

## Northampton Borough Council - Northampton Disabled People's Forum

Friday, 16 September 2016 at 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

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

### Agenda

1. **Welcomes, introductions and apologies**
2. **Minutes and Matters Arising**
3. **Nominations for Co-Chair**
4. **Emily Gibbins - Olympus Care Services. Assistive Technology Service**
5. **Karen Wheeler - Impact of PIP on GPs.**
6. **Action Plan**
7. **Community Information Exchange**
8. **Items for Next and Future Meetings**
9. **AOB**
10. **Date of the Next Meeting**  
November 18<sup>th</sup> 10.30am – 12.30pm, The Guildhall

Map and directions at: [www.northampton.gov.uk/guildhall](http://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](http://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](mailto:vrockall@northampton.gov.uk) or on 01604 837074

## Northampton Borough Council -Northampton Disabled People's Forum

Friday, 15 July 2016 10.30am -12.30pm

### 1. WELCOMES, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

Present: Councillor Larratt (NBC Co Chair PL), Martin De Rosario (Co Chair, MD), Robin Hinton (Shopmobility RH), Barbara Barber (Individual BB), Larry Barber (Individual LB), Matthew Torreson (VIN, MT), Alice Morgan (NBC, AM), Vicki Rockall (NBC, VR), Nisha Mejer (NBC, NM)\*, Richard Fitzhenry (Northampton Partnership Homes, RF), Cllr Rufia Ashraf (RA), Dean Eales (Disabled Go, DE), Andy Aitken (NBC, AA), Cllr Anna King (AK), Cllr Julie Davenport (JD),

\*took minutes.

Apologies: Rashmi Shah, Jacqueline Forrest Smith, Simon Burgess, Beverley Mannell, Graeme Wilson, Elnora Latchman, Harvey Morgan, Deborah Clarke, Carl Weininger

### 2. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

Minutes agreed as true record for 13 May.

Matters arising from special meeting:

RH: An urgent meeting was held about funding to Shopmobility. The organisation is looking at other funding including NCF small grant and Community foundation funding.

From beginning of October Shopmobility will be working on reduced hours – Tuesday – Saturday 10am -3pm.

VR: We had an additional meeting and the need for the service was pledged. We are working with Shopmobility to bridge the gap in funding and look for something more sustainable. The forum can help promote the service and therefore this would increase users which will help it become more sustainable.

RH: There is a stigma attached to using a scooter. The running cost is £36k per year and £8k was received.

RA: This is another cut that organisations do not need. People are living longer and more support is needed. People need scooters as there is a danger of social isolation if they are not used. People want independence.

VR: This particular funding was not cut. The funding was from the Partnership Grant which gives organisation £550k per year. This is a twelve month grant only. No one is guaranteed funding. A panel of 9 make the decisions and 29 organisations received funding. Organisations are encouraged to obtain funding from elsewhere and to work in partnership with others. It is a tough decision as every service is important.

JD: How is NBC adhering to Disability Act.

AK: Works very hard with disability groups. An equality assessment is done in CEFAP.

VR: in terms of the grant, VR was responsible for the equality assessment. All applications from ethnic minorities were funded. CEFAP also funded LGBTQ groups. NIFF and NREC were funded on a project relating to Hate Crime. Disabled Go was funded through small grant funds and councillors give funding.

MT: The Disability Discrimination Act was replaced by the Human Rights Act 2010. Therefore there is equality to all groups.

### **3. RICHARD FITZHENRY - PLANNED INVESTMENT MANAGER**

RF gave an overall presentation of services.

RF was appointed as Planned Investment Manager in Jan and manages 3 people – Project coordinator, project assistant and interim Occupational Therapist (OT). The role of the coordinator and OT is to identify what is possible for council properties. Referrals are received from 3<sup>rd</sup> party organisations such as Olympus Care.

Last year the budget was £1.3 million. However, the group has inherited a backlog and is hoping to reduce this. Is also reviewing the process to accelerate the current procedure. The department has currently spent £213k on adaptations.

JD: Impressed with this team. Is work prioritised?

RF: This will be reviewed. No formal process in place yet. The procedure has to be transparent and fair to all.

RF invited the forum members to meet the team in future.

### **4. ANDY AITKEN - ADAPTATIONS MANAGER, PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING - PROMOTION OF THE DISABLED FACILITIES GRANT**

AA promoted the Disabled Peoples Facilities Grant services and would like support from this Forum to promote it further.

**ACTION:** AM to add this to the action plan and help promote to contacts.

LB advised AA to go on the radio.

AK: Disability Awareness week will also be useful to promote. Venue and date TBC.

MD suggested having some activity in the Weston Favell Shopping Centre.

## **5. DISABLED GO**

DE gave a presentation online about the Disabled Go website.

The website will be amended and is in the process of asking the forum for feedback.

The website is assessed by Shaw Trust and is given the highest accreditation. The site usage has grown eg – access guides have been viewed 1.7 million times.

All venues on the website are assessed in person and detailed information is given.

DE thanked Forum members James O'Neill and Janice Tillet who helped with surveys.

Disabled Go can help promote services and is also in discussion with other Councils.

RH: Has used this site on previous occasions and find it very helpful.

## **6. ACTION PLAN**

International Day for People with Disability – TBC and VTBC.

Hate Crime – The survey has been developed and is online.

**ACTION:** To be re circulated. This will then be reconsolidated in September.

Survey to be found <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/nptonhatecrime>

Items to be added to Action Plan:

Promotion of Shopmobilty.

Raise awareness of Disability Facilities Grant.

## **7. COMMUNITY INFORMATION EXCHANGE**

RA: There will be litter picking in St James 10.30am on Saturday.

AK: Love Parks Week next week – will be activities in Bradlaugh Fields and Abington Park.

## **8. ITEMS FOR NEXT AND FUTURE MEETINGS**

NM: Emily Gibbins - Olympus Care Services. Assistive Technology Service will be attending in September.

Karen Wheeler will be attending to talk about the impact of PIP on GPs.

MD: would also to have someone to attend to talk about Diabetes.

## **9. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

September 16<sup>th</sup> 2016

Forum Action Plan						
<b>Chair:</b>	Cllr. Larratt and Martin De Rosario		<b>Responsible Forum:</b>	Disabled People's Forum		
<b>Outcomes identified within the Corporate Plan:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Empowered local communities with a greater capacity to become involved in community life</li> <li>Promote integration and cohesion</li> <li>Appropriate support provided to those in most need</li> <li>Services are fair, accessible and responsive to individual needs residents and customers feel informed and engaged in service quality and design</li> <li>Future developments informed by the views of local people</li> <li>Delivery of events to celebrate and enjoy the Town's heritage and culture</li> </ul>					
<b>Objectives:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify issues of importance to disabled people who live or work in the Borough, research/discuss issues and decide on outcomes to achieve</li> <li>Promote and sustain effective communication between NBC and disabled people living or working in the Borough.</li> <li>Work towards equality of access by disabled people to services, including accessible formats, removing barriers, promoting dialogue and identifying specific requirements.</li> <li>Promoting partnership working by statutory and voluntary sector organisations, and Disabled People's groups and communities</li> </ul>					
<b>Actions:</b>						
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.	Partnerships and Communities Team	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 & NM	Awareness raising event, promoting services available. Event venue, One Stop Shop and Guildhall Foyer (this is due to Great Hall and Courtroom not being available, but through traffic of people will be better in one stop shop)	3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2015	Nil	Event held and % no attendees	January 2016

		Event was a great success for a pilot. Look to develop for 2016 – look at alternative venues due to unprecedented demand for stalls.				
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