



Notice of meeting of

Social Inclusion Working Group

To: Councillors Jamieson-Ball (Chair), Cuthbertson (Vice-Chair), Fairclough, Sue Galloway, King, Potter and Scott

Date: Wednesday, 22 November 2006

Time: 6.00 pm

Venue: Clementhorpe Room, Priory Street Centre

AGENDA

The formal part of this meeting will begin at 7.00pm and will be preceded by an informal discussion on the presentation for the Centre for Independent Living feasibility report (agenda item 4 refers) and Involving Young People in the Social Inclusion Working Group (agenda item 5 refers), commencing at 6.00pm.

1. Declarations of Interest

At this point Members are asked to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they may have in the business on this agenda.

2. Minutes

(Pages 1 - 14)

To approve and sign the minutes of the last meeting held on 20 September 2006. An "easy read" version of these minutes is also attached for Members' consideration.

3. Public Participation

At this point in the meeting members of the public who have registered their wish to speak regarding an item on the agenda or an issue within the Group's remit can do so. Anyone who wishes to register or requires further information is requested to contact the Democracy Officer on the contact details listed at the foot of this agenda. The deadline for registering is Tuesday 21 November at 10.00am.

- 4. The Feasibility of a Centre for Independent Living for York** (Pages 15 - 30)
To receive a presentation from Lynn Jefferies on the methodology and results of the feasibility study on a Centre for Independent Living for York. A copy of the report entitled 'From Client to Citizen: A CIL for York?' is attached for members information.
- 5. Involving Young People in the Social Inclusion Working Group** (Pages 31 - 36)
To consider options for effectively involving young people in the Social Inclusion Working Group.
- 6. Applications for Funding to Support Effective Community Involvement in the Social Inclusion Working Group** (Pages 37 - 46)
To consider applications received from two community forums that send representatives to the Social Inclusion Working Group for financial support to improve the effectiveness of their community's involvement in the work of the SIWG.
- 7. Community Forum Reports and Feedback** (Pages 47 - 56)
To receive a verbal report from Lynn Jeffries from the Disabled People's Forum, one of the community forums involved in the Group's work. An easy read copy of the report is attached.
- 8. Forward Plan**
To agree items for future meetings of the Group.
- 9. Any other business which the Chair considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972**

Democracy Officer:

Name: Jill Pickering

Tel: (01904) 552062

jill.pickering@york.gov.uk

For more information about any of the following please contact the Democracy Officer responsible for servicing this meeting Jill Pickering
Democracy Officer

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports

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City of York Council

Committee Minutes

MEETING	SOCIAL INCLUSION WORKING GROUP
DATE	20 SEPTEMBER 2006
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS JAMIESON-BALL (CHAIR), SUE GALLOWAY, KING, LIVESLEY, GREENWOOD, POTTER AND SCOTT
APOLOGIES	COUNCILLORS CUTHBERTSON AND FAIRCLOUGH

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair invited Members to declare at this point any personal or prejudicial interests they might have in the business on the agenda, in addition to the standing declarations made below:

Cllr King – as a Member of the Access Group
Cllr Potter – as Older People's Champion
Cllr Scott – as Young People's Champion

No further interests were declared.

7. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Social Inclusion Working Group held on 26 July 2006 be signed as a correct record and the "easy read" version be noted.

8. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

It was reported that there were no registrations to speak under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

9. PROVISION OF ADULT CHANGING PLACES

Gavin Harding, a representative from York People First made a presentation to the Working Group on the provision of adult changing places in addition, Members of the Working Group considered a report on taking steps to support the development of places in York.

The presentation from York People First advocated the need in York for public toilet facilities for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities. The presentation made reference to the Changing Places Campaign which is working for the installation of Changing Places toilets in all city centres, arts venues, shopping centres, hospitals, motorway service stations, large railway stations and airports. Members of the campaign include Mencap, PAMIS, Nottingham City Council and the Scottish Executive.

York People First proposed the view that Changing places toilets, which specifically cater for the needs of people with learning difficulties and their carers, ought to be provided in addition to the standard accessible toilets. Significantly, the Changing Places toilet differs from more standard accessible toilets by providing height adjustable changing benches and hoist systems amongst other things.

Members of the Working Group were also presented with a copy of a 'Changing Places, Changing Lives' leaflet and were directed to the website www.changing-places.org.

RESOLVED: That the concept of providing adult changing places in York be approved in principle and that Officers prepare a report back to the Social Inclusion Working Group after consultation with Officers in Planning, Dumfries and Galloway Council, Nottingham City Council and Officers dealing with accommodation reviews, for consideration of using Section 106 contributions.

REASON: To send a positive message about the facilities and to have greater information to inform the next steps of the Social Inclusion Working Group.

10. IMPROVING THE DIVERSITY OF THE COUNCIL'S WORKFORCE

Members considered a report on the Diversity of the City of York Council's workforce and reflected on the discussion/brainstorming session that had been held prior to the meeting.

Members discussed the issues of collecting information on age, sexual orientation and faith/religious belief in the context of the importance of confidentiality. Members were advised that whilst some equal opportunities data is collected at the point of application, the most recent anonymous annual staff survey had included questions about sexual orientation and faith/religion.

The feedback from the sub working groups was as detailed below:

Group 1

1. Look at best practice in other companies and authorities
2. Use job advertising to challenge stereotypes and perceptions.
3. Accessibility – consult with disabled employees and use them in the completion of access audits.
4. Targeted training for managers especially in connection with short-listing and interviewing.

Group 2

1. Review Job Descriptions to ensure that they provide flexible criteria to encourage applications and the development of a protocol to ensure job adverts target underrepresented groups.

2. Train staff to encourage progression and offer opportunities for staff development which is tailored to meet individual needs and is non discriminatory.
3. Talking to staff in underrepresented groups to explore barriers.
4. Encourage the sharing of good practice between directorates and Championed by Senior Management Teams.

Group 3

1. Adapt training to local needs.
2. Ensure that the workforce is confident enough to recognise disabilities.
3. Learning from successes in directorates.
4. Recruit jointly with other key partners such as the NHS.
5. Flexibility around places of work.

RESOLVED: That;

- i) Social Inclusion Working Group is presented with the equality monitoring data received as a routine agenda item with analysis of trends.
- ii) The feedback from the group work be fed into Equality Impact Plans.
- iii) That the Equality Impact Plans be brought to a future meeting of the Social Inclusion Working Group and then on a yearly cycle.

REASON: To enable the Social Inclusion Working Group to analyse trends and influence improvements in equality monitoring and to highlight these issues, by way of the minutes, to the Executive.

11. FUTURE BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION

Members collated ideas for business for future meetings.

