

Northampton Women's Forum

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 26 January 2021

1. Welcome and Apologies

Introductions were made around the table. Apologies were received from Cllr Anna King.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting & Matters Arising

Minutes were agreed with one correction - Morcea Walker had given her apologies.

BAME women's group to be discussed as separate agenda item.

3. Northants Police Advisory Group

Steve Bedford explained that it was a statutory responsibility for the Police to have an Independent Advisory Group for each area who would be critical friends of the police. The group membership had been falling off then Covid hit, the group had not met since February 2020 and more members had been lost. Attempts to increase the membership had not been very successful so, thinking outside the box, it was decided to try and new an innovative way in Northampton. If successful it could be replicated in other areas of Northampton where they were struggling.

The idea was to have police representative at each of the existing Forums, not to give a crime update, although that could be done if that was what the members wanted, but to take issues back from the community and, on some occasions, to bring particular agenda items for member input. If there were issues that needed in depth discussions a separate meeting could be arranged for those interested. There was no need for police checks for this, but, if there were items that were particular confidential, a confidentiality agreement would need to be signed beforehand.

Members would need to be happy to receive direct communications about events and help to get reassuring messages out to the community and ask for feedback from them from time to time.

There may be occasions when help is needed when changing local practice and policies in which case the members would be asked to discuss amongst their communities and feedback. It would not always be Steve who would be the most appropriate attendee and he would arrange for experts in their field to attend where appropriate. The strategic IAG group would still continue.

Concerns were raised from several members that this would take precious time away from other agenda items. However, it was agreed to trial it and see how it worked in practice.

4. Hate Crime and Hate Incident Reporting

Jenny introduced herself as the Hate Crimes & Incidents Worker for Northamptonshire Rights & Equality Council. She was very happy for people to contact her directly.

Email - jlabbon@northamptonshirerec.org.uk

Mobile - 0798 4231189

NREC had always dealt with incidents of hate crime but, with Jenny in post as a Hate Crime Officer, this was the first time they had the opportunity to be proactive. Jenny explained that she only worked 20 hours a week so had to ensure she targeted her time. She would be empowering people who were victims of hate crimes/incidents to report along with witnesses and also to ensure these reports were identified and dealt with properly by statutory agencies. Jenny was more than happy to speak to groups, anyone interested to contact Jenny directly. Additional information to be circulated to the Forum members. Morcea reminded the group that NREC were 'Rights and Equality' and was for everybody not just ethnic minorities.

5. BAME Sub Group Update

The group had split into 2 groups as follows: -

- Services for BAME communities – to report back to Women's Forum
- FGM, HBV – to report to Police/NADASA initially

The reason being that the group was initially set up behalf of the Women's Forum due to services struggling to get support for their clients on and it was important this group reported to the Forum. Issues of FGM, HBV etc were very important issues and needed reporting back to a countywide forum rather than locally. It was also felt there was not enough time to discuss all the issues in one meeting.

It was reported that there were some issues with the running of the group, not always knowing when the meetings were, the minutes not being very accurate and the Terms of Reference not yet being decided. However, as Rachel explained her Officer was not used to doing minutes and was trying to fit in helping with the group with her day job and to remember that the time she took with the group was taking her away from her job which was working with the BAME community. It was agreed that the meeting dates would be sent out by Debbie/Debs through the Forums but they did not have the capacity to do the minutes for the group.

Action: DB to follow up on next meeting date with Ruby / DM to find Women Forum TOR as a starting point for the FGM, HBV group.

Update: the next meeting is 9 February at 10am. If you need joining details please email Forums.NBC@northampton.gov.uk

6. International Women's Day

It had been agreed the event would be virtual this year – Saturday 6th March. It would be live streamed over You Tube and consist of a mix of live and recorded content. There would be some performances (Rock Choir and Rachel's band), workshops and interviews with women in a typically male orientated environment (Fire Service, Police, Football Team). The Inspirational Woman award would be announced live, and previous winners were being asked to do a little video about what winning meant to them and a little catch up on what they were doing now. Sally would see if Breastfriends had/could do a recorded session of art therapy or similar. Neelam added that the dance performance used in the Diwali event could also be used (the dancers had performed live at IWD the last 2 years). Morcea suggested the Girls School might do a performance.

7. Community Exchange

Alex reported that NCF had several funding opportunities open at the moment.

Coronavirus Response and Recovery Fund

Please note that this fund is will re-open on Monday 8th February.

The Coronavirus Response and Recovery Fund supports vital community projects as they continue to respond to exceptional challenges over the coming months. For those charitable groups well placed to take action, this additional funding aims to help them in their ongoing steps to provide the much-needed essential support to the most vulnerable members of our community during this public health crisis.

Crisis Response Grants - this is a rolling programme of up to £2000

Grants of up to £2,000 are available to support community action to help vulnerable people affected by the Covid-19 outbreak. We will aim to make funding decisions as quickly as possible on a rolling basis while the fund is open. All grants will be paid by BACS and you may receive a telephone call from a member of our team about your application to help speed up the decision-making process.

The Compton Fund - for Arts, Culture and Heritage wish to support a broad range of high-quality arts, culture and heritage activity across Northamptonshire. The fund will offer awards between £500 and £5000.

The Fund will consider a wide range of projects including:

- Community events and activities
- Heritage activity such as sharing local history
- Cultural activity such as a celebration of a new community's way of life
- Arts activity such as putting on a play or musical performances
- Small or large pieces of equipment that relate to the aims of the fund

The next deadline for this fund is the 5th March

The Northampton Queens Institute Fund - one-off grants of £10,000 to £20,000 for projects based in Northampton that are all about improving health and wellbeing.

Applications are welcomed for projects that achieve the following:

- Support and advocacy groups for people living with a health condition
- Community projects that promote emotional, mental and physical health and wellbeing
- Activities that reduce isolation or that provide social activity for vulnerable people to prevent loneliness
- Activities that provide help for people that need support to live in their own homes
- Activities that use arts, creativity, physical exercise and sport to support health and wellbeing

The next deadline for this fund is the 5th March

The Northamptonshire Federation of Disability Sport Fund - a bursary scheme designed to support the county's sports clubs, groups and non-profit organisations. The fund will offer grants of up to £1,000 for sport activities catering for any disability, sensory impairment and/or mental health problem.

The fund has been set up by the Northamptonshire Federation of Disability Sport with the aim to increase the number of disabled people involved in all aspects of sport, recreation and physical activity within Northamptonshire.

The maximum amount to be applied for is £1000 and projects can run for up to a year.

Is my group eligible?

- Projects must cater for people aged 5+ to reflect change in Sport England target and must be delivered in non - curriculum time
- A financial or in-kind contribution must be made by the organisation applying

The next deadline for this fund is the 5th March

For more information please contact:

Alex@ncf.uk.com – Programmes Officer

Anthony@ncf.uk.com – Grants Co-ordinator

Or visit our website at

www.ncf.uk.com

8. Items for Next Agenda

Covid – effects on mental health

BAME group update

International Women's Day – evaluation of the event

9. Any Other Business

Pauline wanted to record a big thank you to Rachel packman who had just retired before Christmas, for all the support she had given the forum. This was agreed by all present.

Please note that this Forum is supported and funded by Northampton Borough Council. The Forum may work in partnership and collaboration with other community groups, councils and local services from time to time. The views expressed and decisions taken by the Forum are not necessarily those of Northampton Borough Council.



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