

Equality Forum

Wednesday, 6 March 2013

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

Councillors also in attendance:

Officers: Chris Sinnott (Head of Policy and Communications), Sarah James (Partnerships Manger), Doug Cridland (Waste and Contaminated Land Officer) and Cathryn Filbin (Democratic and Members Services Officer)

Partner officers: Reverend Martin Cox (VCFS), Peter Cogley (Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service), Jeanette Hickey (Lancashire Police), Richard Houghton (Chorley Community Housing)

Also in attendance:

Shau Ahmed, Aqill Babu (Asian Woman's Forum), Maria Babu (Asian Woman's Forum), Jogi Bhamra (Blackburn Interfaith Forum), Amrit Bambra (Blackburn with Darwen Interfaith Forum), Lucas Bhatti, Lorna Bowling (Genesis Care), Michell Catterall (Duke Street Children Centre), Peter Cogley (Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service), Jenny Cree (Chorley Heritage Centre Support Group), Aysha Desai (Lancashire Link/Healthwatch Lancashire), Derek Estill (Blackburn Interfaith Forum) Clementine Finlayson, Diane Gradwell (Lancashire West Citizens Advice Bureaux), Matthew Hansford (Youth Council), Derek Hartley (Blackburn Interfaith Forum), Jo Hartley (Blackburn Interfaith Forum), Deanna Hartley-Davis (Runshaw College), Finlay Hodge (Community Futures), Diane Holly (The Grange Care Home, Chorley), Steve Hubberstey (Audio Visual Help Ltd), Donna Hussain (Clayton Brook Community House), Amina Iqbal (Asian Woman's Forum), Ginny Jones (Chorley Pensioners Association), Suzie Jones (Chorley and South Ribble Disability Forum), Jabian Kauser (Lancashire BME Pact), Samir Khan (Chorley Muslim Youth), Zafar Khan, Noorie Khanseheb (Highfield Primary School), Arun Kumarsaha (Mens Sports), Fouzia Lucas (Asian Woman's Forum), Alice Maine (DENW), Hifzur Mala (Mens Sports), Polly Mason (Runshaw College), Michelle Mayson (Clayton Brook Community House), Maria Michaels (Stepping Forward), Barry Moss (parent/carer), Madhubeda Pandyee (Blackburn with Darwen Interfaith Forum), Abdul Patel, Ayyub Patel (Mens Sports) Imran Patel (A1 Car Wash, Coppull), Sadiq Patel (Blackburn Interfaith Forum) Zabi Uddin Patel, Marion

Rawnsley (Chorley U3A), Terence Reynolds (Deaf Forum), Neil Rushton (DENW), Qaddir Shafiq, Carol Sharples (Age UK), Yasser Siddique (Mens Sports), Debbie Smith (Highfield Primary School), Jeannie Stirling (Homestart), Frank Stringfellow (Deaf Forum), Zohaib Sajid (Chorley Muslim Youth), Marel Urry (Hoghton Parish Council), Jason Vosper, Bill Walker (Chorley Heritage Centre Support Group), Alice Warrne (Duke Street Children Centre), Patricia Weston (Asian Ladies), Paul Wilkins (Gypsy & Traveller)

13.EF.60 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.

13.EF.61 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Rosemary Russell, Sue Banister (Independent Domestic Abuse Adviser), David Brown (Chorley Pensioners Association), Estelle Brown (Chorley Pensioners Association), Andrew Burrows (Lancashire County Council), Heather Corson (Chorley and South Ribble Community Safety Officer), Albert and Rita Jeffrey (Deaf Forum), Ronnie and Maureen Kay (Deaf Forum), Geoff Smith (Lancashire Mind) and Ann Wheelan (Help Direct Chorley).

13.EF.62 MINUTES

The minutes of the Equality Forum held on 11 October 2012 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

13.EF.63 INTERFAITH FORUM

Derek Estill from Blackburn with Darwen Interfaith Forum gave a presentation which provided an insight as to the reasons why the Forum was established and how it had developed over time.

The Chair announced a short workshop to canvass the opinion of the Equality Forum if they would like an Interfaith Forum in Chorley, and what it could do.

Results of the workshop were fed back following the networking break.

13.EF.64 NETWORKING BREAK

Chris Sinnott, Head of Policy and Communications for Chorley Council, announced a short networking break.

13.EF.65 INTERFAITH FORUM - RESULTS FROM THE WORKSHOP

Sarah James, Partnerships Manager for Chorley Council, provided feedback from the Interfaith Forum workshop.

The overwhelming response supported the idea of an Interfaith Forum in Chorley, other issues raised included ensuring that the forum is accessible:

- meetings and events should be held in venues accessible for all
- interpreters should attend meetings and events for those people with hearing difficulties
- meetings should be accessible to a range of people and backgrounds

It was felt, as an Interfaith Forum, it could:

- hold joint events
- encourage faith friends
- involve young people.
- encourage shared understanding of different religions
- promote better collaborative working across groups

The Chair confirmed that this feedback provided a good starter for discussions regarding the development of a forum in Chorley.

13.EF.66 WARM HOMES HEALTHY PEOPLE

Doug Cridland, Waste and Contaminated Land officer for Chorley Council gave a presentation about the Council's 'Keep warm and well this winter' project.

Chorley has approximately 1,900 elderly households that vulnerability from cold weather was a known risk. Keep warm and well this winter project aims to help vulnerable older people 65+ to stay warm in their homes and to access health services. The project had been funded by Department of Health and was delivered by Chorley Council and partner organisations.

The four-month campaign would run until the end of March 2013.

In response to queries raised by the Forum, Doug Cridland advised that the project was designed for older people but would consider widening the eligibility criteria to include vulnerable disabled people below the age of 65 if funding was secured to run this project again next year, and as such would meet with members of the Disability Forum to discuss the matter further.

Members of the Forum raised other concerns not within the remit of this item:

- longstanding issue related to works on a Chorley Community Housing property – Richard Houghton from Chorley Community Housing agreed to speak to the tenant.
- Councillor Cronshaw raised issues relating to the installation of a shower and a stair-lift for two separate disabled residents. In response Chris Sinnott suggested these matters would be followed up by the Housing section.

13.EF.67 OPEN FORUM TO DISCUSS ANY ISSUES FOR EACH EQUALITY STRAND

Ginny Jones asked that a presentation be delivered to members of Chorley Pensioners regarding social care. In response Councillor Jean Cronshaw advised that the Older People's Forum would be able to deliver this to Chorley Pensioners.

Donna Hussain from Clayton Brook Community House advised that there had been an increase in the number of males trying to access their counselling service and asked if the Council could identify male orientated courses including anger management?

13.EF.68 NOTICES / FEEDBACK / PUBLICITY

- Chorley Heritage gave a short presentation on their current projects and invited Members of the Forum to attend Chorley library on Tuesday 19 March 2013 between 10am-4pm to share stories, documents and photographs of times gone by.

To find out more contact Chorley Heritage Centre on 01257 273294 or go to the website:

www.chorleyheritagecentre.co.uk.

- There will be a Health and Happiness in your hands event at the Gujarat Centre, Preston on 22 March 2013. The morning session was now fully booked. The afternoon session would commence from 2.30pm until 4pm and those attending would be able to visit stalls and get advice relating to self-care. For more information please contact 01772 538293.

13.EF.69 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Members of the Forum noted the dates of future meetings, which would take place at 6.30pm, in the Lancastrian Room, Town Hall, Chorley unless otherwise advised:

- 18 April 2013
- 22 July 2013
- 17 October 2013
- 23 January 2014
- 3 April 2014

Chair