RESOLVED: That the Social Inclusion Working Group,

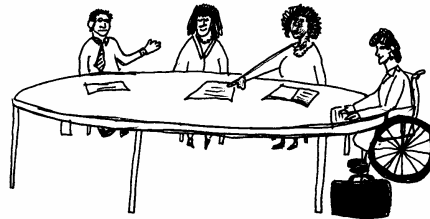
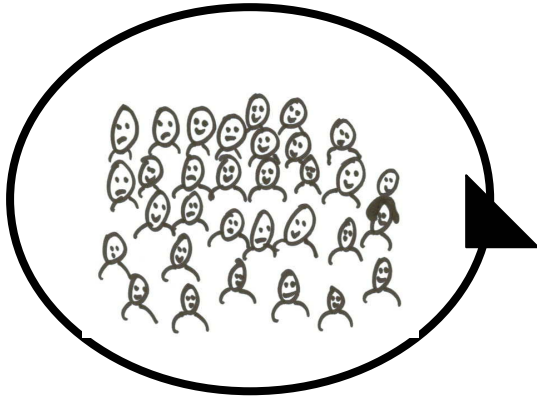
- i) consider the new legislation and the new council policies and procedures in relation to the age of the existing staff profile.
- ii) Receive input from the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Forum (LGBT) on the most appropriate ways of collecting data about sexuality.
- iii) To request that the forums that feed into the Social Inclusion Working Groups provide a report for the next meeting on what their key issues are.

REASON: To focus the future work of the Social Inclusion Working Group.

Cllr C Jamieson-Ball
Chair

[The meeting started at 6.00 pm and finished at 8.17 pm].

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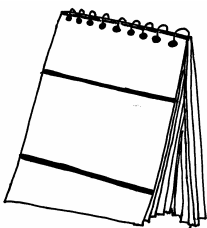


Social Inclusion Working Group

(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: 20 September 2006

Members of the Council who were at the meeting (to be known as 'Members' in these minutes):



**Ceredig
Jamieson-Ball
(Chair)**



Sue Galloway



Ken King



**David
Livesley**



**Janet
Greenwood**



Ruth Potter



David Scott

Members of the Council who were not able to come to the meeting:



Ian Cuthbertson



Bill Fairclough

People who were at the meeting representing community groups:

- Jack Archer and Sue Lister from the Older People's Assembly



- Peter Blackburn from the LGBT Forum (LGBT stands for Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender)



- Lynn Jeffries from the Disabled People's Forum



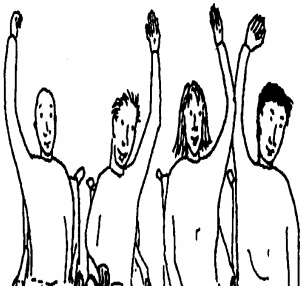
1. Adult changing places



Gavin Harding from York People First talked to the Group about the importance of adult changing places for disabled people. He said there was a need in York for public toilet facilities for people with profound and multiple learning difficulties.



He told the Group about the Changing Places Campaign which is working for the installation of Changing Places toilets in all city centres, arts venues, shopping centres, hospitals, motorway service stations, large railway stations and airports. Members of the Working Group were given a copy of a 'Changing Places, Changing Lives' leaflet and told about the website www.changing-places.org.



Gavin explained that adult changing places toilets which specifically cater for the needs of people with learning difficulties and their carers, ought to be provided in addition to the standard accessible toilets. A Changing Places toilet differs from more standard accessible toilets by providing height adjustable changing benches and hoist systems amongst other things.

The Group agreed that there was a need for Changing Places Toilets in York. Council officers were asked to speak to other councils who have done this and come up with some ideas for doing it in York. This would be discussed again at another meeting.

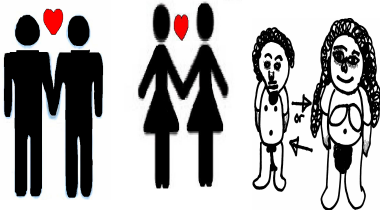
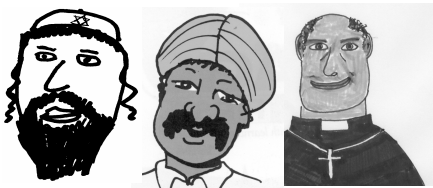
2. Improving the diversity of the council's workforce



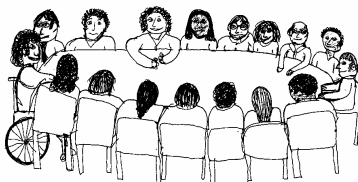
The Group were given a report that said how many disabled people, women and people from Black and Minority Ethnic Communities work for the Council and whether they were on higher or lower wages.



There was no information about sexual orientation or religion because it was felt that people may not want to be asked about this because it is private.



The big Group split into small groups to discuss the information. The main points discussed by each group were:



Group 1

1. Learn from what other organisations are doing to employ more disabled people and Black and Minority Ethnic people.



2. Encourage everyone to apply for jobs by using positive pictures and words.
3. Ask disabled staff to help with checking the access of council buildings.
4. Better training for managers who decide who gets a job with the council.



Group 2

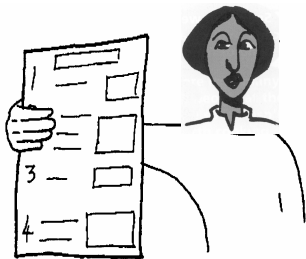
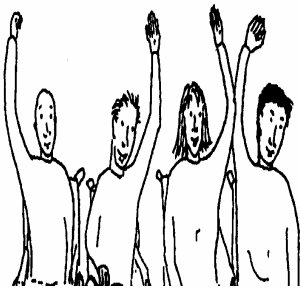
1. Make sure that disabled people, women and BME groups know about jobs at the council.
2. Allow different people to do jobs in different ways.
3. Help staff to get more skills and more confidence so they can get better jobs working for the council.
4. Ask staff about the problems they face.
5. Learn from what other directorates are doing to employ more disabled people and Black and Minority Ethnic people.

Group 3

1. Adapt training to local needs.



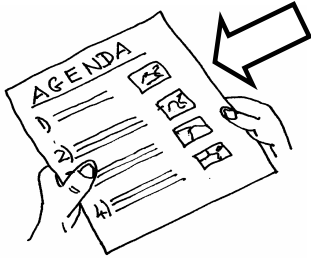
2. Help disabled staff to be open about their disability at work.
3. Learn from what other directorates are doing to employ more disabled people and Black and Minority Ethnic people.
4. Recruit jointly with other big organisations locally such as the NHS.
5. Be flexibility around places of work.



The Group agreed that it should look at the number of disabled people, women and people from BME groups working for the council again.

The Council should listen to what the Group said when writing its plans to employ more people from these groups. The Group would like to see these plans when they are finished so it can say how well it thinks the council is doing.

3. Future Meetings

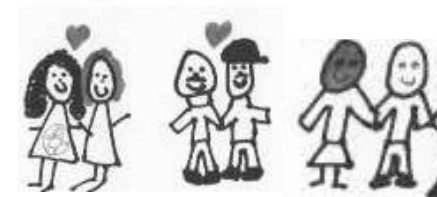


The Group thought about other things it would like to talk about at future meetings.

- What the council is doing to stop age discrimination and to employ more older and younger people.



- The views of the LGBT Forum about whether the Council should ask staff about their sexual orientation.



- The community forums to bring issues that they want to talk about.



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From Client to Citizen: A CIL for York?



A report for the Social Inclusion Working Group, City of York Council, on the feasibility of a Centre for Independent Living for York

Funded by the Disabled People's Advisory Group,
City of York Council

Produced by the Centre for Independent Living Steering Group and written by Alison Cowen and Lynn Jeffries, November 2006

What's it all about?



Last December a group of disabled people in York applied for a small grant to do a study to find out if York needs a Centre for Independent Living (CIL).



The government wants disabled people to have more choice and control over their lives.



