

Equality Advisory Group

15 June 2016

Minutes

Present:

Daryoush Mazloum (Chair), YREN

Carolyn Suckling, York Access Group

Lisa Kelly, York LGBT Forum

Sue Lister, York Older People's Assembly

Chris Edmondson, YILN

Zoe Brown, PA to Chris E.

Emmanuel Oloruntola, CYC

Kay Bailey, CYC

Charlie Croft, CYC

Ian Cunningham, CYC

Cllr Tony Richardson, Conservative Representative

Jeanette Thompson, JUST works

Sharon Pickering, JUST works

Apologies:

Cllr Julie Gunnell, Labour Group

Cllr Ashley Mouncher, Liberal Democrat Group

Mahendra Verma, York Indian Cultural Association

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed on behalf of EAG concern about the recent events in Orlando.

2. The minutes from the last meeting were approved.

3. Matters Arising

i) Will the national Census include questions regarding sexual identity?

Ian Cunningham responded to say that he thought they would be included this time.

ii) Disabled Go update

Charlie Croft updated the group that the CYC contract with Disabled Go has been extended for three years. To only update it for one year would have been significantly more cost. However as part of the contract we have asked them to work more closely with EAG by attending future EAG meetings and facilitating a subgroup of EAG reps.

4. Talkabout Panel

Ian Cunningham, Business Intelligence Manager introduced this item to the group. The Council tries to keep resident satisfaction data as much as possible. Previously the Council did this through the Big York Survey. However due to budget constraints this is no longer viable. The Council has now reintroduced the Talkabout Survey which is a series of questions reflecting Council services which will go out to a sample 2,000 households 4 times a year. The information gathered will be used to inform decision-making and the data gathered will be published and updated monthly on the Council's website. None of the personal information is shared.

Approximately 750-800 people have said they would like to be on the Panel but while it represents geographically across the wards, it's

currently weighted towards white, older people and the council would like a better representative sample from its Communities of Interest. EAG members are invited to ask their groups and contacts if they would like to consider joining the Panel. Anyone over 18 and on the electoral roll is eligible.

Question: How will you ensure it's accessible?

When people sign up we ask them how they prefer to receive the information eg paper copy, online, braille and we would adjust accordingly.

Question: Will you be able to tell us what the current make up of the panel is?

Yes , Kay will circulate details of how to join, current make up of the Panel and where the gaps are with the minutes. Not everyone will be able to join the Panel because that will skew the representative aspect so we would stop when we have sufficient names.

5. Update on the Information, Advice and Guidance project

This project which was commissioned by CYC Adult Social Care Dept sets out to identify good practice for IAG across the authority to enable people to stay healthier for longer. Funding for project comes from regional source , not CYC. A range of stakeholders have been consulted including medical, voluntary sector. One of the purposes of coming to this meeting is to build networks with Communities of Interest who we haven't yet engaged with. A supporting document is attached to the minutes which outlines progress and findings so far.

Question: Is Connect 2 Support still going?

Yes it's still in place but its focus in York is more on purchasing services and resources to keep it live. Feedback has been that it's difficult to navigate and there is a cost to organisations to put data on it.

Question: How are you linking to Health Services in the city?

We are due to have more conversations with the Clinical Commissioning Group. Much of the websites for NHS services are around promoting themselves rather than giving out advice and guidance.

It's recognised that there's a strong community resources in York, for example we are working with the Community Centres and the Community Facilitators.

There will be a report and recommendations at the end of July.

