

## **Equality Forum**

**Thursday, 23 April 2009**

**Present:** Councillor Hasina Khan (Chair), Councillor David Dickinson (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Terry Brown, Pat Case, Rosie Russell and Iris Smith, Julia Berry (Heapey Parish Council), Cindy Bolton (Chorley & South Ribble CVS), Mike Collinson (Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust), Clamantina Finlayson (African-Caribbean Community), Agnes Gwilliam (Young People's Service), Alison Hansford (Withnell Parish Council / Chorley Wildcats), Victoria Hansford (Chorley Youth Council), Teresa Harty (Anchor Staying Put South Lancashire), Miriam Iqbal (Asian Womens Forum), Maureen Kay, Ronnie Kay (Deaf Forum), Harry Kelly (Villages in Partnership), Zafar Khan (Lord Street), Val Lawson (Chorley Youth Council), Francis Maguire, David Melhvis (CADNWA), Joyce Morris, Geoff Smith, Jeannie Stirling, Marel Urry (Hoghton Parish Council), Tom Watson (PAICE), Rushton, Pam Sutton (Lancashire County Council District Partnersip Officer), Mark Wissett (Station Manager for Central Lancashire), Neeta Chapanery (Victim Support - Central & Southern Lancashire), Byrne (Youth Parliament), Gregory (Youth Council), Taylor (Lancashire Fire Service), Thornley (Lancashire Fire & Rescue), Ahmed, Rudd (Help Direct), Sulays, Jones (Chorley Pensioners Association), Hall (Chorley Youth Council) and Manan, Lesley-Ann Fenton (Assistant Chief Executive (Policy and Performance)), Claire Thompson (Performance, Partnership and Equality Manager), Liz Morey and Cathryn Barrett (Democratic and Member Services Officer)

### **09.EF.37 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the people on the top table. People were reminded to say their name, the organisation they represent and to use the microphone when speaking.

### **09.EF.38 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Donna Hall (Chief Executive, Chorley Council), Jeanette Hickey (Police), David Brown (Chorley Pensioners Association), Jean Cronshaw (Clayton Brook Together), Dawn Clarke (Equality & Diversity Manager, Central Lancashire PCT), Colin Everett (District Partnership Officer).

### **09.EF.39 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2009 were confirmed as a correct record.

### **09.EF.40 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH 6.40PM**

The Chair welcomed David Melhuish, the Chair of Chorley and District Neighbourhood Watch Association (CADNWA) who gave a presentation on the benefits of Neighbourhood Watches, and highlighted where there was a shortage in the borough.

David asked the Forum for suggestions on how potential volunteers could be reached, and how best to publicise existing Watches. In response Forum members suggested David attend various group meetings, provide information on Neighbourhood Watch's at the Action Plan Days, and investigate the possibility of forming a young peoples Neighbourhood Watch.

The Chair thanked David for his presentation. For further information on Neighbourhood Watches contact Margaret Rushton, Crime Prevention Officer at Chorley Police on [Margaret.Rushton@lancashire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Margaret.Rushton@lancashire.pnn.police.uk).

### **09.EF.41 HEALTH INEQUALITIES STRATEGY 7.00PM**

The Chair welcomed Claire Thompson, the Council's Performance, Partnership and Equality Manager who gave a presentation on how the Chorley Local Strategic Partnership is tackling health inequalities in Chorley and explained why the gap for those people more likely to be ill is getting bigger.

From the evidence received there are three main areas of concern which have been identified as priorities: -

Teenage pregnancy

Alcohol harm

The 'Big Killers'

- Cancer
- Cardio Vascular Disease / CHD
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

Although there is a lot of data available in most of these areas it was proving difficult to find evidence on mental health, learning disabilities, and in the areas of COPD and obesity there is little or no ward level evidence.

The Council, in partnership with the PCT, are developing a strategy and action plan which will be presented to the LSP and Council meeting, the aim of which is to reduce the gap and improve the health of Chorley residents. Claire asked the Forum if any members had suggestions where information could be gathered and what steps could be taken to improve the health of residents.

The Forum discussed the issues raised in the presentation and in general agreed with the priorities identified.

The Chair thanked Claire for her presentation. Claire can be contacted on 01257 515348 or email [claire.thompson@chorley.gov.uk](mailto:claire.thompson@chorley.gov.uk).

## **09.EF.42 NEIGHBOURHOOD WORKING UPDATE 7.20PM**

Liz Morey, the Council's Neighbourhood Co-ordinator updated the Forum on Neighbourhood Working and the seven Neighbourhood Action Plans.

A number of events are taking place between May and July which include days of action and drop in sessions. It was acknowledged that as the days of action took place during a week day many young people would be unable to attend, and the possibilities of taking children out of school to attend was discussed. Liz added Forum members would be able to display information on their individual group if they wished. Confirmed drop-in sessions are:

- Abbey Village Primary School Wed 10 June 3.00 - 5.45pm
- Heath Charnock - White Horse Inn, Wed 17 June 1.30 - 4.00pm
- Clayton Green Library Tuesday 14 July 1.00 - 4.00pm

Liz Morey can be contacted on 01257 515812 or email [liz.morey@chorley.gov.uk](mailto:liz.morey@chorley.gov.uk).

#### **09.EF.43 NETWORKING BREAK 7.25PM**

The Forum members took a short break.

#### **09.EF.44 OPEN FORUM TO DISCUSS ANY ISSUES FOR EACH EQUALITY STRAND 7.45PM**

##### **(a) Age**

No issues were raised.

##### **(b) Disability**

Alison Hansford queried if an interpreter would be available at the Neighbourhood Days of Action. Liz Morey advised no interpreter had been booked for these sessions. However, if there was anyone who had communication difficulties and would like more information, their contact details can be passed to Liz and the other Neighbourhood Officers who will follow them up.

Cllr Iris Smith asked if more disabled parking spaces could be made that were wider than the standard disabled parking bay, as it would be especially useful for wheelchair users. This would be queried with the Assistant Chief Executive ([Business Transformation and Improvement](#)).

Maureen Kay enquired if interpreters could be present in the One-Stop-Shop. Officers undertook to look into this.

Dial-a-Ride is currently charging disabled customers full fare before 9.30am. Officers were asked to look in to this matter to see what could be done to reduce it.

##### **(c) Ethnicity**

No issues were raised.

**(d) Faith**

No issues were raised.

**(e) Gender**

No issues were raised.

**(f) Rurality**

No issues were raised.

**(g) Sexuality**

No issues were raised.

**09.EF.45 NOTICES / FEEDBACK / PUBLICITY 8.15PM**

The Chair announced the retirement of Rev John Cree, and thanked him for his contribution to the Forum and wished him a very happy retirement.

The Chair reminded the Forum that at a previous meeting it had been agreed the start time of the Forum would be brought forward to 6.30pm to accommodate the winter nights but the time would be reviewed in Spring. After a vote the majority of members (with one against) agreed for the Forum should remain at a 6.30pm start.

Lesley-Ann Fenton announced the Council had achieved Level 3 of the Equality Standard for local government from the IDeA, and thanked all those who took part in the evaluation process. Level 3 means that the Council is 'Achieving,' At the next meeting, in response to a request for the Council's approach to Equality & Diversity be included in the forward plan, the Council will outline current practice and areas for development based on the feedback from the IDeA assessors. There will also be an opportunity for members of the forum to give suggestions on how the Equality Forum can be developed further.

## **09.EF.46 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The dates of future meetings were noted.

Chair