An independent living organisation would be user led and based on the values of rights, choice, control, inclusion and independence.



1 in every 6 people uses support services at some time in their life so we realised that lots of people would have a view about a CIL.

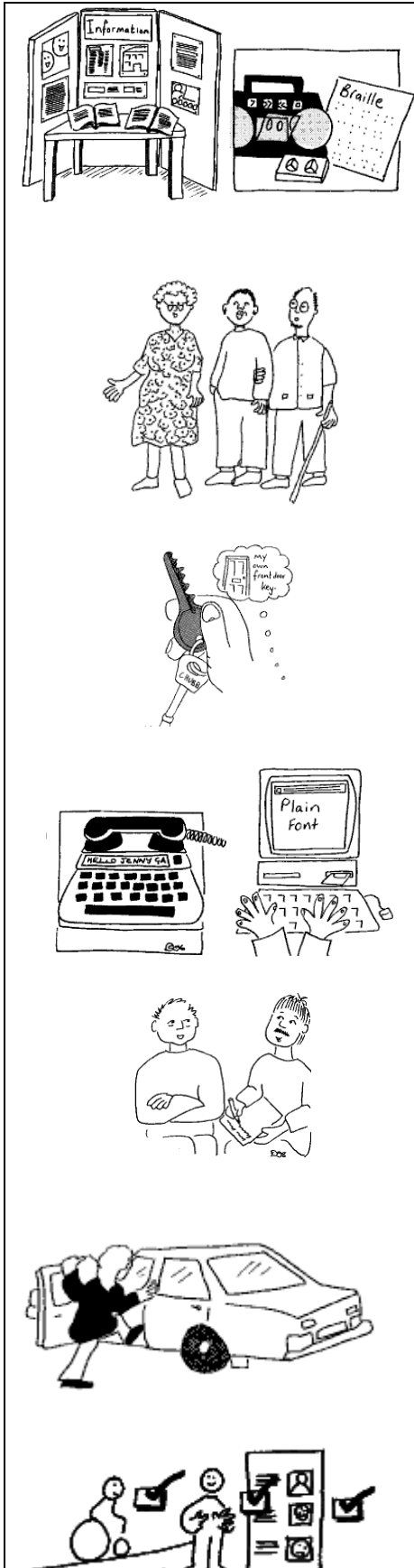


We have talked to as many disabled people and organisations in York as possible to find out what independent living services disabled people want.

We talked to lots of people in the council, councillors and the local MP.

We also talked to other CILs.

What is independent living?*



The 7 needs of independent living

1. Information in accessible formats such as tape, Braille, large print or with pictures and easy words.

2. Talking to other people who know what it's like and getting advice to help make decisions.

3. Housing that is accessible and adapted as necessary. And personal support to live in our own homes.




4. Things that can help us to live more independently such as computers, hoists, bath seats and minicomms.

5. Personal Assistance that's right for the individual at the time we want it.

6. Transport – accessible and user friendly public transport and taxis, adapted cars to enable us to get out and about and do ordinary things.

7. Access – for example, getting into buildings, using restaurants, information in easy to read language with pictures.

If all these 7 things happen disabled people should be able to:

	<p>Live where they want</p>
	<p>Work where they want</p>
	<p>Look after their own money or have the person they want to help them.</p>

* Derbyshire Coalition of Disabled People

What is a Centre for Independent Living (CIL)?



A Centre for Independent Living (CIL) is an organisation controlled by disabled people. It is for all disabled people.

It exists to provide services which help disabled people to live as independently as they choose.

Some of the services that may be provided by CILs include:

- Information
- Advocacy
- Peer support
- Housing advice
- Personal assistance support
- Work training and advice.

Independent living means having choice and control in your life.

What does the law say about Independent Living?



Equality 2025

There are lots of laws about disabled people, their families and carers.

Improving the Life Chances of Disabled People is the government's plan to make sure that all disabled people have the same opportunities as other people.

It covers things like transport, getting a job and independent living.

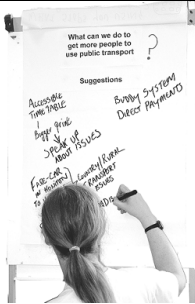
It includes people with all different types of impairment including people with a learning difficulty.

And the government wants there to be a user led organisation in every social services area by 2010.

The government has set up the **Office of Disability Issues** to see these things happen.

Equality 2025 is another new body that will advise the Government on how to achieve disability equality.

What's it got to do with York?




A CIL is included in the City of York Council social services work plan by 2010. But as yet no funding is earmarked.

The local Learning Disabilities Partnership Board is funding a New Partnerships Project to support a group of 10 people with learning difficulties and their families to try out an individual budget.




Work to put individual budgets into practice will demand a huge culture shift for social services including attitudes, systems and ways of working across all local government departments.

Training for social workers, care managers and care workers could be provided by a CIL.

As part of the study disabled people and paid workers were interviewed about their current services and their views about the possibility of a CIL. They included DIAC, Mainstay, Independent Living Scheme, Older Citizens Advocacy York, Age Concern York, York MIND, Brunswick Organic Nursery, York People First, and York Advocacy.

	<p>Paradigm have been doing a review of person centred planning work in York.</p> <p>A report is due to be presented to the Learning Disabilities Partnership Board at the end of November.</p> <p>The outcome of the review will be highly relevant to this study.</p>
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Findings from the consultation events

  	<p>Two consultation events were held in July 2006 for disabled people and family members.</p> <p>People with a range of impairments attended the events. Family members of both children and adults including elderly people were also represented.</p> <p>Everyone was asked, in small groups, to think about their shared vision for a CIL in York. The five groups agreed on most of the ideas.</p> <p>Disabled people said they welcomed the idea of a user led CIL as part of the move towards a new culture of user led approaches within health and social services.</p>
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It was felt that a CIL could provide a more effective service by and for disabled people and a more effective voice representing all disabled people in York than smaller single impairment groups alone.

It was agreed that all disabled people face similar barriers to independent living. At the same time people said it was important to respect the needs of different groups.

Even if it is challenging, working together was regarded as an essential way forward. Some of the common themes included:

An inclusive organisation and a centre of excellence

A united voice for all disabled people would be stronger and more likely to be listened to.

Disabled people wanted the CIL to be rights based – making sure that disabled people are aware of their choices and entitlements and access to inclusive services.

Supporting independent living

Some of the needs mentioned in common were: information, advocacy and direct payments.

People said they would like to see a high quality, accessible information and advice service on housing,



benefits, employment, learning, direct payments, individual budgets, brokerage and health.

The CIL would become a centre of excellence for information for all disabled people in York.

A CIL could feed back information about people's needs and wishes to the local authority, other statutory services and funders to inform policy and practice.

Advocacy

Independent advocacy was considered to be a very important service which a CIL should provide. Counselling was also mentioned by some people. An advocacy network has recently been started in York.



Direct payments and individual budgets

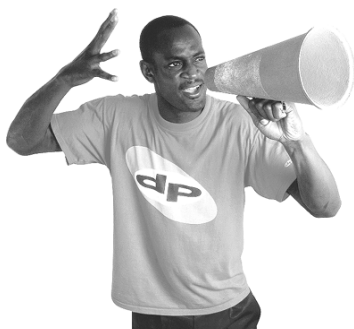
Support for all disabled people to access and manage direct payments and recruit, train and manage personal assistants was considered essential as part of a CIL's role.