6. Any Other Business

i) Lisa Kelly, Co-chair York LGBT Forum is organising a Human Rights Hands Together Walk on Sunday 14 August. It involves couples (of any age, gender, sexual orientation) walking hand in hand on specific, timed routes around the city centre and observing reactions by the general public. There will be trained marshalls along the routes. The issues being raised by the walk is does ethnicity matter, how safe/diverse is York? There will be a social researcher working on the project with Lisa and it's intended to be a long term project. If you would like to volunteer either to walk or be a marshall contact Lisa at yorklgbtforum@gmail.com

ii) Sue Lister updated the group on the success of the Free to Be Me training for care homes and workplace settings.

iii) Sue Lister is looking for anyone interested in being part of the 50+ Festival organising committee as she is stepping down as organiser.

iv) Ageing Without Children (AWOC) group is meeting monthly at the Cross Keys pub on Goodramgate. There's a forthcoming conference on 27 June 2016.

v) Carolyn Suckling reminded the group on the news of the forthcoming decision by the Supreme Court regarding the bus company who refused a wheelchair user access to a bus due to a buggy already on the bus. See attached link:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-36534907>

The Chair thanked everyone for coming, The next meeting will be on
Wednesday 7 September 6pm

**Equality Advisory Group
Wednesday 7 September 2016**

Minutes

Present:

Lisa Kelly, YORK LGBT forum (Chair)
Sue Lister, York LGBT forum, YOPA
Chris Edmondson, YILN
Carolyn Suckling, York Access Group
Rory Barke, YREN
Danny Dorney, Jorvik Deaf Connections
Charlie Croft, CYC Asst Director Communities, Culture and Public Realm
Kay Bailey, CYC Communities & Equalities Team
Will Boardman, CYC Policy
Charlotte Kemp, BSL interpreter
Vicci Ackroyd, BSL interpreter

Apologies: Cllr Tony Richardson, Cllr Ashley Mouncher, Mahendra Verma, David Brown, Daryoush Mazloun

1. Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a true record.

2. Matters arising

An update on the contract with Disabled Go was requested.

Officers informed the meeting that as part of the contract:

- a subgroup is formed to work with DisabledGo via a training day (date tbc) on assessment of venues and to help improve the website for users. An invite went out to EAG members and one name was forwarded so far. The request has also been shared with groups across York. Anyone interested to let Kay know.
- CYC Scrutiny Committee has also asked Disabled Go to look into whether venues can include the DisabledGo link on their websites.
- New venues have been added to the list for assessment this year.
- Disabled Go will be asked to attend and update EAG at the December meeting.

Discussion took place around the opportunity for EAG to assist CYC in holding Disabled Go to account for their performance against the contract and to consider the appropriateness of the service / contract for the future.

Action: KB to circulate the contract to EAG to assist with this.

Question: does the assessment include access for Deaf people?

In response: an assessment is made against whether the venue has people on site who are trained in BSL and also facilities for hard of hearing.

3. A Fairer York - Equality Strategy

Will Boardman presented the City's refreshed Equality Strategy to the group. The document highlights issues of inequality across the city and sets the challenge to all partners to find ways of addressing it. The main points are captured in handout. (see Appendix 1.)

Question: has success been held back due to lack of money?

Response: money does play a significant part but it means that services can be more targeted and focused.

Question: social services funding is very low and affects direct payment levels, which must affect the economic quality and people will not meet their expenses. This is sport may help to secure funding and priorities.

In response: this document starts the discussion and it can feed into the decision making process.

Response: It should also inform the impact assessment process. We have revised the impact assessment to include assessment against environment and health impacts.

Question: YREN welcomes a strategy for York. What influence does the community have regarding the implementation of strategies within the document eg Hate Crime?

Response: It raises the game for everyone not just the discriminated, finances are irrelevant. The values being used to make decisions on how these strategies are embedded are more important.

Question: Also what is it you're monitoring and tracking as a concern is that the links don't take me to the datasets that lie behind it.

In response: we accept that equality data is not at the level we want it to be and there are gaps. The Fairness and Equalities Board (FEB) brings together agencies who will get a set of indicators to monitor against the datasets to show over time a direction of travel. I would agree that Communities of Interest need to be involved in defining strategies.

Question: how will you report on progress?

Response: There is a list of the indicators at the back of the Strategy, the intention will be to draw information together. Its not only the Council's responsibility, it's a citywide strategy and has been developed with partners.

Question: I find data hard to understand and lots of communities also do. I would like to take it back to the Deaf community in a way that is easy to understand.

Response: it is a challenge, there are lots of numbers and it can also come across as not being relevant to people's lives. I would welcome any thoughts on how we can best present the information.

