

**MINUTES OF**

**EQUALITY FORUM**

**MEETING DATE**

**Monday, 22 February 2016**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillor Hasina Khan (Chair), Councillor (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Paul Clark and Jean Cronshaw

**OFFICERS:**

Victoria Willetts (Performance and Partnership Manager) and Cathryn Filbin (Democratic and Member Services Officer)

**PARTNER OFFICERS:**

Stephanie Iaconianni (Lancashire Teaching Hospitals), David Keddie (Lancashire Care NHS), Kiran Banati (Lancashire County Council)

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Len Hodson (Lancashire Deaf Rights Group), Anne Irving (Chorley Deaf Group) Alice Jones (DENW), David Jones (DENW), Suzie Jones (DENW), Frank Stringfellow (Chorley Deaf Club), Donna Hussain (CVCFSN), Shell Mayson (CBCH), Bernadette Ashton (ADHD Lancashire), David Brown (Chorley Pensioners Association), Marel Urry (Hoghton Parish Council)

**16.EF.1 Welcome and Introductions**

In the absence of Reverend Cox, Councillor Hasina Khan took the Chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## 16.EF.2 Minutes of meeting Thursday, 9 April 2015 of Equality Forum

AGREED – That the minutes of the Equality Forum held on 9 April 2015 be confirmed as a correct record for signature by the Chair.

## 16.EF.3 Disabled Go

The Chair welcomed Anna Borthwick, Director of Disabled Go to the Forum, who had been invited to talk about her organisation, the work taken place in partnership with Chorley Council, and the launch of the Chorley access guide.

The aim of the organisation, which was founded in 2000, was to find practical ways of providing disabled people with greater independence and choice. This aim was developed into the first online Access Guide which was published in 2002. Disabled Go was now the leading provider of online access information with 125,000 access guides available on their website.

Disabled Go had recently been working in partnership with Chorley Council to develop disabled and dementia friendly venue access guides. The guides provide detailed access information on a range of venues across Chorley enabling visitors and residents to reach an informed judgement about the suitability of venues before making the most of what Chorley has to offer.

Surveyors employed by Disabled Go survey venues and record all practical aspects of the premises including the width of doors, the size and colour of the disabled toilet cubicle etc. They also take a significant amount of photographs of the venue. Once completed the information was made available online for anyone to access.

To mark the launch of Chorley's access guide a special event would be held on 8 April 2016.

Members of the Forum asked a variety of questions, and made suggestions on the types of aids to be included on the website, all of which were noted.

To view Chorley's access guide click on the following link –  
<http://www.disabledgo.com/organisations/chorley-council/main#VenueListing>

On behalf of the Forum, the Chair thanked Anna for attending this meeting.

#### 16.EF.4 Chorley Council Equality Objectives

Victoria Willett, Performance and Partnership Manager gave a presentation on the draft equality objectives proposed following a review by the Council set to be implemented in April 2016.

The Council's last set of equality objectives published in 2012 were due to be updated and published in April 2016. At the same time the Council was updating its Equality Scheme document, which was being reviewed and updated to ensure the Council still met its equality duties under the Equality Act 2010.

Members of the Forum were reminded of the equality objectives that had been set in 2012, in response to the introduction of the Equality Act 2010, which had imposed duties on all public bodies, including local councils. The purpose of the Council's equality objectives was to strengthen the Council's performance against the general equality duty through providing focus on achieving specific outcomes.

The proposed objectives for 2016, including the measures and targets were detailed as follows –

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Measures and targets</b>
To work towards ensuring the Council's overall approach to equalities fell within excellence on the Equalities Framework for Local Government (EFLG), where this was considered proportionate and appropriate	Reaching excellence in specific areas of the EFLG framework self-assessment
To achieve a representative workforce at all levels of the organisation and to continue to ensure all employees felt they were treated fairly and with respect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the percentage of staff feeling that they were treated with respect and consideration by 5%</li> <li>• Increased the percentage of those aged 16-24 in the workforce by 25%</li> </ul>
To reduce the effect of rural isolation across the borough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A 50% increase in the number people attending digital access sessions</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a community car scheme</li> </ul>
To ensure future service planning and delivery took into account equality considerations and was informed by demographic trends	90% of Impact Assessments completed/reviewed
To foster good relations and improve community cohesion in communities across the borough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 60% of residents willing to work together to improve local area</li> <li>• A 35% increase in the number of volunteering hours earned</li> </ul>
To increase the satisfaction levels of customers and ensure all members of our community had the opportunity to, and felt that they were able to engage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less than 20% of customers dissatisfied</li> <li>• 85% of residents satisfied with the local area as a place to live</li> <li>• Satisfaction by disaggregated characteristic</li> <li>• Respondent data disaggregated by protected characteristic</li> </ul>
To ensure the Council's public realm and town centre improvement plans considered the needs of protected groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the percentage of consultation and engagement views and responses from communities across protected groups by 5%</li> <li>• Results of Integrated Impact Assessment.</li> </ul>

At the invitation of the Performance and Partnership Manager, members of the Forum discussed within small groups, the proposed objectives and were encouraged to provide written feedback by the completion of a questionnaire circulated prior to the start of the meeting.

The Performance and Partnership Manager advised that a public consultation would also be carried out via the Council's website with paper copies available on request. All feedback and comments on the proposed objectives would be analysed, considered and where appropriate the objectives would be amended. Once the equality objectives had been update to reflect the feedback received, they would be presented to the Executive Cabinet for approval. The final objectives were expected to be published in April 2016.

Further information was available on the Council's website – <http://chorley.gov.uk/Pages/AtoZ/Equality-information.aspx>

**16.EF.5 Open Forum to discuss any issues for each equality strand**

There were no issues raised from any of the equality strands.

**16.EF.6 Dates of Future Meetings**

Future dates of the Forum had been scheduled as follows -

- 28 July 2016 (This is a new date to that agreed at the meeting)
- 13 October 2016
- 13 February 2017

All meetings would take place at 6.30pm unless informed otherwise, and the venue for each meeting would be confirmed in due course.

**16.EF.7 Networking**

At the close of the meeting the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and encouraged them to remain to take part in a networking opportunity.

Chair

Date