Relationships with other agencies

The relationship of a CIL to other agencies would be crucial.

A CIL could offer these agencies access to the voice of disabled people in York, information about the needs





and wishes of disabled people, training, and audits of council and private services. This would also provide an income for the CIL.

Working together – inclusion in practice

Some groups of disabled people have real concerns about how well people from all impairment groups and other minority groups might work together.

A CIL would have to look at these issues to make sure everyone is included especially:

- * people with learning difficulties
- * people with complex health care needs
- * people from Black and minority ethnic communities
- * people whose first language is other than English
- * people living in rural areas
- * women and
- * disabled people from the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community.

How inclusive any organisation is can be reflected by simple but vital things such as:

- * how people are welcomed into a room
- * whether meetings are run in an accessible way
- * giving time to people with



- learning difficulties
- * making information accessible in different ways and
- * allowing time and support to prepare for meetings.

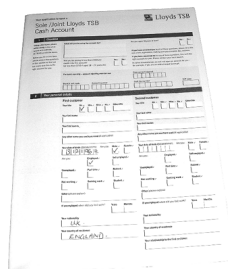
Organisation of a CIL in York



People at the events had strong views about how a CIL in York should be run.

They said it was essential that a CIL embraced all the various disability organisations already in existence with a common purpose.

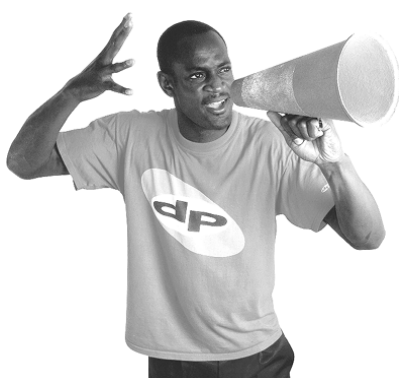
An inclusive steering group, with disabled people in the majority, who could represent the views of all disabled people in York would be needed.



A CIL could only be effective in the long term if it was financially stable. Core funding would be essential to make the CIL sustainable.



The idea of a 'one-stop shop' was voiced in all the groups.



A mobile service in local communities (perhaps using a bus) and on the internet – ‘mobile and everywhere’ was suggested.

Good publicity material and a high quality website that was regularly updated would be essential.

Campaigning

With accumulated knowledge, experience and expertise, a CIL could offer a combined voice for all disabled people in York.

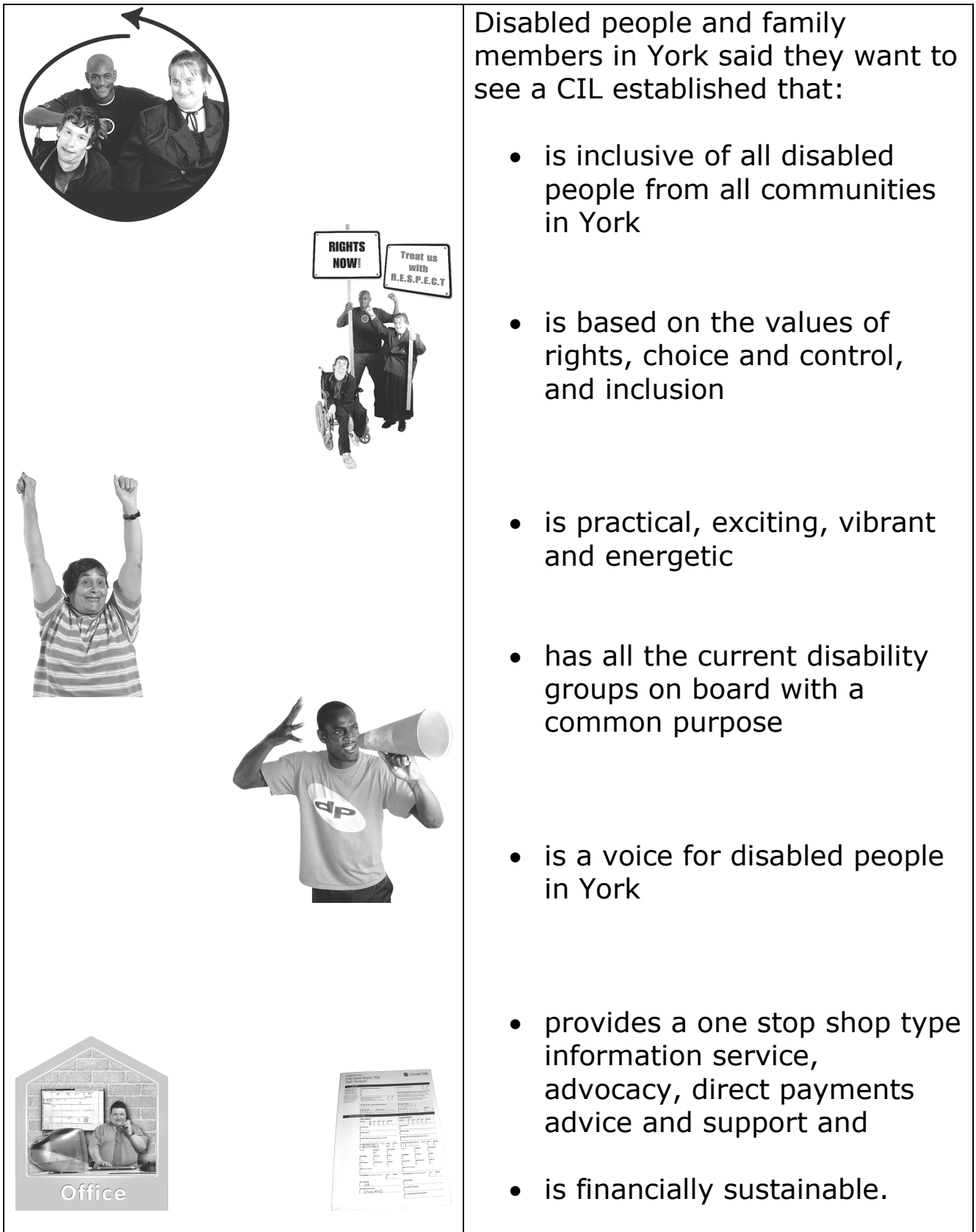
Education and training

A CIL could offer training for statutory, third sector groups, independent providers and education establishments including, for example, disability equality training.

People felt this would be an important way for a CIL to help change attitudes towards disabled people by raising awareness and understanding.

People considered there was a particular role for a CIL in educating and inspiring young disabled people as well as educating the general public about disability.

A Vision for the future



Disabled people and family members in York said they want to see a CIL established that:

- is inclusive of all disabled people from all communities in York
- is based on the values of rights, choice and control, and inclusion
- is practical, exciting, vibrant and energetic
- has all the current disability groups on board with a common purpose
- is a voice for disabled people in York
- provides a one stop shop type information service, advocacy, direct payments advice and support and
- is financially sustainable.

Recommendations



- The Social Inclusion Working Group to discuss and respond to the report with details of how it will be followed up
- Detailed audit of current advocacy services, direct payments and independent living services, and information services including how they are funded
- Development work towards setting up a CIL including setting up a steering group of disabled people and family members who came to the consultation events.
- A small scale pilot project using existing resources to test out some of the recommendations, for example, a mobile service in rural parts of the City of York area.
- Other recommendations are detailed in the full report.