Question: People have different levels of knowledge and information will always tell a story. Has York got a 'datamill' - a depository of information accessible by the public?

Response: yes we have York Open Data

Question: Would you like our communities to submit their stories to bring it to life?

Response: yes we would welcome this. There are a number of channels which can be used to influence and describe personal stories including this group, FEB and a Fairness Strategy email.

Question: we can't delay any action by this group to influence this strategy.

4. EAG's role going forward

Officers drew to the group's attention the low attendance figures and lack of representation from the Communities of Identity at both EAG meetings and 'Meet the director' meetings. A discussion took place about the future direction of EAG so as to influence council policy and represent effectively the Communities of Interest in York.

The frequency of meetings was discussed. The Council officers stated that the Council would not be in position to resource additional meetings; it will therefore be important to make the best use of the current meetings.

Discussion took place about councillor representation in order to influence equalities policy-making. The importance of engaging with the Executive was noted.

EAG's current role in consulting on equality impact assessments was discussed. Officers reported that it is difficult to bring an even flow of impact assessments to the meetings and that, from the Council's point of view, it is not always practical to fit impact assessments into the timetable for EAG meetings. It was noted, however, that if EAG decides to function differently in the future it will be important to find an alternative method of obtaining feedback on impact assessments. The meeting discussed options whereby EAG could be more self-directing of its own agenda, generating ideas and interest which will stimulate greater involvement and deliver more impact. It was agreed that an annual event on a key topic would provide a focus for this

approach, bringing together the Communities of Interest, stimulating debate and servicing to hold the Council and other appropriate agencies to account. The quarterly business meetings would be used to prepare for the annual event.

Action: Officers to write up the ideas discussed in liaison with EAG members and bring to the December meeting for more detailed discussion.

A "meet the director" meeting will take place with Mary Weastell, the Council's new Chief Executive to discuss the emerging proposal with her following the December meeting.

An offer was made by Rory Barke to assist in contacting groups on the mailing list to sound out their views.

5. Any Other Business

i) C Suckling reported that she was pleased that the 'A boards' trial policy had been approved.

ii) Lisa Kelly fed back on the Hands Together event which had been introduced in the previous meeting. The findings of the event will be written up and the plan is to hold another 3 or 4 next year - would like more BME representation.

Action: Lisa to link up with YREN.

iii) S Lister shared information on:

- York 50+ Festival 120 events, programmes available for distribution
- Adults Without Children group (AWOC) meets each month at Cross Keys Pub
- 'Free to be Me' awareness training now available in the workplace including City of York Council.

iv) KB shared that there will be an email coming out shortly to invite nominations for a new Cultural Diversity Award sponsored by the FEB.

v) It was reported that an EAG member's acquaintance had to use the warden call number in an emergency and it worked very well but it required significant mental strength to wait on hold in between the call.

Date of the next meeting - Weds 7 December 6-8pm

Equality Advisory Group

7th December 2016

Minutes

Present:

Chris Edmondson (Chair), York Independent Living Network

Daryoush Mazloum, York Racial Equality Network (YREN)

Carolyn Suckling, York Access Group

Danny Dorney, Jorvik Deaf Connections

Cheryl McBride, Jorvik Deaf Connections

Cllr Tony Richardson, Conservative Group

Kay Bailey, Communities & Equalities Team, CYC

(Palantypist and BSL interpreter)

Apologies: Dominic Smithies (YUSU), Mahendra Verma (York Indian Cultural Assoc), Charlie Croft (CYC), Sue Lister (YOPA)

1.Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record.

2.Matters Arising

i) A request was made to circulate to the group the latest Hate Crime Strategy.

Action; Kay Bailey to action.

ii) Disabled Go

Disabled Go provided an update. See Appendix 1 which outlined recently added venues for assessment.

Q) Can we check if they have Harkers restaurant on the list for assessment?

Q) Do DisabledGo check to see whether there are sufficient Changing Places facilities – across the city?

Action: Kay Bailey to action the above with Disabled Go

Q) Can businesses get a rebate from CYC if they commit to providing accessible venues?

