

Diversity and Equality Steering Group

Minute of Meeting

Held at Western Isles Hospital on 21 April 2010 at 14.00pm.

Present

Helen Froud	Improvement Forum (Chairperson)
TK Shadakshari	NHS Western Isles
Calum Russell	NHS Western Isles
Lena Morrison	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Gordon Thomas	Lewis Access Panel
Denise Symington	NHS Western Isles
Mandy Macleod	Crossreach
Karen France	NHS Western Isles
Carmen Morrison	Scottish Health Council
Jenni Williams	NHS Western Isles
Iain Mackenzie	Third Sector Hebrides

Apologies

Lucy Macdonald	Harris Access Panel
Alan Ross	Harris Access Panel
Norma Morrison	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Roddy MacKay	Northern Constabulary
Isobel Mackenzie	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Donnie White	Lewis Access Panel/MS Society

Minutes

The minutes of meeting of 17 February 2010 were checked for factual accuracy and approved as an accurate record of the meeting. The minutes will be published on the DESG pages of the Comhairle website.

Matters Arising

Domestic Abuse Guidelines – Calum Russell confirmed that the Domestic Abuse Guidelines had been received and that training will start next month. The training will be completed by local trainers but it has been arranged through the National Gender Violence forum.

Hate Free Hebrides – Lena Morrison provided a quick update on behalf of Roddy Mackay. There has been no further progress to report from the Community Safety Partnership meeting. It is thought that an additional annual costs of £1,750 would need to be secured on top of the initial set up costs. It would be useful to get the evaluation report completed regarding the 'Hate Free Highland' website to determine how successful. The next Community Safety Meeting will take place on 18 May 2010 where RM will address this again but it may be time to look at this from a different angle.

A discussion took place regarding alternatives:-

Tag onto the Hate Free Highland website – make a donation to the running costs

Take it to the Scottish Rural Equality Network – contact Morag Redwood

Use 'Routine Enquiry' as an alternative – part of generic questioning

More promotion of existing reporting routes through the Police, Crimestoppers and Advocacy.

It was agreed the DESG should work on the assumption that a new website specifically for the Hebrides would not go ahead and continue to explore if there is a need for additional reporting mechanisms. DESG would also contact Morag Redwood from the Scottish Rural Equality Network to explore options.

Newsletter – the Chair thanked everybody who contributed to the first newsletter. It is currently difficult to assess how wide reaching the newsletter is. It has been circulated to all DESG members to distribute throughout their own networks. It has been published on the DESG pages of the Comhairle website and will be included in the NHS Slainte magazine. Contributions, news and features are sought for the next edition of the newsletter which is scheduled to be published in June. The deadline for submissions is 4 June 2010. Iain Mackenzie, Third Sector Hebrides agreed to provide an update on the work of Third Sector Hebrides and highlight some success stories.

LAC consultation – Lena advised that a DESG member who could not attend the meeting has requested that DESG consider making a representation to the LAC consultation. This was discussed, Calum Russell advised the group that process currently undertaken by the Comhairle was not consultation in terms of EQIA, it was fact finding to establish what was going on at present. CR advised that he had attended the meeting which had taken place at Grianan. CR advised that consultation would commence once the Committee paper had been published.

** Additional information – Following the meeting Lena checked with the Officers conducting the LAC consultation with regard to further consultation on the Committee Paper. It was confirmed that this was not this case. The Committee Report setting out the findings of the consultation and proposals for the services will be accessible to the public at the same time as it is available to Councillors. There will not be a further consultation period on the final report. The consultation process followed is in line with EQIA guidelines. An email was sent to DESG members on Tuesday 27th April 2010 advising members of the situation and inviting representations to be submitted to Lena by cob on Thursday to co-ordinate a response.*

Election 2010 – the BBC are holding election Hustings at An Lanntair for those wishing to participate. Attendance is for voluntary bodies only.

NHS Car Parking – Calum Russell advised that provision is to be made for an extra 80 car parking spaces at the hospital. There will be a new system in place which will require a token to exit the car park. There will be a designated area for disabled car parking which will be monitored by staff and enforced by the police and traffic wardens, park in disabled bays without a 'Blue Badge' will result in an instant fine. The group discussed the issue of patients who had a temporary impairment such as a broken bone. It was clarified that the disabled bays are for disabled drivers only, if the driver of the vehicle is not disabled they are not entitled to park in a disabled bay. There is currently a system in place whereby if you are only temporarily impaired (eg broken bone) and would not qualify for a Blue Badge you can be issued with a permit from the reception desk to allow you to park in a disabled bay.

Outer Hebrides Local Housing Strategy

Isabel Mackenzie submitted her apologies but Lena checked the status of the consultation on the Local Housing Strategy. IM advised that the paper had not been

published as yet but should be out during May. LM will circulate to DESG members when the paper has been published for consultation.

DEWG

TK advised that the DEWG group met on the 18 March 2010 at the minutes of the meeting are attached for information.

REWG

LM advised that she met with Graeme Miller, CnES Learning Shop in March 2010. The purpose of the meeting to discuss what the requirements of minority groups would be to allow them to participate in the Election Process. Derek MacKay, Election Manager was preparing a toolkit which would be shared with groups and would attend meeting/briefings sessions nearer the time of the election of this was required. Guidance information is available in alternative languages on request. The actual ballot paper cannot be provided in alternative language.

LM also asked if the Learning Shop were aware of any incidents of 'Hate Crime' that service users may have experienced. GM advised it wasn't something that he was aware of but that did not mean it did not happen. This is something he would explore further with the group.

GM advised that the EU information which had been shared with him (information translated into Polish & Latvian) was something the groups could work on as a project to update, translate into alternative language. This piece of work will build on the more community related workshops which they are starting after secure LEADER and Scottish Government funding.

An invitation should be extended to Graeme Miller and his colleagues to attend future meetings.

Access Panel Update

Gordon Thomas provided an update on behalf of the Lewis Access Panel. Funding has been secured from SDEF and the leaflet that had been designed has since been modified. Keith Robertson from SDEF is coming up in June for a visit and to conduct some training. GT has recently completed some training in Stirling regarding 'How to Influence Local Authorities'. Donnie White could not attend the meeting as he is conducting his third session for MS training which is going very well.

Single Equality Bill

The Equality Bill received Royal Assent on the 8th of April and formally became [The Equality Act 2010](#).

The Socio-economic aspect is not what members expected it to be and there was a feeling that the legislation has been diluted down quite considerably. A full update would be provided at the next meeting.

CR advised that the NHSWI Equality and Human Rights policy had been signed off yesterday and was accessible on their website

Date of Next Meeting

23 June 2010

