

## **NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **Northampton Disabled People's Forum**

**Friday, 5 February 2021 at 11am over Zoom**

#### **Present at the meeting**

Cllr Phil Larratt (Co-Chair), Martin DeRosario (Co-Chair), Cllr Rufia Ashraf, Pete Middleton, Rebecca Phillips, Jenny Lebbon, Rachel Clements, Alex Simmons, Alex Rex, Steve Bedford, Kian Saville, Paul Meadows, Debs Burns, Debbie MacColl

#### **WELCOMES, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES**

Introductions were made around the table.

#### **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes were agreed. There were no relevant matters arising due to the last meeting being 12 months ago.

#### **WORKBRIDGE**

Rebecca and Alex gave an introduction to Workbridge. Workbridge had been set up 40 years ago to offer a vocational pathway for people with learning disabilities with opportunities to gain skills and build confidence. There were 11 different sections including the garden centre, coffee shop, ceramics, textiles and woodworking. Unfortunately due to Covid it was not possible to do any face to face activities but they had been supporting people over Zoom and with activity packs that could be completed at home.

Rebecca invited anyone who was interested to contact her for a tour once it was possible to meet up again. It was also suggested it might be good to have a future meeting there and incorporate a tour during the meeting.

They did outside catering such as afternoon teas and lunches which could be ordered by click and collect via the website.

Contact details for referrals – 01604 872770, [workbridgereferrals@standew.co.uk](mailto:workbridgereferrals@standew.co.uk)

Rebecca – [rphillips@standrew.co.uk](mailto:rphillips@standrew.co.uk)

Social media - @WorkbridgeUK

Website - [www.workbridge.org.uk](http://www.workbridge.org.uk)

Address – The Old Laundry, Bedford Road, Northampton, NN4 7AD

Video of the types of activities offered - <https://www.workbridge.org.uk/covid-19-resources/>

Activity packs can be downloaded from here - <https://www.workbridge.org.uk/covid-19-resources/>

**Action: Graeme to discuss Northamptonshire Sport's Tackling Inactivity Fund with Rebecca/Alex outside the meeting.**

## **REPORTING HATE CRIMES & INCIDENTS**

Jenny Labbon 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](mailto: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.

Steve Bedford added that, following a project he had been involved in a few years ago, it had become apparent that disability hate crime was the most unreported strand of hate crime and he wanted to echo everything that Jenny had said. Also, the person causing problems for one person was often doing to it many more.

Rebecca stated that their service users often had issues on public transport. Jenny asked that Workbridge be an advocate and encourage people to report before the issues built up into a crisis.

## **INDEPENDENT ADVISORY GROUP**

Sgt 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 particularly 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.

## **IDPWD VIRTUAL EVENT 2020 - EVALUATION**

Debbie, Debs and Kian had run a live streamed virtual event over You Tube for International Day of Disabilities. The event had been viewed over 220 times so had reached more people than usually attended the event. Debbie also stated that Carl had previously suggested having an event in the summer when people with disabilities would be more likely to attend. Debbie asked for feedback on the event and whether the group would be keen to proceed on the basis of a summer event (if possible this year) and a virtual event in December for IDPWD.

Kian added that he had thought the event a great success and was looking to where the event could go this year. He was also happy to be involved in a summer event. Debs added that the event had felt quite personal and intimate with it being run live and being able to liaise with people in real time through the comments. Pete, who had been one of the speakers said that being personal was extremely important and that Q&A sessions helped break down barriers with non-disabled people.

Graeme stated that one of his objectives was to get disabled people in the county more active especially as they had been adversely affected during the pandemic.

See report here - <http://www.activityalliance.org.uk/news/6002-research-reveals-pandemics-true-impact-on-disabled-peoples-activity>. He stated he would be keen to explore an activity sports road show type of day in Becketts Park around the time of the Paralympics providing events were possible). It was suggested that this might be good linked in with the Rocking Roadrunner event -

<http://www.rockinroadrunner.com/>

As far as the virtual event was concerned, all the feedback had been positive.

Rachel said how powerful it had been, Paul had enjoyed it very much and found the virtual event much easier as far as attending went. Alex said she thought it had been a great event.

**Action: Debbie to contact Rockinroadrunner to explore partnering. Kian, Debs and Debbie to organise the December event again, planning to start as soon as the theme was known.**

Graeme asked if he could have the sports section of the event as a separate video.

**Action: Debbie to ask IT.**

## **COMMUNITY INFORMATION EXCHANGE**

Rufia reported that she was launching a coat drive campaign at 2 of the local supermarkets, Sainsbury's in Sixfields and Morrisons at Victoria Promenade. They would be taking in donations of good quality new or nearly new coats. She would appreciate any donations. She was also currently in talks with Tesco's to get them signed up as well.

Rachel stated that Sport 4 Fitness were unsure if they would be able to run their disability event this year. The event usually saw about 400 attendees with activity sessions, bouncy castle, ice cream and face painter along with information stalls. They would be happy to link up with the potential summer event. They were working on a sensory garden and had a jigsaw fund raiser (see attached).

Alex reported that Northamptonshire Community Foundation had several funding opportunities open at the moment.

## **Coronavirus Response and Recovery Fund**

Please note that this fund is will re-open on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> March

For more information please contact:  
[Alex@ncf.uk.com](mailto:Alex@ncf.uk.com) – Programmes Officer  
[Anthony@ncf.uk.com](mailto:Anthony@ncf.uk.com) – Grants Co-ordinator  
Or visit our website at  
[www.ncf.uk.com](http://www.ncf.uk.com)

Kian reported he was currently trying to encourage all people with disabilities to get involved with some form of sport activity and asked that if anyone knew of any support in the Daventry area or anyone who would benefit to let him know. His swimming club (Daventry Dolphins) were working with Northampton Swimming Club to set up a para swimming group and asked for contacts of anyone who wanted to get involved with swimming.

Graeme reported that Northamptonshire Sport had £10k to bring into the county to help get those with learning disabilities more active with the Round the World Challenge. Their active time would be translated into miles so they complete challenges such as around the British Isles right up to Around the World. More details can be seen here:-

<https://www.northamptonshiresport.org/news/2021/01/partnership-working-secures-funding-to-provides-opportunities-for-people-with-learning-disabilities-to-get-more-active-in-northamptonshire-and-bedfordshire>

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

Pete raised the importance of looking after our Carers particularly through the pandemic. Rebecca to send Debbie a contact.

Graeme to send Debbie a contact for Northants Cricket who were working with Graeme on their disability strategy.

Paul offered to give a presentation about his support group for dads with a child with special educational needs and/or a disability or to email him at [sends4dad@gmail.com](mailto:sends4dad@gmail.com).

## **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Fridays at 11am was agreed as a good time for the meeting.

2021 Dates:-

9 April

4 June

6 August

8 December

3 December – this would be the virtual event for International Day of People with Disabilities.