

Equality Forum

Thursday, 5 July 2012

Present: Councillor Hasina Khan (Chair), Councillor Steve Murfitt (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Jean Cronshaw, Alison Hansford and Steve Holgate

Officers: Chris Sinnott (Head of Policy and Communications), Victoria Willett (Partnership Officer), Zeynab Patel (Solicitor), Liz Leung (Senior Paralegal - Trainee Solicitor) and Jodi Fitzpatrick (Paralegal - Trainee Solicitor)

Partner officers: Peter Cogley (Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service) and Jeanette Hickey (Lancashire Constabulary)

Also in attendance: Paul Higson (Lancashire Link), David Brown (Chorley Pensioners Association), Clementina Finlayson (African-Caribbean Community), Diane Gradwell (Citizens Advice Bureau), Terence Reynolds, Geoff Smith (Lancashire MIND), Jeannie Stirling (Homestart), Frank Stringfellow (Chorley Deaf Club), Matthew Hansford (Chorley Youth Council), Salma Suleman (Asian Womens Forum), Fliss Hawksworth (Romany Gypsy), Mike Linfoot (Romany Gypsy), Patty Linfoot (Romany Gypsy), Jason Smalley (Romany Gypsy), Seb Smith (Romany Gypsy), Michelle Alston (Clayton Brook Community), Iain Brooks (Youth Council), Donna Hussain, Amanda Kayley (Youth Council), Jeffrey Burr (Hackney Taxi Trade), Mohammed Essa (Hackney Taxi trade), Zafar Khan (Taxi Trade), Mr M Waseem (Hackney Taxi Trade), Aqilla Babu, Susan Bannister (Independent Domestic Abuse Adviser), Rabia Govaua, Kanwal, Julia Berry (Heapey Parish Council), Stacy Gorstridge (Lancashire County Council Highways), Samir Khan, Zohaib Sajid, Ahmed (Hackney Carriage Trade), Azad Malik and Q Shafid

12.EF.37 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.

The Chair elected her Vice Chair, Councillor Steve Murfitt.

12.EF.38 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence have been received from Councillor Rosemary Russell, Maureen and Ronnie Kay (Deaf Forum), Maruel Urry (Hoghton Parish Council), Brian and Yvonne Curwen (Walking for Health), Finlay Hodge (Community Futures), Marilyn Porter (Chorley & South Ribble Crossroads Care), Faruk Desai (Racial Equality Council), Judith Daniels, Stephanie Iaconianni (Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust), Ginny Jones (Chorley Pensioners Association), Estelle Brown (Chorley Pensioners Association), Bob Minto (NHS Central Lancashire).

12.EF.39 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 April 2012 were confirmed as a correct subject to the following amendment:

- 12.EF.28 Stephanie Iaconianni's correct email address is as follows: Stephanie.IACONIANNI@lthr.nhs.uk

12.EF.40 INTERACTIVE SESSION

The Chair invited members of the Equality Forum to take part in an interactive session the purpose of which was to gain a better understanding of members key equality issues, how they can be addressed as individual groups and through the Equality Forum.

Members of the Equality Forum were asked, in small groups, to discuss three questions, spending ten minutes on each question. Members of the Equality Forum were then asked to put their ideas on paper which was feedback after each question time period had elapsed.

Feedback from the session included:

What are the key equality issues?

- Discrimination against particular groups and use of language
- Access to services, transport
- Health equalities and deprivation – reducing gaps
- Age and age issues

- Addressing alternative forms of accommodation for Gypsy travellers
- Concern of the travelling communities about the obstruction that are put in the path of achieving equality
- Faith forums
- Young people joining extremists groups
- Ignorance and culture issues – understanding and respecting each others culture

In response to the comment relating to the creation of a Faith Forum, the Chair announced that discussions were already underway, the progress of which would report back to the Equality Forum on 9 October 2012.

What can members do as organisations and individuals to address issues identified?

- Improved education
- Celebrating diversity/celebrating differences
- Improved communication
- The Council to introduce Typetalk in its Customer Services Section

How can the Equality Forum help to reach the outcome?

- Introduce an Equality Forum development plan
- Providing resources and budgets
- Traveller Gypsy Liaison
- Education in schools
- Create a central communal area that's attractive to all ages and cultures
- Citizenship courses in schools
- Improve night time economy
 - Socializing
 - Evening activities

Other issues highlighted during the session had been included on the Q&A sheet at the back of these minutes.

Members of the Equality Forum were thanked for taking part in the session. All the comments made would be analysed and feed into a summary plan which would be brought to the next meeting.

12.EF.41 NETWORKING BREAK

The Chair introduced a short networking break.

12.EF.42 HATE CRIME

Jeanette Hickey from Lancashire Police introduced a short DVD the aim of which was to raise awareness of the different types of hate incidents/crimes and increased reporting.

At the conclusion on the DVD members of the Forum were invited to provide feedback which included:

- The DVD did not show hate crime against members of the travelling community. In response Sargent Hickey advised that this was a shortened version of a much longer DVD that featured a true story of a serious hate crime against a member of the travelling community. It was the longer playing DVD that was shown at presentations and training events.
- Members of the Youth Council were concerned that at one point the DVD showed young people being the perpetrators of hate crime. It was felt that this gave the wrong message about young people. Sargent Hickey reassured members of the Forum that the DVD was not trying to stereotype young people in this way and would like to discuss the Youth Council's concerns further.

The Chair thanked Sargent Hickey for attending.

If you would like to contact Sargent Jeanette Hickey please email Jeanette.Hickey@lancashire.pnn.police.uk.

12.EF.43 SOCIAL INCLUSION TASK AND FINISH GROUP

Members of the Equality Forum received a report from the Chief Executive which provided an update on the progress of the Social Isolation Task and Finish Group and its recommendations and the development of an action plan based on the recommendations.

If you want further information or have any comments please forward your request to Victoria Willett on 01257 515348 or email: victoria.willett@chorley.gov.uk.

12.EF.44 OPEN FORUM TO DISCUSS ANY ISSUES FOR EACH EQUALITY STRAND

(a) Age

No issues were raised.

(b) Disability

No issues were raised.

(c) Gender Reassignment

No issues were raised.

(d) Pregnancy and Maternity

No issues were raised.

(e) Race

Runshaw College sought the Equality Forum's views on the preferred acronym 'BAME' (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) rather than 'BME' (Black and Minority Ethnic).

(f) Religion and Belief

No issues were raised.

(g) Rurality

No issues were raised.

(h) Sex

No issues were raised.

(i) Sexual Orientation

No issues were raised.

12.EF.45 NOTICES / FEEDBACK / PUBLICITY

- **Clayton Brook festival**

The Clayton Brook festival would be taking place on Saturday, 7 July 2012 between 11am and 4pm on the village green. The festival was open to all, with a variety of events taking place which included face painting.

- **Home-Start Chorley and South Ribble**

Home-Start are holding an event for voluntary, community and faith sector organisations on Tuesday, 10 July at 2pm.

- **REACH – Disability Awareness Event**

REACH would be hosting an event on **Friday, 10 August 2012 between 11am-3pm at Chorley marketplace.**

This is the first of two events, the purpose of which was to raise disability awareness in both Chorley and South Ribble. The second event would take place on Thursday, 16 August at South Ribble Borough Council, Civic Centre, Leyland also between 11am-3pm.

For more information contact Suzie Jones on email: suzie@disability-equality.org.uk.

12.EF.46 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Members of the Equality Forum noted the dates of future meetings:

- 9 October 2012
- 21 January 2013
- 18 April 2013 (this date had changed from 16 April which had been advertised previously)

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

Chair