

Diversity and Equality Steering Group

Note of DESG meeting
Held in Committee Rm 2
CnES, Sandwick Rd
On 6 September 2013 at 11 am

PRESENT

Lena Morrison - CnES
TK Shadakshari – NHSWI
Mary Maclean – NHSWI (Health
Promotion)
Kathryn Maciver – NHSWI
(Collaborative Learning_
Donnie White – Lewis Access
Panel/MS Society
Gordon Thomas – Lewis Access Panel
Elizabeth Macdonald – Harris Access
Panel
Lucy Macdonald – Harris Access
Panel

APOLOGIES

Calum Russell – NHSWI
John Murray – Policy Scotland
Mandy Macleod – Cross Reach
Gayle Findlay – CPP
Catherine Barron – LCC
Isobel Mackenzie

Welcome and Introductions

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

Apologies

Apologies were noted.

Minute of Meeting of 28 March 2013

The minute of the meeting of 28 March 2013 was approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

Matters Arising

Members from the HDAP raised concerns that they had not been involved in the development of the 'Participation Strategy' which is being led by Social and Community Services Department of CnES.

LM to follow this up with the Dept.

Disability Access at NHSWI – a number of issues have been addressed whilst other access issues are progressing. It was highlighted that the 'emergency pull cord' installed in one of the toilets at the hospital was too short, a colour contrast on the walls was still required and the drop down rail in one of the toilets was broken.

As noted from previous meetings, it was agreed that the toileting facilities at Ionad Spors Leodhais (Lewis Sports Centre) and Ionad Spors Eilean Na Hearadh (Harris Sports Centre) meet the requirements to provide fully accessible toilets for disabled people and would be accessible to the general public. This would provide levels of toileting which allows for privacy and comfort which are not publically available elsewhere in the authority. This needs to be promoted, both locally and nationally.

LM to discuss internally how to publicise this.

Diversity and Equality Steering Group

Kathryn Maciver advised the group that the Learning Disability Partnership has developed web-pages within the NHS WI website called 'Learning Disability Services'. The website provide easy read documents that people can print off regarding various medical procedures including CT Scan, X-ray and Ultra Sound. The partnership continues to work to identify the core issues and identify ways to meet these needs. The website can be accessed using the link below:-

<http://www.wihb.scot.nhs.uk/LD/localservices.html>

Mary Maclean updated the group regarding the 'Shared Roots Project' which has been undertaking work with the ESOL group through the Learning Shop. Another event is planned for November 2013 and project is continuing to work with community groups to establish what health needs are out in the community which may not be met. MM also advised that the Health Promotion team have a range of 'Easy Read' information available.

DESG Action Plan

The DESG action plan was circulated to the group for consideration. It was agreed that the items on the action plan were sufficient for the group to focus on for the next 12 months (some actions are longer term). No other items were suggested for the action plan at this time.



O:\Best Value\Lena\
Equalities\DESG\DESC

Easy Read Information

Lena Morrison (LM) had circulated information about Easy Read Information training which is delivered by the Scottish Consortium for Learning Disability (SCLD). Lucy Macdonald (LMD) advised she had previously attended this training and shared information which the group including useful links to refer to. LMD advised the course was very beneficial in terms of identifying how to pick out the key parts of a lengthy policy/procedure/document to produce a meaningful easy read document. SCLD provide excellent ongoing support and have helpful information resources to refer to.



O:\Best Value\Lena\
Equalities\DESG\Easy

N.E.R.V.E.S (Neurological Equal Rights Volunteers Eilean Siar)

Donnie White updated the group on the establishment of N.E.R.V.E.S. The 'hyperbaric unit' at Grianan has been condemned and the local MS Society branch has been asked to remove the chamber at their own cost. It was considered the right time to establish another organisation to take this local issue forward as there is little support from the local public bodies or the MS Society. The establishment of the group has been supported by Anne Sobey, Third Sector Hebrides, and the Development Department have been providing advice regarding specific grants that can be applied for.

NERVES is hoping to cover the whole of the Western Isles area and is not going to replace any other established group. The immediate priorities of the group are to raise the profile of the group and to recognise that there is a [] with neurological conditions.

