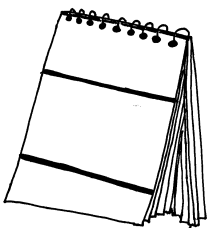


Social Inclusion Working Group

(Social inclusion means including everyone in society. The Social Inclusion Working Group has been set up to look at how all different communities in York can be given the same chances to take part in life and be included)



MINUTES



Date of meeting: 2 July 2009

Members of the Council who were at the meeting



Nigel Ayre
(Chair)

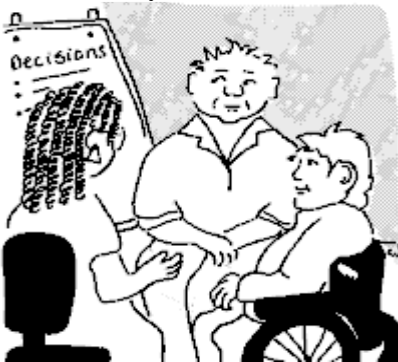
Sonja Crisp
(Vice-Chair)

Keith Aspden

Jenny Brooks

Julie Gunnell

People who were at the meeting representing community groups:



Peter Blackburn (LGBT Forum)

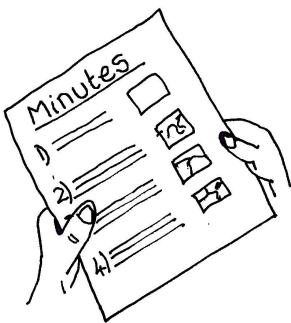
David Brown (York Access Group)

Corry Hewitt (York Interfaith)

Rita Sanderson (York Racial Equality Network)

Maureen Ryan (Valuing People Partnership)

1. Minutes



It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting of 13 May 2009 were a correct record of what had happened.

Details were given of the actions taken following the last meeting.

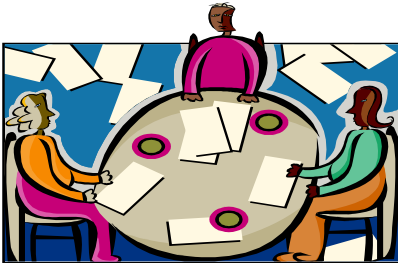
The Group wanted more consideration to be given to the form that would be used to collect information about equalities. Some members of the Group said that the form would be too long. The Group agreed to ask for further advice and to look at the form again at the next meeting.

2. Chair's Report



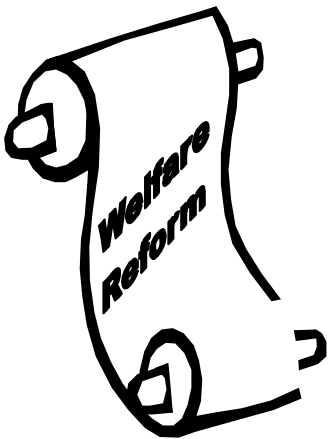
The Chair and Vice-Chair were welcomed to their first meeting.

Members of the Group talked about the work of their community groups.



Ethnic Elders Group

The Social Inclusion Working Group had provided help to set up an Ethnic Elders Group. The Group was very successful and several events had taken place.



Valuing People Partnership

The Group heard about the work of the Valuing People Partnership. The Partnership was helping people with learning disabilities to understand the new Welfare Reform Bill.

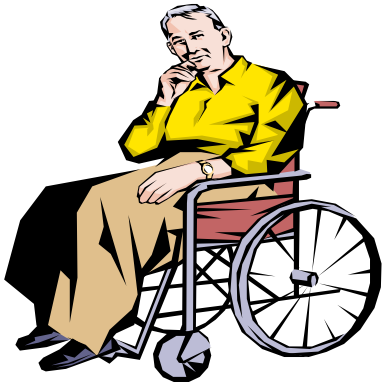
The Group agreed that the Valuing People Partnership should be invited to the next meeting to talk about how to make information easier to understand.



Pride in the Park

Information was circulated about the Pride in the Park Picnic that was taking place on Sunday 16 August 2009. The theme was "Maskerade". For further details -

www.yorklgbtforum.com



Access

Members of the Group suggested that the Council should do more to encourage businesses to make their buildings more accessible (easier to get in and out of). It was agreed to send a letter to the Planning Department of the Council about this matter.



Bridging the Gap

Information was circulated about the "Bridging the Gap" day. The event would take place on Saturday 26 September 2009 and had been arranged by York Older People's Assembly.

Community groups were encouraged to take part.



Efficiency Savings

Members of community groups said that they were concerned that the Council's plans to save money would have an impact on people who used their services. The Group was told that the impact of any changes would be looked at before decisions were made about savings.

Sharing of Information

The Group asked if the Council could improve the way that information was shared between different departments.



When people wanted to use a service they often had to provide information about themselves that they had already given to another department. It would be easier for people if they only had to provide the information once.

The Group was told that this would be looked at when the Council tried to make savings. Data Protection rules may make the sharing of some information difficult.

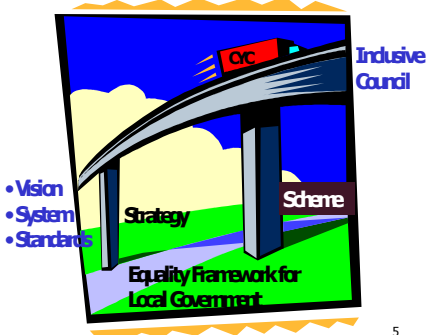
3. Report from SIWG Development Day May 2009



The Group looked at a report about the SIWG Development Day. The event had been very useful. The Chair, Vice-Chair and Evie Chandler would use the information from the event to help write a Development Plan for SIWG. The plan would then be brought to a SIWG meeting. The Group put forward ideas as to what the plan should include.

4. Draft Council Fairness and Inclusion Strategy and Single Corporate Equality Scheme 2009/12

Our ongoing "journey"



The Group looked at a report on a Fairness and Inclusion Strategy. They put forward suggestions as to how this could be improved.

The Group also talked about how important it is to be fair when appointing people to jobs. Staff should also receive good training and support.

The Fire Service had an Equality Scheme in place and had set targets for recruitment. They would like to hear the views of SIWG. The Group agreed to consider the scheme at a future meeting.

5. Equality Impact Assessment: City of York Corporate Strategy 2009/12



The Group heard about the Council's Corporate Strategy - its plans for the future. The Group were asked for their views about fairness and inclusion issues in the plan. They also looked at the Equality Impact Assessment.

The Group were concerned that the examples in the paper about the Council's commitment to make York an



Inclusive City were all about housing and poverty. Other aspects of inclusion should be in the plan.

The Group also wanted to know how much it had cost to produce the booklet.

SIWG members were invited to attend the workshops that would be taking place later in the year.

6. Holocaust Memorial Day



Details were given of the events planned to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. The Group were invited to become involved. They decided that the SIWG display boards should be used at the event. Further information would be sent out after the meeting.