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Social Inclusion Working Group

22nd November 2006

Report of the Head of Performance Improvement

Involving Young People in the Social Inclusion Working Group

1. Summary

- 1.1 Currently there are no young people or youth forum directly involved in the Social Inclusion Working Group (SIWG). This paper explores options for effectively involving young people in the Group.

2. Background

- 2.1 The SIWG was established to consider issues of equality and social inclusion and to advise the Council's Executive on these issues accordingly. A key aim was to ensure that those sections of the community who experience disadvantage and exclusion should be able to contribute to the work of the Group and have a real say in its decisions. The Group has therefore invited the main community forums which represent each of the equality strands to send two representatives to sit on the Group. Where these forums do not currently exist the Group has undertaken to help establish them – for example the Disabled People's Forum held its inaugural meeting last month.
- 2.2 However the SIWG has recognised that young people are not currently represented in the Group. It has discussed how there is no longer a city-wide youth forum comparable to the other community forums represented on the group - but that this should not mean that steps shouldn't be taken to enhance the involvement of young people, only that more creative ways may need to be considered.

3. Current situation with involvement of young people

- 3.1 In 2005 a decision was taken to move away from a city wide Youth Forum to a broader strategy that increase young people's participation in involvement work. The current involvement strategy works to support and strengthen school councils and encourage their involvement in local community and Citywide issues. Running parallel to this are strategies to engage with harder to reach groups or to engage young people in more issue based approaches e.g. work with young people in care and care leavers, work with young people who have used mental health services, work about young people's views on substance misuse services, education and training provision 14-19. However these are quite specific to a particular service area or client group and so would not be able to speak on behalf of all young people. There are currently no systems that bring these groups together to discuss issues and concerns as a whole.

- 3.2 An important development in young people's services in recent years however has been the creation of a database of consultation with young people. This database records the consultation and involvement activity that all young people's services from all sectors have undertaken with young people, including the method used, the questions asked, the views of young people as expressed through the consultation and the outcome of the consultation (ie how services have therefore changed). This database means that there is shared understanding across all agencies working with young people in the city) of the key issues of importance to young people what they feel needs to be improved. Common themes raised in recent consultations include access to and cost of public transport, leisure activities and community safety issues.
- 3.3 So while we have a good level of consultation and involvement work going on with young people and a good understanding of the issues of concern to them there is a problem with ensuring there can be effective direct involvement of young people on the SIWG on the same basis as the other equality strands represented on the Group. Currently there is no city-wide forum that could send representatives and ensure that young people generally are kept informed about the Group's work and to seek views.
- 3.4 It may be possible to find a couple of young people who would like to be involved in the Group but they would only be able to speak for themselves and not for the wider community of young people. They would also need considerable support if they were to be able to participate in meetings on an equal basis. For example they would need a specific briefing paper for young people prior to the meeting, a pre meeting briefing session and a mentor in the meeting itself.

4. Options

- 4.1 Members of the Group are asked to consider the following options for addressing the involvement of young people.
- A Officers from the Youth Service to attend the meetings to advocate on behalf of young people. Their role would only be to articulate the views of young people as have already been expressed through consultation and involvement activity, as recorded on the consultation database.
- B Include issues that are important to young people are placed on the forward plan and with the advise and support of the Youth Service relevant young people are invited to attend those particular meetings.
- C Hold a once-yearly social inclusion event for young people – a Social Inclusion Youth Forum. This could ascertain the views of young people on a number of social inclusion and equality issues and may lead to the identification of two younger people interested in attending the SIWG on a regular basis. Representation on this would be drawn from within the BME forum and Disabled People's Forum as well as other appropriate groups across the City.
- D The relevant Community Forums involved in the SIWG work to better involve young people in their activities and by so doing identify a young person who would be interested in representing the views of young people from that

community at the SIWG. These young people's representatives would be offered an extra place on the SIWG.

E A combination of options A-D above.

5. Analysis

- 5.1 Option A enables the views of young people to be fed into the SIWG. The views expressed have already been articulated by young people and as such they would be accountable and representative. However without young people present to listen to and participate in the discussions it is not possible to respond to the intricacies of a discussion or express a clear view on the detail of any recommendation or report.
- 5.2 Option B on the other hand allows for the direct involvement of young people in discussions that have already been highlighted as important to the wider community of young people. The young people attending may have a particular interest in the topic – for example if it is an issue about the harassment of BME groups, the experiences and views of young BME people may be very helpful. The meetings would have to be made accessible and inclusive to them if this were to be effective and meaningful involvement. The young people attending would not however be representatives of young people generally and would only be speaking as individuals. This would require additional officer time from the youth service and other partners in identifying, recruiting and supporting young people who would be participating in these meetings.
- 5.3 Option C allows for direct discussion with more young people on a range of social inclusion and equality issues. The discussions could be quite detailed, cover a range of issues at each event and involve a wide range of partner agencies to listen to the views expressed. The discussion would however be separate from the main business of the Group and as such the young people involved would not have any direct influence over (or knowledge of) the decisions taken by the Group as these will take place elsewhere at another time. Forums such as this can also take considerable officer time to organise and require significant resources. Any proposal to support this option would need to be developed in detail and more fully costed before final approval could be given.
- 5.4 Option D would allow for regular representation of young people's views through existing forums and would ensure that young people's views on a variety of social inclusion issues are addressed. However it may take some time for the community forums to identify young people who could take part on the group.
- 5.5 Option E suggests that a combination of each of the above options is explored. Doing so means that the specific deficiencies of any particular option can be addressed and complemented by another option. It would mean that the views of young people as expressed in previous consultation and involvement activity is not lost and is fed into relevant discussions on a regular basis. It would also mean that younger people can be involved directly in specific issues relevant to them and that the wider community of younger people also have an opportunity to feed into the Group and social inclusion issues.

6. Corporate Objectives

6.1 The emphasis of the SIWG is to improve the effectiveness of the organisation in meeting the diverse needs of its customers. The applications for funding from the community forums participating in the Group are designed to enhance the wider community's engagement. Hence the main corporate priority that this paper address is:

- Improve our focus on the needs of customers and residents in designing and providing services.

7. Implications

Financial Implications

7.1 There are no financial implications associated with options A or B. The financial implications for option C would depend greatly on the nature of the event to be held and which other partner agencies were to be involved. If supported option C would need to be fully costed and a detailed application for funding to be made to the Equalities Team (the views of the SIWG would be sought on the appropriateness of the application).

Equalities Implications

7.2 The report addresses the effective involvement of young people in the SIWG. This would support the Council's work to implement the Equality Standard for Local Government and the embedding of the Council's Equality Strategy - "Pride in our Communities".

8. Risk Management

8.1 In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy. There are no risks associated with the recommendations of this report.

9. Recommendations

9.1 Members are asked to:

9.2 Support Option E to support the involvement of young people in the SIWG.

Reason: Option E provides for the most effective and comprehensive involvement of young people given the current overall approach to young people's involvement in the city.

9.3 Request that officers develop detailed plans for a Social Inclusion Youth Forum in partnership with other relevant agencies and to discuss these plans at a future meeting.

Reason: To develop a more comprehensive and inclusive means of involving young people in issues of social inclusion and equality.

