information Heather can be contacted on 01772 625577 or email HCorson@southribble.gov.uk. Heather's presentation can be viewed on Chorley Council's website.

12.EF.29 RURAL HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY - RESULTS

Members of the Forum received a presentation from Mick Coogan, the Strategic Housing Officer for Chorley Council on the results of the Rural Housing Needs Study.

The main findings in the report included the lack of affordable homes for new households wishing to remain in their current parish, and the lack of suitable homes for older people.

The recommendations which had been approved at Chorley Council's Executive Cabinet on 20 October 2011 included:

- The report be used to inform the Council on new rural residential developments
- Priority be given to people who had local connection to the parish
- Appropriate intermediate home ownership models be considered
- Developers be encouraged to include 2/3 bed bungalows in new rural developments.

A copy of the Rural Housing Needs Study report can be viewed by clicking on the link below:

<http://www.chorley.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=4497&p=0>

Mick can be contacted on 01257 515552 or email mick.coogan@chorley.gov.uk. Mick's presentation can be viewed on Chorley Council's website.

12.EF.30 DRAFT PREVENTION OF HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY

Lesley-Ann Fenton, Director of Partnerships, Planning and Policy advised that a consultation was underway with key stakeholders and housing associations on the joint Chorley and South Ribble Councils' Draft Prevention of Homelessness Strategy.

The Strategy which replaced previous strategies was in line with existing statutory requirements placed on local Housing Authorities by the Homelessness Act 2002.

The three key priorities of the strategy were:

- Improving the services for customers
- Reducing the use of temporary accommodation
- Increasing the prevention of homelessness

The Strategy was approved for consultation at the Executive Cabinet held on 29 March 2012.

Members of the Forum discussed various aspects of the strategy and of the homelessness situation in the borough of Chorley. In response to Councillor Murfitt's concerns, Lesley-Ann acknowledged that the majority of services provided were situated in the town centre. However, an outreach service was now operating at Clayton Brook.

The draft Strategy which could be viewed on Chorley Council's website or by clicking the following link:

<http://www.chorley.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=4661&p=0>.

Comments on the Strategy should be submitted to Zoe Whiteside via email zoe.whiteside@chorley.gov.uk before Friday, 29 June 2012 when the consultation closes. Should you require further information contact Zoe at the same email address.

12.EF.31 SOCIAL ISOLATION TASK AND FINISH GROUP

Chris Sinnott, Head of Policy and Communications for Chorley Council provided an update for Members of the Forum on the Social Isolation Task and Finish Group.

The first meeting had taken place on 1 March 2012, and included representatives from Lancashire County Council - Social Care, Chorley Council, representatives from the VCFS sector and the Equality Forum. At the meeting key questions and outcomes were discussed which included how available provision could be connected to individuals.

In response to Councillor Alison Hansford's concern that there appeared to be no young people on the Task and Finish Group, Chris Sinnott confirmed that the Youth Council had been approached to take part in the Task and Finish Group but at that time, had not responded.

The next steps for the Task and Finish Group included the development of a profile for social isolation in Chorley, investigation of wider data sources and the development of a plan which detailed the approach to be used to tackle this issue for Chorley.

The date of the next meeting had been confirmed as Tuesday, 22 May, 2012 anyone who wished to get involved in the Task Group would be welcomed.

For further information contact Vicky Willett on 01257 515348 or email vicky.willett@chorley.gov.uk. Chris's presentation can be viewed on Chorley Council website.

12.EF.32 UPDATE ON EQUALITY OBJECTIVES

Chris Sinnott updated members of the Forum on Chorley Council's Equality Objectives 2012-2016.

The Equality Act 2010 required Councils to publish a list of equalities objectives. The purpose of which was to strengthen the Council performance of the general equality duty, through providing focus on achieving specific outcomes.

A list of the Chorley Council's equality objectives and the approached used to identify those objectives can be found on the Council's website or by clicking the link <http://www.chorley.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=4644&p=0>.

For further information contact Vicky Willett on 01257 515348 or email vicky.willett@chorley.gov.uk.

12.EF.33 OPEN FORUM TO DISCUSS ANY ISSUES FOR EACH EQUALITY STRAND

(a) Age

No issues were raised.

(b) Disability

Suzie Jones provided details of a meeting for REACH 2012, see minute number 12.EF.34 Notices/Feedback/Publicity for further information.

(c) Gender Reassignment

No issues were raised.

(d) Pregnancy and Maternity

No issues were raised.

(e) Race

No issues were raised.

(f) Religion and Belief

No issues were raised.

(g) Rurality

No issues were raised.

(h) Sex

No issues were raised.

(i) Sexual Orientation

Following concerns raised by Julia Berry about the lack of issues raised under this and the sex equality strand Members of the Forum were informed that the Council held meetings outside the Equality Forum with people who represented the two equality strands.

The Chair supported the proposal from Stephanie Iaconianni that a representative from the Gender Reassignment Unit be a guest speaker at a future meeting of the Forum.

12.EF.34 NOTICES / FEEDBACK / PUBLICITY

REACH 2012 Planning Meeting – 19 April 2012

Suzie Jones invited anyone who wished to get involved in REACH 2012 to attend a planning meeting on Thursday, 19 April 2012 at 2pm in the Civic Centre, Leyland, PR25 1DH.

The purpose of the meeting was to agree the date, time, and locations for the events taking place in Chorley and South Ribble during the month August.

Preston Health Mela – 21 April 2012

Stephanie Iaconianni reported that Preston Health Mela would take place on 21 April 2012 at the Guild Hall in Preston, between the hours of 10am and 5pm, and would provide those who attended the opportunity to receive a free health MOT check up. The event would also include entertainment and stalls from different health organisations. The event was open to all members of the public regardless of background or age.

Free parking on Preston bus station car park was available to those who attended the Mela.

12.EF.35 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Members of the Forum noted dates of future meetings:

- Thursday, 5 July 2012
- Tuesday, 9 October 2012
- Monday, 21 January 2013
- Tuesday, 16 April 2013

All meetings would take place at 6.30pm in the Lancastrian Room, Town Hall, Chorley unless advised otherwise.

12.EF.36 NETWORKING BREAK

At the conclusion of the meeting, members of the Forum were encouraged to take part in the networking session.

Chair