

Diversity and Equality Steering Group

Note of DESG meeting
Held in Committee Rm 2
CnES, Sandwick Rd
On 11 December 2012 at 11 am

PRESENT
Isobel Mackenzie – CnES
Carmen Morrison - SHC
Kathryn Barron – LCC
Lena Morrison - CnES
Mandy Macleod - Crossreach

APOLOGIES
Roddy Mackay – NC
John Murray - NC
Lucy Macdonald - HDAP
Gordon Thomas – Lewis Access Panel
Helen Froud
Mary Maclean – Health Promotion

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

Apologies
Apologies were noted.

Minute of Meeting of 20 January 2012
The minute of the meeting of 23 August was approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

Matters Arising
LM advised she has been in contact with Ken MacLennan regarding the Holocaust Memorial Day Event which is scheduled in January. There was a sense of frustration regarding the lack of involvement and LM requested that knowledge of the Event was raised through the networks of those present and if anyone can assist in anyway to contact KM.

LM noted that she has hoped that Gordon Thomas would be present to provide an update regarding the first Carers Parliament which was held on 1st October however his apologies were submitted.

Disabled Toilets at the Hospital
CM advised that a complaint had been raised from a member of the public regarding accessible toilets at the Hospital. A programme of work had been arranged to make adaptations to the toilets at Reception and Outpatients to make them more accessible (toilets at Podiatry are also scheduled as part of the works but have not been modified as yet). At present the toilets do not meet best practice guidelines (rigid upright handrails that should be behind the toilet are not yet fixed and the hand rails should be blue in colour (to accommodate sensory needs). The complaint may have been raised through the Patient Advice and Support Service.
LM agreed to contact Calum Russell to take forward the issue at NHS WI

LM to contact CR at NHS WI

Healthcare Improvement Scotland Scrutiny Priorities
CM advised that SHC had been approached to disseminate information regarding a consultation to determine what the scrutiny priorities are for the next year.
Healthcare Improvement Scotland's role is to help improve the quality of care and experience the public receive when using healthcare services. One of the ways this is achieved is through

LM to distribute consultation to DESG members and other networks

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the scrutiny work. This involves independently checking the quality of services and publicly reporting findings. A draft plan has been produced which sets out scrutiny priorities and the areas to intend to focus on over the next three years. This plan is out to public consultation and comments are invited to ensure that the focus is on areas that are important to the public.

The draft document can be accessed using the link below:http://www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org/previous_resources/policy_and_strategy/scrutiny_priorities_2013_2015.aspx

Please email your views and comments to:hcis.scrutinyresponses@nhs.net by **24 December 2012**

Poverty Seminar Update

LM advised that Mary Maclean was to provide an update regarding the Poverty Seminary which was held in November however had to submit apologies so the item will be deferred to the next meeting.

LM had made some enquiries regarding the outputs from the seminar and due to funding restrictions there would not be a campaign similar to the 'Claim it' campaign but it would be for Third Sector organisations and community groups to take the message and campaign forward. A discussion took place regarding public perception barriers which would have to be addressed to recognise what poverty is. It was noted that the seminar provided some very good information and the presentation which took place should be tailored to groups it is presented to and identify real life stories to recognise how this affects local communities.

Disability Organisations

The email received from the Scottish Disability Equality Forum (SDEF) was shared which requested a list of disability organisation that are active in the authority area and a list of secondary schools in the authority area to assist them with support packages for Access Panels. The list of organisations held by the Local Area Co-ordinator was shared with the group. Only minor amendments regarding contact details were requested. No additional organisations were added to the list

LM to forward the list of organisations and secondary schools to SDEF

CnES Equality Scheme & Action Plan

LM shared the Comhairle's existing Single Equality Scheme and Action plan and sought views/opinions from the group regarding equality objectives/outcomes which had been set and what else should be added to in order to meet the needs of the authority area and for the Comhairle to meet the requirement of the specific duties set out in the Equality Act 2010. LM advised that the scheme and the progress report of the action plan would be updated to meet the publishing deadline of 30 April 2013. No amendments were requested at this stage.

Partners Update

Lews Castle College

KB advised that they are working towards meeting the specific duty targets. There is minimal staff data available at present, this is being looked at. Substantial information exists regarding the student population for both the College and University which can be used for reporting data. LCC policies are currently undergoing a refresh.

Crossreach

MM advised that there was nothing to report regarding Equality and Diversity matters at Crossreach at present.

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Scottish Health Council

CM shared information regarding the Patient Advice and Support Group (PASS). The aim of the group is to provide information, advice and guidance and assistance in the planning and development of PASS in the local health board area. It was agreed that Jane Ballantyne, PASS Service Advisor, would be invited to the next DESG meeting to talk about the group and how people can get involved.

LM to invite
JM to the
next DESG
meeting



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Equalities\DESG\PASS

CNES – Housing Strategy & Development

IM provided an update regarding the availability of grants for condition and repairs. IM advised that the applications for 'top-up' grants for condition and repairs on properties has been closed until April, at which point it will be reviewed however the future situation of the grants is not secure. The group discussed how the availability of such grants was essential to continue to support independent living and assist vulnerable people to stay in their own homes. There has been a good take of the grant however the scheme is not able to provide 100% of funding required for repairs and some people cannot realise the additional funds required to secure the grant funding. Legislation has impacted the situation further since the removal of ring fenced funding. Consideration needs to be given to the 'bigger picture' and what alternative are available locally with homes fall into a state of disrepair: supported accommodation; 'step-up, step-down' convalescence support, Foyer. The future availability of these grants is likely to have an impact on a number of equality groups.

Chair of DESG

The chair of DESG is scheduled to rotate from CnES to another Partner. It was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting in the hope that more Partners would be present and express an interest in assuming the role.

Date of Next Meeting 28 March 2013 at 11am in the Comhairle Offices