

## **Equality Forum Q&A 19 October 2009**

### **1. A query was raised about training additional staff as British Sign Language Interpreters.**

Two members of Chorley Council staff are trained as British Sign Language interpreters. In recent years there has only been two occasions where sign language interpreters have been used. Therefore there are no plans to train more staff at this time however this will be continually reviewed.

### **2. Contact details and information on activities for disabled people was requested.**

- **Aiming High**

Lee Boyer, Sports, Play and Physical Activities Manager will attend the next meeting to talk about the 'Aiming High' programme for disabled children which includes opportunities for disabled activities as well as funding opportunities.

Lee Boyer can be contacted on 01257 515816 or email [lee.boyer@chorley.gov.uk](mailto:lee.boyer@chorley.gov.uk)

- **Stay Active**

The 'Stay Active' newsletter with information concerning activities for people with disabilities in the Chorley and South Ribble district, will be available at the next meeting. Although this newsletter predominately goes out to adults with

learning disabilities, many of the activities are inclusive and suitable for all disabilities.

The newsletter and work is provided by Kevin O'Hara Leisure Co-ordinator and Kirsty Yates, Leisure/Development Worker who are funded through the Chorley and South Ribble Learning Disability Partnership Board, through the Joint Commissioning Board-LCC/PCT.

Kevin has offered to come along and give an overview of provision in the future.

Kevin O'Hara can be contacted on 01772 644130 or email [kevin.o'hara@centrallancashire.nhs.uk](mailto:kevin.o'hara@centrallancashire.nhs.uk)

- **Chorley Wildcats**

Chorley Wildcats is a local organisation which covers all aspects of sports for children with disabilities. There are two age groups, 8-11 and 12-16. All children are given the opportunity to participate in all sports to develop co-ordination, fitness and general well being as well as developing their social and team work skills.

After going to visit the club, children are invited to join in on the next available session. Each session costs £2 and opening times are:

Saturday - 9am-11am

Sunday - 6pm-7pm

For further information contact Mike Mason on tel: 01257 515000.

- **Holly Trees Resource Centre**

Holly Trees Resource Centre, St Thomas's Road, Chorley, offers commissioned support for disabled people through the centre and outreach; it does not offer "activities" as such, the aim of any support will be to enable people to access ordinary community based activities. The governments paper "Putting People First" puts the emphasis on encouraging inclusive activities within community settings that are available to all citizens.

For further information contact Holly Trees Resource Centre on tel: 01257 273594.

- **The Active Generation Programme**

The Active Generation programme offers activities to the over 50's some of whom may consider themselves to be disabled. This includes arm chair exercise and other activities that can be adapted, again the long term aim is that people begin to feel comfortable with exercising and start to use more universal facilities.

For further information contact Michael Rushe, Active Generation Officer on 01257 515817 or email [michael.rushe@chorley.gov.uk](mailto:michael.rushe@chorley.gov.uk)

### **3. An Equality Forum Action Plan aligned to performance indicators was suggested.**

A meeting between Lesley-Ann Fenton and Jeanette Hickey has been arranged for the 15 January to initiate an action plan in order to focus the work of the forum.

#### **4. Provision of a wheel chair at the Town Hall**

Estelle Brown has kindly provided a spare wheel chair for the town hall.

#### **5. Disability Discrimination Act – Task and Finish Group**

The task and finish group which will review access audits and review the work programme and approach will be established in January.

#### **6. Clarification on rumours that shop mobility is possibly having to close was requested**

Shop Mobility has received core funding for 2009/10. The Director of People and Places, Jamie Carson, has contacted Maurice Waterhouse at Shop Mobility to get an update on their funding position and what that means for the shop in 2010 as well as to provide him with details on the process for applying for funding for next year to support them to continue to provide their valuable service.

#### **7. Red Rose Runners are looking for funding to support their continued service**

The Council provides an online funding service which provides details of any opportunities to access funding for local businesses, charities, community groups and social enterprises.

<http://www.open4community.info/chorley/Default.aspx>

**8. A query was raised about the gap in play provision for six year olds at Astley Park.**

In the new play area at Astley Park the Council has catered for the widest range of ages possible given the budget available.

Each piece of equipment caters for specific abilities. The play area is meant to be challenging and encourages calculated risk. While the larger modular unit says "eight years onwards" in its brochure, it is not to say that younger children cannot safely be accommodated.

More traditional equipment/features expected on play areas are considered dated in modern play design, and as a result, have pushed a generation of young people away from play spaces to take their risks in less appropriate venues - canals, train lines, busy roads etc.

It is the Council's intention to stimulate young minds and offer both physical and mental obstacles. The Council is confident that we have done that - and delivered excellent value for money at the same time.

In time the Council would look to expand our provision and this mid-range age group will be a target.

**9. Councillor Iris Smith asked if the Council had considered implementing extended disabled car parking space to better enable wheel chair users to get out of their vehicle.**

The current number of disabled parking places was deemed to be sufficient at this time, and there are no

plans to develop any extended car parking space. This will be continually reviewed and the format of car parks will be reviewed if necessary.

**10. A list of accessible meeting venues was requested**

The Council is in the process of collating a list of accessible meeting venues. We also have a meeting venue checklist which we ask staff to complete when choosing a venue to ensure that is accessible. Copies of the checklist will be available at the next meeting.

**11. Diane Gradwell offered to provide further information on the Citizens Advice Bureau – CABability Project**

Details of the CABability project which brings together a number of services from different organisations for people who are housebound and cannot access the services in any other way will be available at the next meeting.

**12. Francis Maguire raised a query on allotments.**

A report will be circulated or a sort presentation will be given at the next meeting.