Neurological Voices

Donnie White advised DESG that representatives from Neurological

Diversity and Equality Steering Group

Voices visited the authority area to explore the option is setting up a group within the authority area. Neurological Voices aims to:

Influence public policy;

Raise awareness; and

Work with member organisations to achieve the best possible outcome for people with neurological conditions.

The aim of the local group would be to gather and share information locally and provide support to anyone with a neurological condition.

The Health Board are fulfilling the objectives on most parts however the newly established group will focus on more person centred solutions.

Holocaust Memorial Event Day 2014

Ken Maclennan, Fios Consultancy, organised the first Holocaust Memorial Event day within the authority area in January 2013. This involved a week long exhibition in An Lanntair as well as training events. Mr Maclennan contacted Lena Morrison to establish if any of the local Public Bodies were planning on organising a similar event for the Holocaust Memorial Event Day in 2014. No partners present at the meeting were planning to host such an event.

EHRC Procurement Guidance (for noting)

LM circulated the recently published EHRC Procurement Guidance for public bodies for noting.

TK Shadakshari advised that the NHSWI require that contractors have Equality and Diversity policies in place and are asked to produce them as part of the tender submission.

Highlands and Islands Equality Forum (HIEF) newsletter (for noting)

LM circulated a link to the HIEF newsletter to DESG members as it contains useful information relating to various equality and diversity events and initiatives which take place throughout the Highlands and Islands.

Partners Update

Health Promotion

Mary Maclean provided an update of the Shared Roots project. A couple of informal meetings have taken place with learners from the Learning Shop which aimed to identify health needs within the community.

Poverty Awareness training was delivered to the CPP Officers group by Poverty Alliance Glasgow. The issues surrounding poverty still require to be explored further regarding local impact – there is still a general perception that there is no such thing as poverty on the island.

MM also updated the group on the work of the Poverty Action Group (PAG) which is a sub group of the CPP poverty officers group. Three poverty awareness courses have taken place – front line staff who are visiting peoples homes have been trained to look for signs of poverty within the household and how to address it with the individual and signpost to appropriate services. It is hoped to deliver workshops out in the community which would break some of the myths such as 'everybody is on benefits' and 'the benefit system is abused' and break down cultural barriers for those who do wish to acknowledge that they need support and assistance at difficult times.

Fas Fallan provided funding to the local food bank which is operated through the Trussell Trust. There are weekly referrals to the food bank which evidences the demand for the for this initiative within the authority area

DW also confirmed that 'Disability Lewis' no longer exists, the work of

Diversity and Equality Steering Group

the group had gone very quiet so it was agreed to disestablish the group. Money which was held by the group was distributed to other organisations and the Disability Lewis bank account has been closed.

Learning Disability Collaborative Programme

Kathryn Maciver updated the group on the launch of the Learning Disability Strategy (currently being independently evaluated). Community events are planned throughout the authority area which aim to highlight information and services available locally for people with Learning Disabilities.

Services are still being developed and policies put in place to support the strategy. Essentially, the strategy is about gathering the knowledge of what the care delivery and extended needs of individuals are. The objective is to empower people to be able to make their own choices about the health services they can access.

MS Society

Donnie White advised the group that the local MS Society had previously run courses which support individuals with neurological conditions to self manage their conditions. There was an effort to run another course but there was only one applicant so it was not practical to run the course. Rachel, the MS nurse, has valuable information which can be distributed to individuals

NHSWI

TK Shasakshari advised that a programme of replacing emergency signage is ongoing. There is new signage in place throughout the hospital and this is continuing in GP Surgeries.

The NHSWI Equality Outcome report has been completed and the monitoring report is waiting to be signed off.

Lewis Access Panel

Gordon Thomas advised that Scottish Disability Equality Forum (SDEF) had recently held a partnership meeting in Uist. All the authority Access Panels were in attendance. The event was successful and it is hoped that the Panels can work together again in the future.

The Calmac consultations regarding the new ferry and pier terminal are ongoing and the access panels feel that they are being listened to and their comments are being taken on board.

Harris Disability Access Panel

LMD advised the work undertaken by HDAP was similar to the Lewis Access Panel, in addition the HDAP have been working with Calum Russell regarding access issues at the hospital

Date of Next Meeting 13 December 2013

Meeting Closed