

Disability Hub

4th April 2019: The Circle

Actions and notes



Attending: Martin Brighton, Craig Williams, Val Bowen, Grace Parry Wayne Hoyle, Godfrey Nzegwu, Eleni Chambers, Helen Bramall, Alison Owen, Angela Argenzio, Rosie May, Andrew Crooks

Minutes and Actions Arising

- Minutes approved : Points to Note:– Disability Sheffield’s 10th Anniversary Celebration - Disability Sheffield launched a [video](#) about our services at the event.
- Martin: First Aid Training – Prime Minister allocated funds to equalize access to mental health services but the money was not ring-fenced and has been absorbed into the NHS. Mental Health First Aid training is not available.
- Equality Hub Network Board feedback to be provided
- Martin suggested approach councillors to ‘put meat on’ their commitment to equality. Cllr Olivia Blake is responsible for Equalities.
- Andrew stated that there are currently no Disability Hub Working Groups looking at priority areas (Social Care, Transport and Loneliness) in operation. Disability Hub meetings will be arranged around these priorities. **Are these still seen as the main priorities for Hub members?** Andrew proposed that members meet up every 1 or 2 months outside of quarterly meetings/activities to focus on campaign issues. **Contact Andrew if you are interested in getting involved**

Access

- Andrew reported that he attends the Access Liaison Group which is due to meet with John Mothersole (Chief Exec SCC) this month. A current issue is the implementation of zero tolerance of improper placing of A Boards outside street business premises, which cause a hazard. The reduction in staffing and working practices of the Sensory Impairment Team was also discussed.
- Martin mentioned [Parking on Pavement Campaign](#). No enforcement for parking on pavements (fines) in last five years (FOI information)
- Martin has also campaigned for years for provision of dropped kerbs for reasonable access to bus stops. He reported that 73 railway stations have received £300million government investment to improve disabled access in

GB over the next 5 years and queried why bus services are the poor relation. Suggested an action point to liaise with Transport 4 All and contacting Cllr Jim Steinke.

Housing

- Val recalled the suggestion when the previous SCC Housing Equalities Group disbanded was that housing issues could be fed into the Hubs – **Andrew could invite Housing Officers to attend later meeting i.e Shahid Khan**
- There are still outstanding issues that Val (Info Service) and Keith (Advocacy Service) had presented to HEG on behalf of Disability Sheffield around Access to Information and Priority Housing . **Val to mail presentation to Rosie for follow up.**
- Val also aware of housing issues for people with autism who experience sensitivity to noise and the 'No Impact Housing' presentation written by Grace which will be discussed at the Autism Partnership Board. Grace said that she would welcome support for this initiative. **Grace to mail presentation to Rosie.**
- Martin mentioned that [Autism Union](#) (a sub branch of Sparkle Sheffield) has been awarded £265,000 for development of activities for people with autism
- Housing Policy Officer, Richard Cookson had mentioned to Val that Housing staff would benefit from training re autism , with reference to a Disability Sheffield Information service enquiry
- Val aware of other housing issues, for example , whether progress has been made with SCC's Housing Strategy for People with Learning Disabilities and availability of information /signposting to supported and other types of accommodation providers. **Learning Disability Housing strategy to be mailed to Wayne Hoyle.**

Transport

- Andrew expecting feedback on Transport Consultation strategy next week including that the document has been amended to include wording around disability.
- Taxi update: A meeting took place with Disability Sheffield and Sheffield City Taxis, who have announced that Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles can no longer be booked in advance and do not believe this to be discriminatory in any way. Licensing are in agreement. Disability Sheffield will seek further guidance on the legalities and raise issue with councillors who may not be aware of the decision. London boroughs subsidise accessible taxis by up to a third.

- Travel Pass - Travel Team working group due to meet to review changes implemented last year to the application process and monitoring of uptake (DS Information and Advocacy service attend and Val will chase a date)

Employment

- Discussed Cross Hub theme on Universal Credit Partnership (CAB Sheffield reported 1037 UC issues affecting 660 people)
- Val queried whether Employment theme could include getting disabled people into work – had noticed a reduction in number of agencies offering support – suggested inviting Opportunity Sheffield to themed Hub meeting to explain what is available (New employment programmes about to start in Sheffield, ie Job Clubs run by SRSB)
- Also note a new Cross Hub Employment and Benefits Hub will be established by Disability Sheffield. **Contact Andrew if you are interested in joining.**
- Martin mentioned that a recent standard letter he had received from the Council included reference to applying for:-
 - Council Tax Hardship Fund
 - Housing Discretionary Budget
 - Water Rate Reductions
- However the forms are difficult to complete and are in themselves a barrier. More people are eligible but the cost of supporting people to apply falls on the voluntary sector
- Two upcoming meetings:
- 27 April, Democracy and Healthcare
- 1 June Independent Living

Equality Hub Review

- Following recent consultation of the Sheffield Equality Network and Hubs Rosie May considering having hub meetings in neighbourhood areas and an online presence for members to attend ‘ virtually’. The Review also makes proposals for the better joining up of the Hubs with Council decision makers and ways to ensure the Hubs impact more widely on other city partners.

Future Dates of Disability Hub Meetings

27 June –1:30 PM for 2 PM start until 4 PM

25 September –1:30 PM for 2 PM start until 4 PM

2 December –1:30 PM for 2 PM start until 4 PM