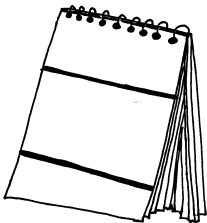


Equality Advisory Group

(This group looks 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: 11 November 2010

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 and as expert witnesses:



David Brown (York Access Group)

Hann Bunn (LGBT Forum)

John Burgess (Mental Health Forum)

Lynn Jeffries (York Independent Living Network)

Sue Lister (York Older People's Assembly)

Tony Martin (York Older People's Assembly)

Claire Newhouse (Higher York)

Russell Norton (LGBT Forum)

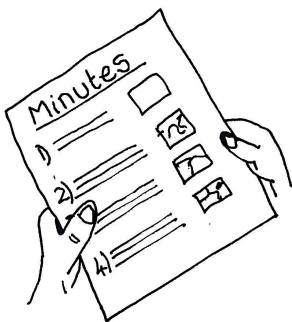
Simon Rodgers (LGBT Forum)

Diane Roworth (York Independent Living Network)

Maureen Ryan (Valuing People Partnership)

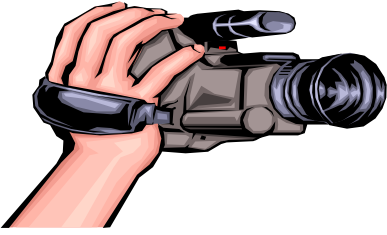
Rita Sanderson (York Racial Equality Network)

1. Minutes



The Group agreed that the minutes of the meetings of 30 June 2010 were correct if it was noted that some of the other members of the group also agreed with Councillor Aspden's comments about the change of name of the group.

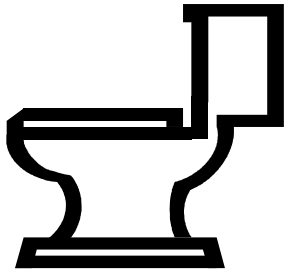
Details were given of the actions taken following the last meeting.



Film about Poverty

Simon Rodgers said that he would try to contact Sarah Fennell to find out what was happening about the film on poverty.

Disabled User Toilets



The Group was concerned that the alarms in the disabled user toilets were still not linked to someone who could help in an emergency. There were also problems with the design of some of the toilet areas.

The Group decided to ask someone from the council to come to the next meeting to discuss these problems with the group.

2. Community Issues



The Chair welcomed new members to the Group. Introductions were carried out.

Community representatives told the group about any problems they had with council policy and services.

Green Badge Scheme



A member of the York Older People's Assembly had found it difficult to obtain a green parking badge. The group wanted to know more about the scheme. Where could the Green Badge be used? How is it different to a blue badge?

The group asked for more information to be provided at the next meeting.

Pedestrian Safety



Members of the York Older People's Assembly were concerned about pedestrian safety in Beckfield Lane. The group agreed that pedestrian safety was an issue in many areas of the city. Shared space could be dangerous for children, people with mobility problems or who had hearing or sight difficulties

The group asked for more information to be provided at the next meeting.

York Older People's Assembly Questionnaire



105 questionnaires had been filled in at the 50+ Festival. The information they contained would be helpful to the council. Claire Newhouse offered advice about how the information in the forms could be sorted.

Homecare



The Group heard about the Equality and Human Rights Commission Inquiry into Homecare. Information would be sent to members of the group so that they could have a say if they wanted to.

Good Neighbour Guide



Higher York's students' forum was writing a "Good Neighbour Guide". Any ideas about what should be included were welcome

Valuing People Partnership



The Valuing People Partnership had been considering the following:

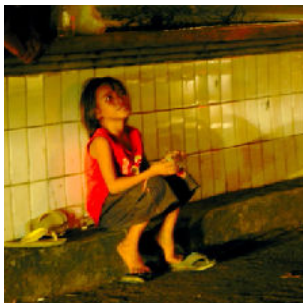
- Respite care
- Leisure - how people with disabilities spend their time

They were going to do a survey to find out more. The information could then be used to improve services. It would also find out where there were gaps in what was provided.

YREN Representation on EAG



At their next meeting, YREN would be nominating their two representatives to serve on the EAG for the next year. They would also be giving feedback on the way in which they worked with the EAG. They were pleased at the way the group had developed.



Sharing of Information about Child Poverty

Rita told the Group about work that was taking place by the council to find out more about child poverty in the city. YREN would be sharing information that they had and asked other groups to do the same.



York Independent Living Network

Lynn told the Group that there had been very good feedback following the launch of the York Independent Living Network (YILN). The main topic had been personalisation. Personalisation means finding new ways to give people more choices about their care and support.



Accessible Buildings

Lynn said that some of the council buildings were not easily accessible, including the equipment centre. Guidance on design and signs was not always followed.

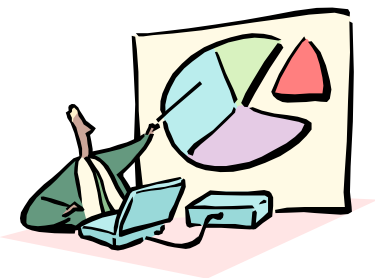
The Group agreed to talk more about this at a future meeting.



International Shared Meal

The Group looked at display boards showing photos of the international shared meal. This had been a very good event.

3. Spending Review and Council Budget



The Group heard a presentation about the Government's Spending Review - the money that government departments would be spending over the next four years. This would have a big impact on how much the council could spend.

good	all right	bad	don't know

The Group heard about ways that they could be involved in the consultation that would be taking place about how the council should spend money. An extra meeting of the EAG would take place in January to hear the Group's views about the budget.



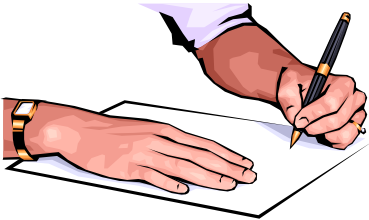
The council was already looking at ways of saving money and making services more efficient.

The Government and the Equalities and Human Rights Commission had issued guidance for people making budget decisions in the public sector. There was a need to look at the impact that the decisions would have on equalities.

The Group made the following comments:



- Because the council and the PCT were both low spending, any cuts made would have an even greater impact.



- People should complete next year's census forms. It was important that the data was correct so that York received the right amount of money.



- When the council arranged for services to be provided by other organisations it was important that checks were in place to make sure that they were working well.



- It was important that Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) were carried out. EIAs help council officers make sure that policies do not have a bad impact on people because of their gender, race, disability, age, religion or belief or sexual orientation.

- The EIAs should look at the needs of groups of people who are most at risk and decide what care is best for them.



Clear Language



Easy Read



Website



Large Print

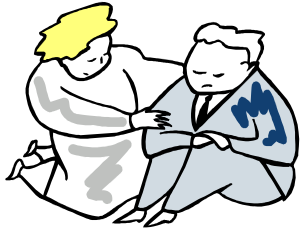


Braille



Audio

- Council information should be accessible to all. The York Blind and Partially Sighted Society could help with this.



The Group asked if the council had changed its policy about people receiving residential care outside of York. They wanted to know if this had been done to save money.



The Group agreed a change to the form used by the council to collect equality information. The words "sexual orientation" would be used instead of "partnership preference".