

Diversity and Equality Steering Group

Note of DESG meeting
Held in EDS Meeting Room
CnES, Sandwick Rd
On 25 September 2014 at 11am

PRESENT

Lena Morrison - CnES
Catherine Barron – Lews Castle College
John Murray – Police Scotland

Donnie White – Lewis Access Panel/WI MS Society
Denise Symington – PFPI Officer
Murdo Macleod – Project Officer, NHSWI
TK Shadakshari – Strategic Diversity
Lead

APOLOGIES

Gayle Findlay – OHCPP
Mandy Macleod – Cross Reach
Isobel Mackenzie – CnES (Housing)
Lucy Macdonald – HDAP
Elizabeth Macdonald – HDAP
Diane Smithyman - EIS

Welcome and Introductions

Lena Morrison (LM) welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

Apologies

Apologies were noted.

Minute of Meeting of 26 June 2014

The minute of the meeting of 26 June 2014 was approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

Matters Arising

Listening and Learning Report by Scottish Health Council
P.47 lists the alternative formats the report is published in, whilst 'easy read' is not listed, if a request was received they would endeavour to provide this. There are no formal plans to have a follow up to this report however progress will be reported in the Boards Annual Report. With regard to complaints and feedback, progress will be recorded against recommendations made.

Language Line Translation

Following the visit from the British Deaf Association where feedback was received regarding the lack of translation facilities within the Western Isles, specifically BSL interpreters available to enable hearing impaired people to live independent lives, Language Line do provide this service whom the Comhairle have a SLA in place with however the promotional material does not identify this. Additional promotional material is to be requested.

In addition, NHSWI confirmed they had a SLA in place with NHS24 to support people with sensory impairments.

Health and Social Care Integration Update

A Health and Social Care Integration joint statement which was published on 27 August 2014 was shared with members which confirmed that the Comhairle and NHSWI reached an agreement to approve the 'Body Corporate' model for integration. This now provides a platform for both authorities to move forward in partnership to develop

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ways that joint working can improve services and outcomes for patients and clients within the authority area.

EHRC – Improving Equality Outcomes project

Following participation at an EHRC project involving 52 public authorities, a set of draft 'revised' equality outcomes were circulated for comment and feedback which would be considered and incorporated into the draft version to be submitted to EHRC for comment before a final version is published on the Comhairle website. LM requested that the draft outcomes be circulated as widely as possible

Members to circulate within their networks and feedback to LM

Holocaust Memorial Day – 27 January 2015

Officers from CnES met Ken MacIannan in July 2014, one item discussed was the annual Holocaust Memorial Event day which is in January each year. Whilst Mr MacIannan had previously organised the first Holocaust Memorial Day within the authority area in 2012 it was his view that the local public bodies should take the lead role in organising and funding such events in the future. This was discussed by the members present who were all of the view that the public bodies would be happy to support and promote such an event but were not in a position to take a lead role in organising such an event at this time. Options for support were discussed. LM to feed this back to Mr MacIannan.

LM to advise Mr MacIannan of the outcome of the discussion from the meeting.

A 'Stronger Voice' Project

Carmen Morrison requested that information regarding the 'Stronger Voice' project be shared and distributed through the DESG network. Three national stakeholder events have been arranged and there are a number of ways in which the public can get involved which will help with research and development of ideas about what a 'stronger voice' for services users, carers and the public within health and social care might look like.

DESG members to share the 'Stronger Voice' project within their networks.

Inclusion Scotland – A vision for an Inclusive Scotland

Inclusion Scotland published 'A vision for an Inclusive Scotland' which identifies key areas that disabled people believe need to be addressed in order to achieve an inclusive Scotland which include: Inclusion in Political Life; Public attitudes; Education; Employment; Social Care; Welfare; Accessible Communication; Healthcare; Transport; Housing and the Built environment. It is suggested that addressing and prioritising changes would make Scotland a more inclusive and richer society.

DESG members to share the Inclusion Scotland publication within their own networks.

HIEF Newsletter

The Highlands and Islands Equality Forum Newsletter was shared for information.

Partners Update

NERVES (Neurological Equal Rights Volunteers Eilean Siar)

Donnie White advised that NERVES had a meeting with the Robertson Trust and were hopeful that their application for a grant would be approved to facilitate the work of NERVES. A suitable building had been identified at Stornoway Airport and a re-launch meeting was planned to raise the profile of NERVES across the authority area.

MS Society

Donnie White advised that a meeting with Iain Macaulay, Director of Social and Community Services, had been arranged regarding re-establishing use of the Hyper Baric Chamber which is located within the Grianan centre. The unit was condemned following concerns raised by the national MS Society regarding its safety. The Director of S&CS was

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working with the local branch to find a solution to the ongoing problem.

Police Scotland

Sgt John Murray, Police Scotland provided an update regarding the number of Hate Crime reported for the year to date. 11 hate crimes had been reported within the authority which have been investigated, 4 of these incidents have been reported to the fiscal to take forward. It was also noted that 4 of the 11 hate crimes reported involved the same people and occurred within days of each other so this does distort the data to some extent.

NHS Western Isles

TK Shadakshari updated the group on the Scottish Human Trafficking Bill whereby the Scottish Government has been working with the UK Government to see what clauses, if any, contained within the UK Bill can be extended to Scotland and how Human Trafficking could be tackled.

Local intelligence suggests that the instances of Human Trafficking are extremely low however there has been one recent case involving a fishing boat which has been publically reported. To date there has only been one known incident where it could be classed as trafficking as opposed to illegal immigrants however it is something that the public bodies need to be aware of.

Lews Castle College

Catherine Barron advised that the college continue to focus on the mainstreaming report which is due to be published in April 2015.

NHS Western Isles (Patient Focus, Public Involvement)

Denise Symington provided a briefing on the PFPI action plan which is based on the 2014-2017 participation plan (draft). Whilst the focus is on Communication and engagement it provides the opportunity to map out the equality duties associated with the action plan. Some key focus areas for this action plan are:-

Clearly communicating how patients can provide feedback; real-time feedback at the point of care and at the point of discharge; 2 weeks after discharge and linking back to patients.

Denise provided additional information regarding the 'Stronger Voices' project which again concerns getting patients feedback and setting up a focus group for patient involvement. A response needs to be sent to MP Alex Neil by December which will include information from both local and national events.

AOCB

Reporting progress on Equality Outcomes and Mainstreaming

Public bodies covered by the Equality Act 2010 are required to publish the first progress report by the end of April 2015 regarding the equality outcomes and mainstreaming report previously published. It was agreed that it would be of benefit for the DESG members involved in writing these reports to have a meeting to discuss the progress report in advance of publication.

Date of meeting to be agreed at next DESG meeting.

Date of Next Meeting

8 January 2015

Meeting Closed