

Northampton Borough Council Northampton Disabled People's Forum

Friday, 18 March 2016 at 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

The Holding Room, The Guildhall, St. Giles Square, Northampton, NN1 1DE.

Agenda

1. Welcomes, introductions and apologies

2. Minutes and Matters Arising

Please use the link below to view the Minutes of the previous meeting.

3. Northampton Partnership Homes - Richard Fitzhenry

4. Community Law - Neil Joshi

5. Debbie Lole - Nene Clinical Commissioning Group

6. Action Plan

7. Community Information Exchange

8. Items for Next and Future Meetings

9. Date of the Next Meeting

May 13th Jeffrey Room, The Guildhall 10.30am -12.30pm

Map and directions at: www.northampton.gov.uk/guildhall

For more information about this meeting please contact:
Alice Morgan, Community Development Officer



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Tel: 01604 837795



More information about the Forum generally is at: www.northampton.gov.uk/forums



Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/NorthamptonDisabledPeoplesForum?ref=hl>

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.



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Code of Conduct for the Forums

This Code of Conduct sets out the standards that the Forums expect of its members. It aims to provide members with an effective ethical framework in which to do business. It is not intended to be exhaustive, or to cover every eventuality, but sets out some common sense requirements to enable the forums to function smoothly and successfully.

It is the responsibility of the Chair to encourage and enable input from forum members, to ensure all voices are heard.

1. Meeting Etiquette

As an attendee you must comply with the following requirements and any others that may be stated from time to time:

- 1.1** Contribute positively to discussions concerning the issues of the meeting
- 1.2** Be friendly, polite, courteous and respectful at all times to fellow members, and others present
- 1.3** Not insult, abuse or use offensive language or behaviour
- 1.4** Comply with Northampton Borough Councils Equal Opportunities Policy
- 1.5** Demonstrate actively that you are interested in and care about the issue that you are discussing and want to make a positive difference
- 1.6** Show respect for buildings, facilities and equipment being used
- 1.7** Speak only through the Chairman of the meeting and not interrupt, heckle, make distracting noises or gestures
- 1.8** Speak clearly into any microphone provided and comply with any instructions given about its use

2. Being Objective

- 2.1** Your own experience and views should inform, but not dominate or dictate how you participate.
- 2.2** If you have a specific issue with regards to a service matter to raise these can be discussed with a member of staff at the end of the each meeting or you can ask for the appropriate officer details. Meetings attended by other residents are not the place to raise any issues of this nature.
- 2.3** Be Fair
- 2.4** You must have and show respect for the people you deal with, and take their circumstances and personal differences into account. This is about putting equality into practice. The key is simply to respect differences fairly, so that you do not exclude anyone, or treat anyone inappropriately or unfairly because of their particular circumstances.

Breaching the Code of Conduct

If any person's behaviour breaches this Code of Conduct, they will be required to leave the meeting and vacate the premises where it is being held. They will not be permitted to attend future meetings unless they provide satisfactory evidence to Northampton Borough Council that they will comply with the Code – e.g. a letter of apology.

If you would like further information or if you would like to discuss the Code of Conduct please contact Vicki Rockall, Partnerships and Communities Manager at vrockall@northampton.gov.uk or on 01604 837074

Agenda Item 2

Northampton Borough Council – Disabled People’s Forum

Friday, 22 January 2016 at 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

The Holding Room, The Guildhall, St. Giles Square, Northampton, NN1 1DE.

Agenda

1.Welcomes, introductions and apologies

Present: Cllr Larratt (Co Chair, NBC CL) Martin De Rosario (Co Chair MD), J Forrest Smith (JFS), Barbara Barber (Independent BB), Larry Barber (Independent, LB), J O’Neill (Independent JO), Jane Marriott (Northants Parents Forum Group JM), Carl Wieninger (Northants Polio Fellowship, CW), Dean Eales (Disabled Go, DE), Elissa Turnbull (Disabled Go ET), Madeline Boys (Independent MB), Norman Adams (Northampton DCH, NA), Beverley Mennell (Northampton BC Tennant, BM), Mike Jackson (British Polio Fellowship MJ), Laura Noble (Shared Voice Network LN), Katie Billingham (Deaf Hub KB), Cllr Ashraf (NBC, CA), Emma Kilby (NBC, EK), Steven Galvin (NBC, SG), D McCann (Individual, DM) Alice Morgan – (NBC, AM), Nisha Mejer (NBC, NM)*

*Took minutes.