Action: Kay Bailey to request further information from Make It York and the Business District.

iii) Meeting with CYC's Chief Executive Mary Weastell

The Chair reminded the group that the meeting was set for Tuesday 10 January 2-3.30pm at West Offices. Can everyone go back to their groups and send in questions to Kay for Mary.

Initial discussions took place about possible topics which included:

- The role of the group and what it might look like
- Showcasing our groups and organisations
- Experience and involvement in her previous local authority and whether there are any potential link ups
- Her role with the Clinical Commissioning Group and other partners
- Accessibility of the Council eg BSL

3. Equality Advisory Group – group discussion about its purpose and function going forward

Kay Bailey introduced the item which followed on from the previous meeting where the group had had initial discussion about EAG's role, the current format and the low attendance at meetings.

General discussion took place around the table and the following points were made:

i) This meeting is organised by CYC, therefore I ask the question has the relevance of the group changed in the Council's mind?

ii) have numbers reduced due a loss of faith in the system, lack of funding generally?

iii) For the Deaf community having the appropriate access to council meetings prevents us from being fully engaged. Often we are joined up with people with a disability. While some may have a disability we see ourselves as a linguistic community.

iv) its important that we have a good story to tell , have we actually been able to effect change at the council, maybe that's a cause for low attendance. Then we could tell other people 'this is what we made happen'.

v) Cllr Richardson talked about his role as a Councillor and that as equality representatives they are here to listen and feed information through as part of the decision making process eg committees etc

Discussion around BSL interpreters at Council meetings would help. There is no BSL interpreting facility in York as in other areas.

vi) Deaf hate crime was mentioned as being high, whilst deaf awareness amongst the hearing community was low. eg some pubs don't like

having the Deaf community because we are perceived to be noisy, aggressive.

Cllr Richardson asked if pubs could join a 'Deaf Friendly Pub' scheme and display a sticker would that help? The Deaf representatives agreed it would.

BSL – we would like to see more people at the Council trained in BSL.

vi)the Council already consults with our organisations, so could we meet twice a year to pick up on issues and keep everyone informed?

vii)We talked about organising an event at the last meeting, could we use this to find out what people want? Could that help define ourselves going forward?

4. What next/summary

Kay Bailey summarised the main points coming from the discussion.

- Holding the Council to account
- Having a voice
- Being able to influence policy
- Representing our communities
- Challenging barriers to access eg meetings, services
- To gain a better understanding of how the Council works
- Information sharing and networking

With an action to discuss with Council colleagues prior to the next meeting.

The proposed date for the next meeting is Thursday 2 March 6pm.

The meeting closed at 8pm.

disabledGo.com

(APPENDIX 1)



City of York Council update December 2016

Surveying for year 1 of renewal contract was carried out week commencing 17th October 2016.

New venues added this year include:

5 Senses Spa	Stockton On The Forest Village Hall
Crumbs Cupcakery	York Army Museum
Eagle & Child	York City Walls
Energi Trampoline Park	York Cocoa House
Fudge Kitchen Ltd	York Cold War Bunker
McDonald's (Monks Cross Drive)	Bannatyne's Health Club and Spa
Middlethorpe Spa	Cut & Chase
Moor Lane Youth Centre	Grays Court
Olivia's Artisan Bakery and Café	Vernon House Community Centre
Pyramid Gallery	York FootGolf Centre

Venues are due to be available for the council contacts to view/approve the new access guides week commencing 12th December.

DisabledGo provided a work experience day in York for people to attend, 3 people attended the day and gave great feedback.

One quote from a volunteer at York Blind and Partially Sighted Society was "I wanted to thank you both for a very enjoyable day in York last Monday surveying the shops in Coney Street plus the one in Davygate. It was very information and enjoyable. Should you ever have something similar in York in the future, please to let me know and, if I'm available, I'd like to attend."

We will also be running an additional work experience day in York on 20th January 2017 which we have people booked on to the day already.

Any queries or questions, please do not hesitate to contact Rachel Carter at DisabledGo on 01438 742810 or rachel.carter@disabledgo.com



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