Contact Details

Author:
Julian Horsler
Equalities Officer
Chief Executives
551704

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:
Kevin Banfield
Head of Performance Improvement

Report Approved **Date** *6th November 2006*

Specialist Implications Officer(s) *List information for all*
Implication ie Financial *Implication ie Legal*
Name *Name*
Title *Title*
Tel No. *Tel No.*

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all* **All**

For further information please contact the author of the report

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Social Inclusion Working Group

22nd November 2006

Report of the Head of Performance Improvement

Applications for funding to support effective community involvement in the Social Inclusion Working Group.

Summary

1. Two community forums that send representatives to the Social Inclusion Working Group (SIWG) have applied for financial support to help improve the effectiveness of their community's involvement in the work of the SIWG. These applications are outlined in appendices A and B.

Background

2. In July the Social Inclusion Working Group invited community forums to apply to the Group for financial support if this was needed to facilitate more effective involvement of the community in the Group's work. The Equalities team has a budget of £7,240 which the SIWG can recommend is spent on its identified priorities. These, as agreed at the July meeting, are:

A. Making meetings accessible and inclusive

The budget could be used to make meetings accessible and inclusive for the community representatives attending. This could be to pay for interpretation or to cover transport or child care expenses.

B. To support engagement with wider community

The budget could be used to help the community forums to inform the members of the community they represent of the work of the SIWG and to seek their views.

C. To facilitate forum meetings

Some forums have few if any resources and holding accessible and inclusive meetings can be difficult. The budget could be used to help pay for venue hire, publicity etc.

D. To support initiatives prioritised by the Group

The SIWG may wish to support wider community involvement initiatives, research the needs of particular groups or to facilitate the development of a new community project.

Options

3. Two forums participating in the SIWG, the Older People's Assembly (OPA) and the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Forum (LGBF), have submitted applications for funding. These applications are detailed in Appendix A and Appendix B but can be summarised as follows:

Forum	Amount Requested £	Purpose	Summary of what funding would pay for
OPA	1,130	B - To support engagement with wider community	Newsletter printing and postage. Development of website.
LGBF	1,750	B - To support engagement with wider community	Newsletter production, printing and postage. Improving ease of contact by LGB people with forum representatives.
Total	2,880		

Analysis

4. Both of the applications for financial support meet the criteria established by the SIWG in July. In total they add up to £2,880 which would leave over £3,000 in this financial year for other initiatives that the SIWG may wish to prioritise. Some other forums may also make requests for funding at the January meeting for example (however this is the last possible date that any application can be made from this year's budget).
5. The forums have in their applications outlined how they would intend to report back to the Social Inclusion Working Group on how they have spent any funding they are given by the Group and how effective this has been at improving engagement with the wider community.

Corporate Objectives

6. The emphasis of the SIWG is to improve the effectiveness of the organisation in meeting the diverse needs of its customers. The applications for funding from the community forums participating in the Group are designed to enhance the wider community's engagement. Hence the main corporate priority that this paper address are:
- Improve our focus on the needs of customers and residents in designing and providing services.

Implications

Financial Implications

7. If both funding applications are supported by the SIWG then the total expenditure will be £2,880.

Equalities Implications

8. The funding applications, if met, will support the effective engagement of disadvantaged communities in the Council's decision making process.

Risk Management

9. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy. There are no risks associated with the recommendations of this report. This would support the Council's work to implement the Equality Standard for Local Government and the embedding of the Council's Equality Strategy - "Pride in our Communities".

Recommendations

10. Members are asked to:
- 1) Consider the funding application made by the Older People's Assembly and to advise that it is met in full.

Reason: The funding application meets the criteria established by the SIWG and the budget to support this work for 2006/7 has sufficient resources to meet this expenditure.

- 2) Consider the funding application made by the Lesbian Gay and Bisexual Forum and to advise that it is met in full.

Reason: The funding application meets the criteria established by the SIWG and the budget to support this work for 2006/7 has sufficient resources to meet this expenditure.

Contact Details

Author:
Julian Horsler
Equalities Officer
Chief Executives
551704

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:
Kevin Banfield
Head of Performance Improvement

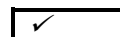
Report Approved



Date 23rd October 2006

Wards Affected: List wards or tick box to indicate all

All



Specialist Implications Officer(s)	<i>List information for all</i>
<i>Implication ie Financial</i>	<i>Implication ie Legal</i>
<i>Name</i>	<i>Name</i>
<i>Title</i>	<i>Title</i>
<i>Tel No.</i>	<i>Tel No.</i>

For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

Annex A - Application for financial support to facilitate effective community involvement – Older People’s Assembly

Annex B - Application for financial support to facilitate effective community involvement – Lesbian Gay and Bisexual Forum

City of York Council Social Inclusion Working Group

Application for financial support to facilitate effective community involvement.

Name of Forum:	York Older People's Assembly	
Contact details:	Don Parlabeau	
Total amount of funding requested:		£1,130

The SIWG identified three areas where community forums may apply for funding to support effective involvement. Please explain how the application meets one or more of these.	
<p>A. Making meetings accessible and inclusive The budget could be used to make meetings accessible and inclusive for the community representatives attending. This could be to pay for interpretation or to cover transport or child care expenses.</p>	
<p>B. To support engagement with wider community The budget could be used to help the community forums to inform the members of the community they represent of the work of the SIWG and to seek their views.</p>	<p>Whilst OPA meetings are well attended there is also a need to communicate with the wider community of older people. The publication of a newsletter and development of a website will enable the assembly to reach many more older people in a cost-effective way. The newsletter will be sent to luncheon clubs, day centres etc and the website will be available to anyone with access to a computer. Both the newsletter and website will include reports on what the SIWG has discussed, the outcomes of those discussions and what will be discussed at future meetings.</p>
<p>C. To facilitate forum meetings Some forums have few if any resources and holding accessible and inclusive meetings can be difficult. The budget could be used to help pay for venue hire, publicity etc.</p>	

Please provide details of what the funding would pay for:		
Item	Value	Purpose
<i>Example:</i> Printing	<i>Example:</i> £200	<i>Example:</i> To print 250 newsletters 4 times a year.
Printing	£620	To print copies of the newsletter 4 times a year.

ANNEX A

Postage	£260	To post the newsletter 4 times a year.
Website design and hosting	£250	To pay for the development and hosting of a OPA website.

For how long would the funding support more effective involvement?		
From	To	Number of meetings or newsletters
Dec 06	Dec 07	4

The Social Inclusion Working Group will need to be able to check that this financial support has improved the effectiveness of community involvement in its work. How will you provide information / reports to the SIWG?
Copies of the newsletter will be sent to all members of the SIWG. The web site will be publicised to all members of the SIWG. The OPA will review the effectiveness of the newsletter and website after a year and report to the SIWG. Invoices and receipts will be retained.

Do you currently receive financial support from any other source to facilitate community involvement?* If so please summarise here:			
Value	Source	Purpose of funding	Period that funding covers
<i>Example</i> : £2,000	<i>Example:</i> City Of York Council	<i>Example:</i> For community development and involvement.	<i>Example:</i> April 05 to March 07
None			

Do you expect to receive financial support from any other source in the future to facilitate community involvement?* If so please summarise here:			
Value	Source	Purpose of funding	Period that funding covers
<i>Example</i> : £2,000	<i>Example:</i> City Of York Council	<i>Example:</i> For community development and involvement.	<i>Example:</i> April 07 to March 09
None			

* Please note that the Social Inclusion Working Group cannot fund something that has already taken place or where funding from another source exists for that purpose.