Louise James, Graham Wilson, Simon Burgess, Elnora Latchman, Deborah Clarke

CL opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

2.Minutes and Matters Arising

Minutes were recorded as true to record.

3.Jessica Marayan - Deaf Hub

This organisation covers services for all kinds of deafness. eg – through injury, deaf blind Also provide advocacy. For eg – where there is a dispute in the workplace and people are not deaf aware, Jessica Maryan can provide support. Deaf Hub is also branching out to Wellbeing services. There is an Open Day on 17th Sept. Venue TBC. There is a sign language performance which is also accessible to people who don’t sign language.

There is an interpretation service and sign language support is given at places such as medical appointments. Can help people overcome difficulties with hearing aids. Staff visit people in the workplace and provide hearing loops.

CW: How do I as a hearing person receive someone when they cannot hear me?

KB: Have lots of eye contact, ask questions etc. There are deaf awareness courses.

BM: There is a system through DWP for people on Disability Allowance. You can

reclaim DIP. This society can people make a reclaim.

KB: This is an important point. There is a dedicated appointment system for this. There is also a sign language event in October. Will let Forum know.

4. Steven Galvin - Senior Adaptations Officer - update on Disabled Facilities Grant

SG offered to answer questions/queries from the Forum.

NA suggested that his current understanding is that an application is shared with NPH and NBC (Northampton Partnership Homes and Northampton Borough Council). Are we asking for private sector budget? SG answered yes.

NA went on to say that the actual spend last year was 39% of the budget. Have figures until end of November and there still is a large percentage that has not been spent. NA questioned why money wasn't being spent.

EK: We manage our own budgets and we have spent more than that. We look at monthly spend. We are on good target to spend £1.4 million. The organisation is trying to promote service so people have access to this fund.

NA: You say that you are on target to spend £1.4 million but the budget is meant to be £1.8 million? NA questioned this point.

EK stated that this will be looked into.

CL: The Forum would like to know who made the decision.

CW: What would happen if there is an underspend?

CL: The fund is transferred into other funds. It will not be added onto the next year.

NA: Where do the funds go?

EK: This is for NBC use.

BM: Accept that this dept is from the private sector and this needs to be discussed with Northampton Partnership Homes (NPH). BM explained that she lives in a small two bedroom house and have a staircase. BM was rejected by the DFG and was asked to move to another location. However, BM does not wish to leave Kingsley. The Minister for Housing is pushing forward a Bill where new council tenancy will have to be signed. BM will not do that - instead will ask NBC for a new bathroom.

Most disabled people will not move if their homes are not fit for purpose.

EK: Will look at this differently to make it a better service.

CL: **ACTION:** Situation for tenancy to be an item for the next agenda

CW: What happens if a person has adaptations made to a house and is then relocated?

SG: This will depend if you are tenant. If you are an owner occupier, the condition is attached to the grant. If you move within 10 years part of the grant will be repayable. The reasons for relocating will be reviewed. For eg – if person goes into care, there is an option to waive

repayment.

CW: what is the situation if the person is elderly?

The occupational therapist (OT) will look at the immediate needs and can adapt the proposal. If the adaptations are carried out and the person passes away, this will be looked on into.

NA: The status for the private sector is that as long as the landlord lets the person rent for three years, the tenant is eligible for a grant. Where there is a situation where the tenant has died, the adaptations needs to be taken out and used elsewhere.

EK: There is no policy to put a charge on property to recoup any money to claim back a grant.

BM: How many OTs in the private sector? Think there are 7 under Olympus Care. This is not a large amount. There are also Tech Inspections (TIs) to look at standard needs.

CL: What is the turnaround process for OT? Is there a Performance Indicator (PI) for this?

EK: Unsure about the PIs. The therapists set their own. The turnaround is 9-12 weeks depending on the case.

CL: This is still a long time. Is it possible to have a contract with Olympus Care (OC) and bring it down to 5 weeks?

EK: This is up to the County Council.

