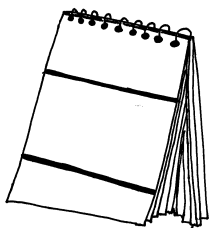


## Social Inclusion Working Group

*(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: 30 June 2010

## Members of the Council who were at the meeting



**Nigel Ayre**  
(Chair)

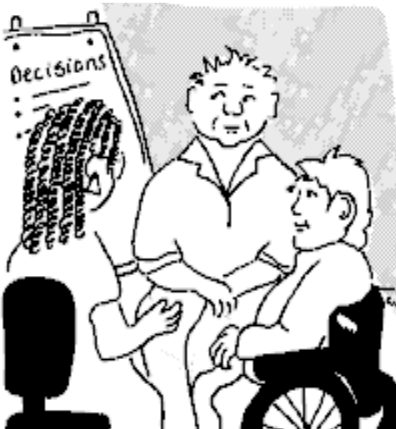
**Sonja Crisp**  
(Vice-Chair)

**Keith Aspden**

**Jenny Brooks**

**Julie Gunnell**

## People who were at the meeting representing community groups and as expert witnesses:



Peter Blackburn (LGBT Forum)

David Brown (York Access Group)

John Burgess (Mental Health Forum)

Sarah Fennell (LGBT Forum)

Tony Martin (York Older People's Assembly)

Daryoush Mazloum (York Racial Equality Network)

Rita Sanderson (York Racial Equality Network)

Carolyn Suckling (York Access Group)

Maureen Ryan (Valuing People Partnership)

George Wright (Humanist)

### 1. Minutes



It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting of 17 February 2010 were a correct record of what had happened.

## 2. How the Group Will Work



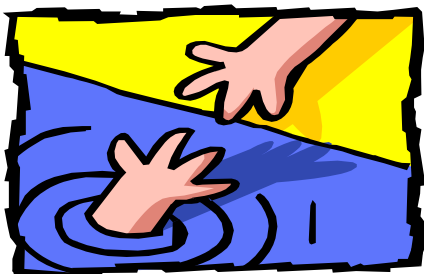
The Group talked more about how they would work from now until May 2011. They had already put forward some ideas at the Development Day in March.

It was suggested that the Group should change its name to the "Equality Advisory Group" (EAG). Some members of the Group didn't think that this was a good idea but most thought that it would stop any confusion with the Inclusive York Forum. It was agreed to ask the Council if the Group could formally change its name to the Equality Advisory Group.



The Group looked at a questionnaire that the council could use to collect information about people from the equality strands. Members of the Group gave ideas about how the form could be improved.

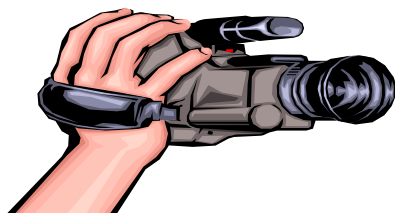
## 3. Poverty and Exclusion



The Group was asked for their ideas about how to use £1000 to make people more aware of problems caused by poverty (not having money) and social exclusion (not feeling part of society).

The Group decided to use the money as follows:

- ❖ To make a film about poverty and social exclusion. (Please let Sarah Fennell know if you want to be involved).
- ❖ To hold a conversation café. People could talk about the issues and make suggestions about how to improve things.



The LGBT Forum were asked to manage the money.



The Group also agreed to attend a workshop on the "One City Strategy".

#### 4. Meeting the needs of the Ageing Population in York



The Group heard about what the council was doing to support older people in the community.

A short film was shown about dignity and respect for older people.



The Group was asked for their views on the following:

- ❖ Was the council doing enough to meet the needs and hopes of older people in York?
- ❖ Is what the council intended to do in the future enough?
- ❖ What else should the council be doing?



The Group had the following ideas:

- Putting out rubbish can be difficult for some elderly people - make them aware that the council has a scheme in place to help.
- Most elderly people are proud and may not want to ask to help.
- People with hearing or memory problems often prefer to talk to a person and not an automated telephone system.
- Improve communication between council departments.
- Better staff training on how to support older people.





- There should be improvements made to the way in which the council works with tenants when housing improvements are carried out.



- Older people who live on their own may suffer from isolation or depression. More needs to be done to help. What about an "Adopt a Granny" or "Do you know your Neighbour" scheme?



- More should be done to let people know about the services that the council could provide to help older people. Information could be included in the ward newsletters. The Group was pleased to hear about an Information Fair that the council would be holding on 14 September 2010.



The Group heard that the council had a database which listed people in the city who many need help if an emergency arose.

## 5. Fairness and Inclusion Strategy



The Group heard a presentation about the progress that had been made by the council on its Fairness and Inclusion Strategy and Single Equality Scheme.

The Group was pleased that good progress had been made but there was still some work to be done.

## 6. Progress with Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs)

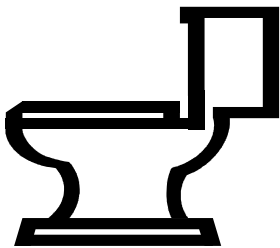


The Group received a report that told them about the progress that had been made with the Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) in 2009-10.

EIAs are tools to help council officers make sure that council policies and practices do not have a negative impact on people because of their:

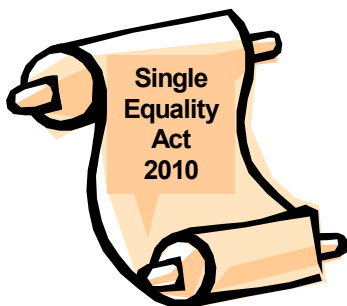
- Gender
- Age
- Race
- Religion and Belief
- Disability
- Sexual Orientation

The Group was pleased that its work was leading to changes in the way that things were done.



They were concerned that the alarms on the disabled user toilets were not linked to someone who could assist if needed. The Chair said that he would look into this matter and report back at the next meeting.

## 7. Single Equality Act 2010

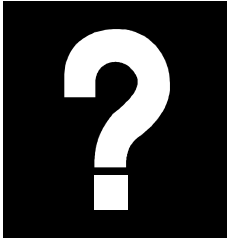


The Group heard about the new Single Equality Act. This change in the law was to protect people from unfair treatment and promote a fair and more equal society. More information would be given at future meetings.



YREN informed the Group that they wanted to arrange a meeting to discuss the possibility of setting up an equalities forum/network. The Group said that this was a good idea.

## 8. Urgent Business - Consultation on Cuts to Services



The Group said that they were concerned that the council might have to make cuts to services because of the financial situation. The cuts could cause serious problems to members of the community.

The Group asked if their views could be taken into account when decisions were made about any cuts. The Chair, Vice-Chair and Equality and Inclusion Manager would discuss this matter and report back.