City of York Council Social Inclusion Working Group

Application for financial support to facilitate effective community involvement.

Name of Forum:	York Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Forum (LGBTF)	
Contact:	Peter Blackburn	
Total amount of funding requested:	£1,750	

The SIWG identified three areas where community forums may apply for funding to support effective involvement. Please explain how the application meets one or more of these.	
<p>A. Making meetings accessible and inclusive The budget could be used to make meetings accessible and inclusive for the community representatives attending. This could be to pay for interpretation or to cover transport or child care expenses.</p>	
<p>B. To support engagement with wider community The budget could be used to help the community forums to inform the members of the community they represent of the work of the SIWG and to seek their views.</p>	<p>Regarding the funding. The forum investigated what needs to be carried out by the forum and the consensus of opinion was that we need to keep people informed, be contactable and up to date with news, views etc. Therefore the idea of an LGBT Newsletter for York and surrounding areas came alive. The forum therefore are asking the SIWG to grant funding for £1,750.00. This money will go towards the purchase of a computer, printer and software. The grant will also pay towards printing costs, stationary and stamps. Also the forum thought by purchasing a 'pay as you go' mobile phone, members of our LGBT community can contact the forums officers with any particular issues or problems they may have that can be brought to the attention of the powers that be. The forum treasurer is presently putting together a budget outlining the cost of equipment and other items.</p>
<p>C. To facilitate forum meetings Some forums have few if any resources and holding accessible and inclusive meetings can be difficult. The budget could be used to help pay for venue hire, publicity etc.</p>	

Please provide details of what the funding would pay for:		
Item	Value	Purpose
<i>Example:</i> Printing	<i>Example:</i> £200	<i>Example:</i> To print 250 newsletters 4 times a year.
Newsletter – initial printing costs	£500	To produce and disseminate regular newsletters.
Laptop computer + software	£450	
Printer / scanner / fax	£180	
Printer cartridges	£85	
Paper 20 reams	£40	
Envelopes x 1000	£40	
Stapler, paper clips etc	£15	
Postage (600x2nd class)	£150	
PAYG mobile (to receive calls only)	£90	To pay for the purchase and ongoing bills of a mobile phone – to provide easy access by the community to the reps on the SIWG.
Advertising.	£200	Small ads to publicise forum and events.
TOTAL	£1750.00	

For how long would the funding support more effective involvement?		
From	To	Number of meetings or newsletters
Computer hardware: Jan 07	Ongoing	N/A
Postage: Jan 07	March 08	4
Mobile phone: Jan 07	March 08	ongoing

The Social Inclusion Working Group will need to be able to check that this financial support has improved the effectiveness of community involvement in its work. How will you provide information / reports to the SIWG?
Copies of the newsletter will be sent to all members of the SIWG. The LGBT will review the effectiveness of the newsletter and mobile phone after a year and report to the SIWG. Invoices and receipts will be retained.

Do you currently receive financial support from any other source to facilitate community involvement?* If so please summarise here:			
Value	Source	Purpose of funding	Period that funding covers
<i>Example:</i> £2,000	<i>Example:</i> City Of York Council	<i>Example:</i> For community development and involvement.	<i>Example:</i> April 05 to March 07
None			

ANNEX B

Do you expect to receive financial support from any other source in the future to facilitate community involvement?* If so please summarise here:			
Value	Source	Purpose of funding	Period that funding covers
<i>Example</i> : £2,000	<i>Example:</i> City Of York Council	<i>Example:</i> For community development and involvement.	<i>Example:</i> April 07 to March 09
None			

* Please note that the Social Inclusion Working Group cannot fund something that has already taken place or where funding from another source exists for that purpose.

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Disabled Peoples Forum Notes in Brief



6th October 2006

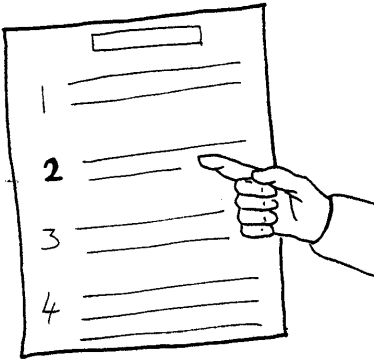
The Disabled Peoples Forum is an independent group run by disabled people for disabled people.



About 40 people came to the first meeting held at the Priory Street Centre on 6th October.

At this meeting members of the forum talked about how they thought the forum should be run.





These are the things people thought were most important.

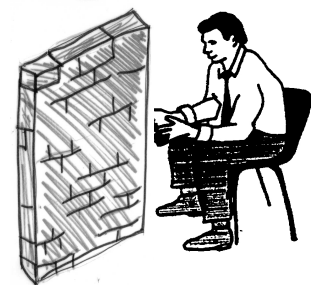
1) The Forum works well with decision-makers to change the way they do things.

You said:

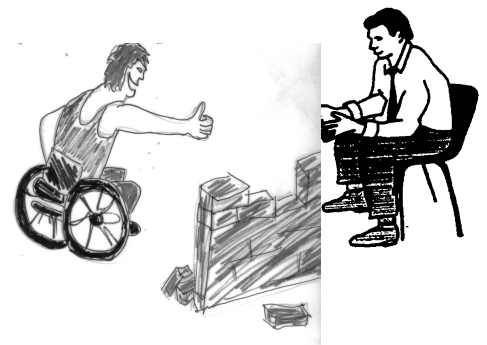
- This is important because without this, we will not make a difference



- It's difficult to get people to understand the issues and to get to the people who make the decisions



- Disabled people can help decision-makers by offering their skills, experience and what they know to help make changes



2. The Forum has the views of as many disabled people as possible feeding into it.

You said:

- This is important because people need to understand other disabled people's needs



Aspie = Asperger's Syndrome

- It's difficult to get people involved and to get people to realise how important it is



- The forum meetings need to be accessible, held at different times and on different days and advertised as widely as possible.



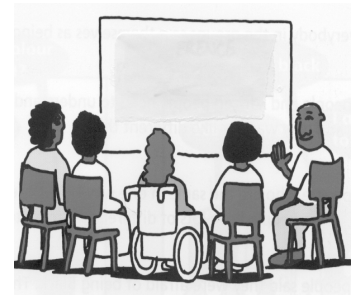
3) The Forum talks about things that are to do with disabled people and that are important to them.

You said:

- It is important that disabled people set the agenda at the forum, not the council or anyone else



- It's also important that everyone has a say at the forum and gives ideas of things they would like to talk about



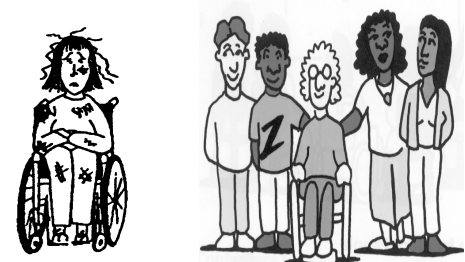
4) The meetings and events are friendly and make you feel welcome.

