

**MINUTES OF EQUALITY FORUM**

**MEETING DATE** Thursday, 10 August 2017

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councillor Hasina Khan (Chair), Councillor (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Zara Khan and Sheila Long

**OFFICERS:** Chris Sinnott (Director (Policy and Governance)), Cathryn Filbin (Democratic and Member Services Officer), Victoria Willett (Performance and Partnerships Manager), Angela Barrago (Health and Wellbeing Manager) and Kate Howcroft (Policy Officer) and Cathryn Filbin (Democratic and Member Services Officer)

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor Jean Cronshaw

**OTHER MEMBERS:** Councillor Gordon France, Richard Sachs, Divisional (Director of Governance LTHTR), Stephanie Iaconianni (LTH NHS Foundation Trust), Chief Insp Mike Adamson (Lancashire Police) and Stuart Rutledge (Lancashire Police)

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Various groups and individuals throughout the borough of Chorley.

**17.EF.21 Welcome**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting,

**17.EF.22 Minutes of meeting Monday, 13 February 2017 of Equality Forum (enclosed)**

**AGREED – That the minutes of the meeting of the Equality Forum on 13 February 2017 be noted.**

**17.EF.23 New Patient and Public Involvement Strategy (10 minutes)**

The Chair introduced Stephanie Iaconianni, Equality and Involvement Lead from Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust to the meeting.

The aim of the session was to gather feedback from the Equality Forum members to add value and inform the new 3 year Patient and Public Involvement Strategy at Lancashire Teaching Hospitals.

As part of the feedback about hospital services, members of the Forum were asked to consider four questions from a patients/carers perspective:

- What we do well?
- What we don't do well?
- How can we improve?
- How can you get involved – Patient Experience Improvement Group?

At this point in the meeting, it broke in to a workshop to consider the questions.

When the meeting was called back to order, the Forum were invited to feedback some of their responses which included –

- Issues relating to communication
- Introduction of car parking charges for disabled patients

All the responses would be collated and fed into the consultation process, and any questions raised would be responded to directly.

The Chair thanked Stephanie for her presentation and workshop.

Stephanie Iaconianni can be contacted via email: [Stephanie.iaconianni@lthtr.nhs.uk](mailto:Stephanie.iaconianni@lthtr.nhs.uk)

#### **17.EF.24 Equality Forum Refresh and Equality Forum Event - November 2017**

The Chair took the Equality Forum refresh item and the Equality Forum event item together.

Members of the Forum were advised that a new format was being proposed to improve the existing Forum by trying to make it more effective and relevant. The new format would include:

- Half day celebration events to be held twice a year
- Smaller, more focused task and finish groups held 2 to 3 times a year to consider specific issues or areas of consultation
- The first celebration event to be held in November 2017

The first of the celebration events (which will take place twice per year) would focus on community cohesion and would look to bring community groups across the borough together to celebrate diversity and raise awareness of specific issues within the community.

The Forum were asked to consider the broad proposals above and provide their views and feedback in relation to the following questions:

- How could things be done differently?
- Are there any suggestions for improvement?
- Suggestions for task and finish group topics
- Suggestions for the focus of celebration events

When the meeting was called to order, the Forum was invited to provide feedback which included potential topics for the celebration event.

Written feedback from the Forum included suggestions around widening the scope and accessibility of the current forum, making sure it has higher levels of community engagement. A number of suggestions for improvement were also put forward

including proposals around the Forum having a common purpose, higher levels of integration and more timely communications before the meeting and awareness of who is attending the event. More detail regarding the suggestions made can be found at Appendix A below.

The Forum also raised a number of suggestions for both Task and Finish Group topics and themes for future equality celebration events (More detail can be found at Appendix A below).

Response to suggestions:

- The proposed changes to the Forum will include the delivery of equality celebration events which will provide a much wider remit for attendance. The events will be widely advertised (press/social media) with the aim of getting as many to attend as possible.
- The proposed changes to the Forum will include the development of task and finish groups. The groups will come together to discuss particular topics, with a representative from relevant groups invited to attend. It is anticipated that papers will be circulated before each group, giving invitees the chance to prepare and feed back any particular questions before the meetings.
- It was agreed at the meeting that the first celebration event to be held in November 2017 will have a focus on community cohesion. With a future event being suggested around disability awareness. The first task and finish group is likely to be held early in 2018 and topics raised by the Forum will be considered in the planning of this meeting.

The Forum was thanked for its contributions which would be considered as part of the planning process for the celebration event and future Equality Forum activity.

#### **17.EF.25 Any urgent business previously agreed with the Chair**

The Chair allowed the following item of business to be raised -

##### **Protect Chorley Hospital from Cuts and Privatisation Group**

Representatives from Protect Chorley Hospital from Cuts and Privatisation gave a brief update on the group's activities to raise awareness which included –

- Demonstration outside Chorley hospital on 12 August 2017
- There was a stall on Chorley market (Tuesdays and Fridays)
- Newsletters

##### **Guinean Community**

Mr Sacko gave a brief talk about his experiences coming to this county and the problems he had encountered with various organisations and services. He also raised particular concerns around awareness of Female Genital Mutilation practices within some cultures.

**17.EF.26 Dates of Future Meetings**

Since the meeting it has been confirmed that the Equality Forum Celebration day would take place on Thursday, 2 November 2017, in The Lancastrian, Town Hall, Chorley.

Chair

Date