CL: NBC is the user of the service. Therefore the contract should be on our terms. A tighter period is needed.

EK: We are not a party to this.

SG: We are talking to OC to have OTs to be based in the Guildhall to help make the process quicker. We would like the OTs to be in-house.

NA: The system is blocked at the OT stage. All councils have the same problem.

5.Grosvenor Shopping Centre - Lifts

AM: Read out an update from NBC about the lifts.

BM: Thanked MD for putting story in the Chronicle and Echo. BM highlighted that the waiting times for lifts for was too long. Spoke to Sainsbury's manager and working to get lifts repaired.

The other two lifts are a concern. NBC need to repair these two lifts. Not everyone wants to use the glass lifts.

AM: Lifts are being refurbished and will let Forum know of updates.

6.Action Plan

Completed Independent Day for People with Disability 2015. The first one went well and open to suggestions for future events.

MB: Enjoyed the sign language workshop.

KB: Great first step. Would like a better venue for people to navigate. Welcome activities in a separate room.

AM: There were Christmas parties in the Great Hall and the rooms were booked. Will look in November so the event can be hosted in the Great Hall.

KB: Should charge organisations to have a stall at the venue.

ACTION: Look at booking dates for next venue. Can do weekends too?

ACTION: AM: There is a tea dance in May. Will send details.

BM: Concern that NBC has little or no toilets for disabled people. The Action Plan should look at having toilets for elderly and disabled people. They resort to going to local shops and restaurants. Business owners are angry with NBC.

Appreciate that there are cuts but this is a basic right. Portable toilets should be provided.

NA: Do not accept these cuts. These cuts go too far as they effect lives. We must get out of this habit to say that “we understand”. Why does my council tax go up and the services go down?

AM: Disabled Go reviewed all toilets. Will ask them to revisit them.

CW: Toilets are an important issue. Sometimes they are closed in car parks and in town centre. This is a fundamental human necessity.

7.Community Information Exchange

AM: Partnership Grant Showcase event – opportunity for people to apply for funding. : 25th Jan

Holocaust Memorial Day – Civic ceremony at 12pm. 6.30pm – evening event.

NA: important to attend HMD.

DEPAC – will be outside library on 23rd Jan. Gaining information on how cuts effecting families.

Sport events to be circulated to Forum.

CW: Would like to partner with organisations for funding. Please get in touch

8.Items for Next and Future Meetings

AM: Suggested that School of Life and NPH will go on next agenda. All agreed.

9.Date of the Next Meeting

March 18th 10:30am -12:30pm. The Holding Room, The Guildhall

Map and directions at: www.northampton.gov.uk/guildhall

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Forum Action Plan						
Chair:	Cllr. Larratt and Martin De Rosario		Responsible Forum:	Disabled People's Forum		
Outcomes identified within the Corporate Plan:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empowered local communities with a greater capacity to become involved in community life Promote integration and cohesion Appropriate support provided to those in most need Services are fair, accessible and responsive to individual needs residents and customers feel informed and engaged in service quality and design Future developments informed by the views of local people Delivery of events to celebrate and enjoy the Town's heritage and culture 					
Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify issues of importance to disabled people who live or work in the Borough, research/discuss issues and decide on outcomes to achieve Promote and sustain effective communication between NBC and disabled people living or working in the Borough. Work towards equality of access by disabled people to services, including accessible formats, removing barriers, promoting dialogue and identifying specific requirements. Promoting partnership working by statutory and voluntary sector organisations, and Disabled People's groups and communities 					
Actions:						
Action	Owner	Activity (intelligence led)	Timescale	Cost	Measure	Last Updated
Improve attendance at forum, bringing different groups together to build upon the forum. Including service providers as well as service users.	Officers – VR & AM	Continue to promote forum through various networks and communications channels.	Ongoing	Nil	% increase at forum	March 15
Hate Crime Awareness and Support	TBC	Work with Northamptonshire Police to develop more third party reporting agencies, for access by the Disabled Community	Ongoing	Nil	Reporting centres set up and utilised	March 15
Disability Awareness Week	AM	Awareness raising event, promoting services available. Look into combining Hate Crime Awareness into this. AM to speak to LJ	During 22 nd Nov – 22 nd Dec	TBC	Event held	March 15