You said:

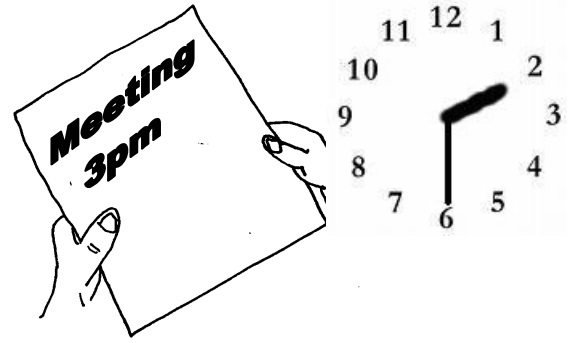
- This is important because it helps to make the atmosphere more open and less intimidating. This makes it easier for people to share their views



- Some disabled people are shy and on their own



- The meeting room should be accessible and it should be open for half an hour before the start of the meeting so people can get there early and mix



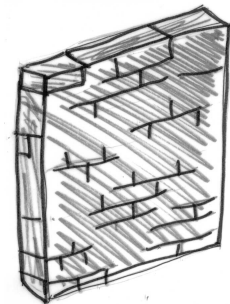
5) Disabled people know what it being talked about and how to have their say

You said:

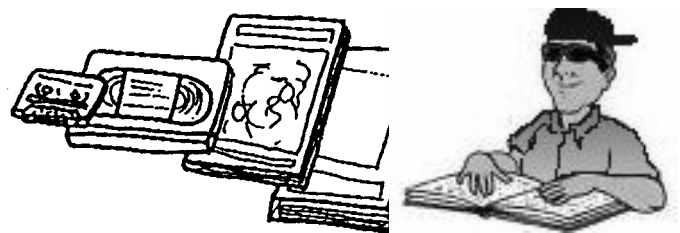
- This is important to encourage people to join in



- It's difficult to reach everyone



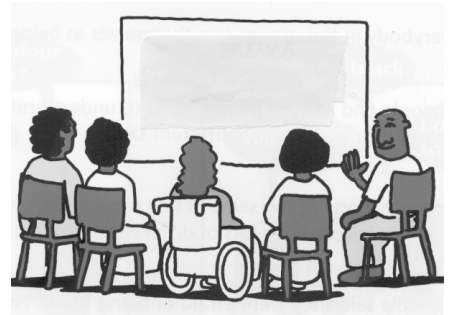
- Information, such as a newsletter, should be available in different formats and people should be encouraged to tell other people about the forum.



6) The Forum representatives must understand about and be able to talk about issues affecting all disabled people, not just one disability.

You said:

- It is important that disabled people work together as one group



- It is also important that the representatives know what they are talking about



- Members could sign up to a statement that sets out the main purpose of the forum and that everyone should respect each other's views.



When will the forum meetings be held?

Members talked about when would be the best time and day of the week for the forum to meet.

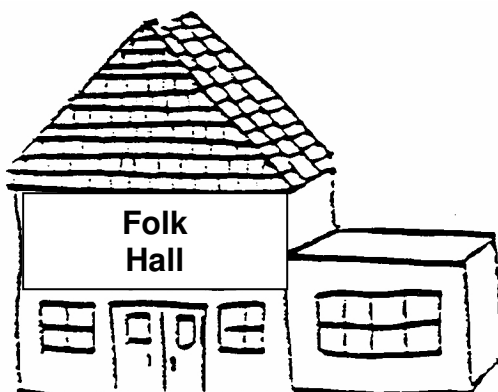


Monday, Wednesday and Friday got the most votes.



Most people preferred to meet at lunchtime or in the afternoon.

No one could agree on just one day or one time and so it was agreed to hold meetings on different days and at different times. This way everyone will be able to make at least some of the meetings. Everyone also voted that the forum should meet four times a year.

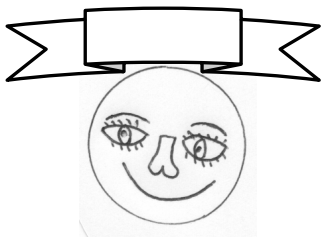
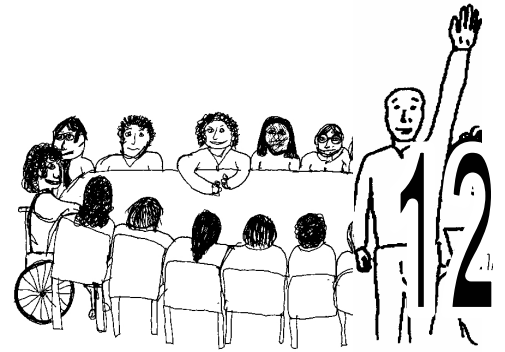


The Folk Hall in New Earswick and the Priory Street Centre were suggested as venues for the meetings.

Steering Group and Representatives

The forum will be run by a steering group of people. This will be temporary at first so that the next meeting can be organised and run.

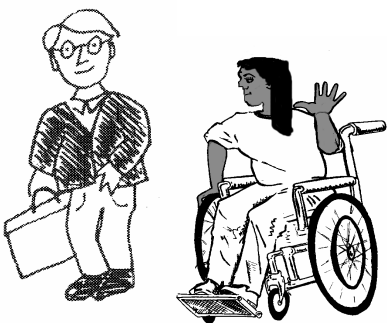
Twelve people volunteered to be on the steering group.



They are:

David Brown
Fiona Walker
Ann-Marie Mitchell
Jim Sams
Karen Wilson
Glynis Garner

Lynn Jeffries
Alison Wilde
Alison Cowen
Steve Loftus
Shaun Lavery
Andy Pollin



There will also be two representatives that go to the council's Social Inclusion Working Group on behalf of the forum. One of these will be a man and the other will be a woman.

The Social Inclusion Working Group is a mixture of councillors and people from different communities in York. It looks at issues that affect not just disabled people but:



Black and minority ethnic people



gay, lesbian, transsexual and bisexual people



men and women

older and

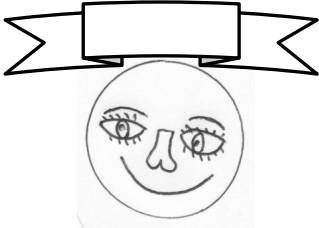


younger people



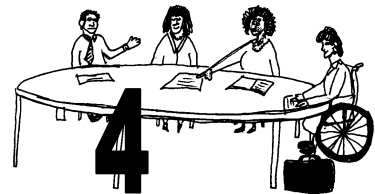
people from different religions

Four people volunteered to be representatives.

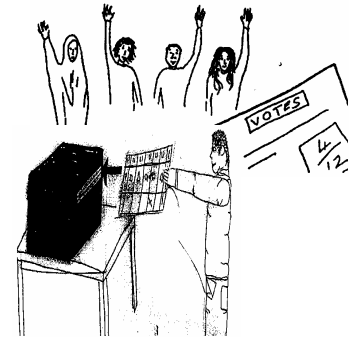


They are:

- Fiona Walker
- Karen Wilson
- Glynis Garner
- Steve Loftus

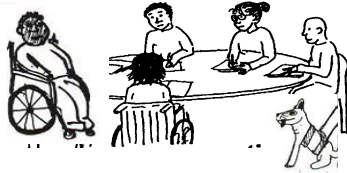


The steering group will involve members in voting for which of these volunteers will be the representatives.



What happens next?

The steering group will organise future meetings of the forum.



The steering group will organise the election of the representatives to the Social Inclusion Working Group. They will contact you with details of the next meeting.

