

Northampton Disabled People's Forum

Friday, 10 May 2019 at 11am until 1pm.

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

Agenda

1. **Welcomes, introductions and apologies**
2. **Minutes and Matters Arising**
3. **Dawn Cummins - VIN - Social Prescribing**
4. **International Day for People with Disabilities**
5. **Community Information Exchange**
6. **Items for Next and Future Meetings**
7. **Date of the Next Meeting**

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

For more information about this meeting please contact:
Debbie MacColl - Community Safety & Engagement Project Officer,



dmaccoll@northampton.gov.uk



Tel: 01604 837752



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

Northampton Borough Council - Northampton Disabled People's Forum

Friday, 22 March 2019

1. WELCOMES, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

ATTENDANCE: Martin De Rosario (MDR, Chair), Cllr Phil Larratt (PL, Chair), Michael Macleod (NBC), Debbie MacColl (DM, NBC), Helena Milic (HM, Cube Disability), Jennifer Shaw (JS, NCC/NASS/OCS), Martin Page (MP, DWP), Louise Danielczuk (LD, Hope Centre).

APOLOGIES: Carl Weininger, Larry Barber, Barbara Barber, Beverley Mennell.

MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

3. LOUISE DANIELCZUK - NORTHAMPTON HOPE CENTRE

Hope Centre – day centre – large room in Oasis house – Monday to Saturday morning to lunchtime to provide food and shelter for that period of time. There is access to showers, underwear, socks, toothbrushes etc. Not everyone there is street homeless, might be hidden homeless, sofa surfing etc. or even in severe poverty.

Food is cheap, contributions of around £1. The point of the hope centre is to help people look towards their future and help build to their future. Help them with their benefits and then encourage them to learn to plan their finances. This is why the food is not just a handout. Some will also volunteer and be rewarded with meal vouchers, this helps people plan for the future and begin to create a structure for them.

Various activities going on at the centre. Clothes can be purchased, small fee of 30p. Unless someone has absolutely no funds, those people will be given free items and the team will then work with them to get their benefits in order.

Groups include meditation, creative writing, active activities such as football etc, also in partnership with a boxing gym. There are also things such as pool table, books, television and internet café available.

In addition to the day centre, there is a team of people who are there to help people move forward with their lives. They'll be referred through the client service team to help identify where they want to get to. Whether this is to live independently, learn English, get a job etc.

This is not a straightforward task but the help is always there and the Hope Centre will stick by this person regardless of the outcome to keep moving forward.

Other social enterprises are there to help the hope centre going and also a platform. Hope catering, Hope tools and allotments etc.

Food club, similar to food banks, this happens each week. People are charged for the food but at a huge discount. £30 worth of food for £7.50.

Opening a shop on Abington Street.

PL: Thank you Louise for coming, I would recommend hope catering who I have previously used.

Q: How do you work with people who have disabilities?

Q: Also who helps with their benefits, is it you or a partner organisation?

A: We do not work with many disabled people but there are a few. We are completely wheelchair accessible but we treat everyone on an individual basis, so we take each person's specific needs into consideration when we work with them. Also work very closely with other organisations and we're not afraid to tell people we're not the expert in that but we can point them in the direction of who is.

Q: Do you link up with the CC employability service?

A: I believe we do but I will have to check.

LD: If anyone wants to come and look at the centre please let me know.

Q: What's happening with the future of the building?

A: Last October we were given a 12 month eviction notice. After a lot of negotiating, we have accepted that we will be leaving the building but there is no deadline so we can find something that suits us perfectly. Needs to be easily accessible to those who are street homeless so it has to be in the town centre.

4. COMMUNITY INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Improving the Forum

DM: Another venue for the forum?

JS: Could be hosted at other agencies such as The Cube, or Angel Square.

PL: Angel Square parking is an issue.

HM: The Cricket Ground has a great room.

Forum members discussed about how to spread the word about the Forum.

PL: Berrywood Hospital are very good for community groups. Some are upstairs but they are very accessible.

LD: Goodwill solutions may be an option?

JS: Maybe before we move the forum, it would be good for all members to put in the effort to spread the word.

HM: Cube disability sponsor The Cobblers disability football team.

DM: St Andrews said they have rooms but this is unfortunately at the weekend.

PL: We need to look forward to see what is happening this time next year, we need to try and keep these going and think about the form they would take.

MP: We need to make sure that people with disabilities have their voices heard and are not forgotten about when we go to two unitary authorities.

HM: Could set up at events like open days and engagement events. Such as the cube or NCC events.

Q: Is this specifically adults?

A: No it is aimed at all ages.

ACTION: Send JS a slide with the aims of the forum.

MP: to promote at future meetings.

LD: Might be worth getting in touch with the Chamber of Commerce.

HM: Can they also come in or phone or is it just e-mail?

DM: We are definitely open to speaking to people in any form.

HM: Need the people who have issues to bring to the table to attend meetings.

MP: Under the disability act, people should always fill things out on their worst day so they are always protected.

International Day for People with Disabilities.

Great day, there were some issues regarding access. Going to approach St Andrews to look at the possibility of hosting, would try this on a Saturday instead of a Monday.

PL and MP: The main room there does not have great access.

JS: The University might be able to offer something.

HM: What about the Benham sports centre? Lots of parking there.

MDR: Emmanuel Church might be good, good access and lots of parking.

Cripps centre could be an option but there are car parking charges.

DM: NIA School offer their building to the wheelchair rugby team.

JS: Also the College near Weston Favell School could be good.

University would seem most likely.

As it is 'international' day for people with disabilities, we could try and make the event more cultural.

Could even try and link in with the twinned towns.
Could also try and link in with the Diverse Communities Forum.

HM: Room was a good fit, the performances were exciting.
Now we've been we can spread the word, have multiple stalls or ask other links to see if they would like to perform.

5. ITEMS FOR NEXT AND FUTURE MEETINGS

VIN – Social Prescribing

Update on the council

JS: IKEA are designing furniture specifically for disabled people, may be worth contacting them.

6. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

10th May – 11am starting time.

Any info send to JS – who can then spread the word through Informa. Could also put something on the atrium.

HM: Could put an article out about the forum.

The meeting concluded at Time Not Specified