



**Notes of the meeting of the Forum be held on Thursday,
16 December, 2010 at the Carlisle Business Centre, BRADFORD**

Present: Cath Stevenson (Chair) Craig Hudson
Paul Anderson Tayeeb Hussain
Lee Bottomley Ian Marjerison
Gill Bowskill Nusrat Naheed
John Boyle Robert Wardle
John Brown Emmerson Walgrove
Susan Crowe Geoff Watson
Paul Deary Ursula Wood

In attendance: Kath Beer - Bradford Alliance on Community Care
Mohammed Mahboob - DIVA
Karen Seabrook BSL Interpreter
Van Holton BSL Interpreter

Apologies: Denis Boland, Susie Farrar, Jill Grant, Linda Hanson, Ann Kaye, Jo Ogden, David Naylor and Peter Warwick, Maureen Harrison

Welcome and Introductions: Cath Stevenson (Chair) welcomed everyone and asked them to introduce themselves.



1. DIVA - District Index of Voluntary Organisations - Cath Stephenson introduced Mohammed Mahboob, Development Officer from DIVA. Mohammed explained that DIVA is an information index that people access via a website. The main categories are: groups, services, events, support, venues for meetings, job vacancies and community organisations. Most of the information is about Bradford and District but there are links to some national organisations.

Members were given a live demonstration of the website and shown how DIVA may be of help to them. Members were able to ask lots of questions and made some suggestions. Mahboob noted comments about making the website accessible for blind and visually impaired people and people with British Sign Language as their main language. There was discussion as well on the descriptions under 'disability' and how these may be improved to help people find information more quickly. Mahboob emphasised the importance of groups submitting information to DIVA and ensuring this was accurate and up-to-date.

ACTION: It was agreed to:

Collect more comments from members to send to Mohammed.

Put this on the agenda for the next meeting of the Forum.

Prepare a summary of comments after the next meeting (Kath Beer) and pass this to Mohammed to be included in future development plans for DIVA.

Cath Stephenson thanked Mohammed for attending the meeting and said she was sure members would benefit from learning about DIVA.

2. Notes of the meeting held on 11 November, 2010 were agreed as a correct record

3. Campaigns



Pavement Obstructions: Cath Stevenson said that the Council had confirmed that members of the public could attend the meeting of the Executive on 11 February, 2011 when the proposals on pavement advertising and displays would be discussed. The Council had confirmed questions could be asked but these must be received in writing in advance.

Sue Crowe gave a brief summary about the new rules and said she felt they were quite strict and there were penalties for shopkeepers who ignored the rules, including confiscation of goods and signs.

Members were most concerned about the enforcement of the new

regulations. John Boyle and a number of members said they would like to attend the meeting.

It was agreed other concerns about pavement nuisances, such as refuse bins and dropped kerbing, needed to be followed-up separately and should not be included in the question to the Executive for the February meeting.

ACTION: Kath Beer to contact Council immediately to confirm Forum members would like to submit a question at the meeting. Committee members to agree exact wording of the question as soon as possible and submit it early in the New Year: the key issue would be about reassurances on the enforcement of the scheme.



Emergency Help Telephone Lines in public places - Kath Beer said she understood from Susie Farrar that she had some information from Chris Bedford on these matters following the discussions at the Forum meeting in November. Members agreed the Forum should support any campaign to improve these arrangements.

Government cuts and disabled people - Gill Bowskill reminded members that the Strategic Disability Partnership had already prepared a paper on 'Disabled People and the Cuts'. She had given a short presentation on this at the BACC Open Meeting on 11 December. There was a long discussion and grave concern about the changes to DLA and the Work Capability Assessments. Members agreed it was important to keep one another informed of any changes to services and benefits experienced because of the cuts.

It was agreed to invite Nick Hodgkinson from the Advice and Training Network to the next meeting of the Forum.

ACTIONS:

- Make 'Government Cuts' a standing item on the agenda for future Forum meetings and encourage members to be proactive in communicating concerns. Also, make more use of the DPF website to share concerns and make alternative arrangements for people who do not have access to the internet.
- Paul Anderson to circulate details of the planned information sessions on changes to the benefits systems to be given by Disability Advice Bradford (DAB) in January and February at the Carlisle Business Centre, as soon as dates and times were confirmed.
- Kath Beer to contact Nick Hodgkinson to invite him to attend the next meeting of the Forum.

4. Events

Paul advised people of two future events for disabled people:

Disabled People 'Taking Control of the Agenda' - 27 January, 2011, at the Carlisle Business Centre. This would be a joint event organised by BACC, Bradnet, Bradford Talking Media, Choice Advocacy, Contact, Choice Advocacy and Disability Advice Bradford. Further details would be sent out when available.

RADAR - Empowerment Training - March, 2011 at Mind the Gap at Manningham Mills. (Date to be confirmed). This would be a regional event, to be organised jointly with RADAR. Members were invited to suggest key issues to be discussed on the day.

5. Plans for Forum Meetings in 2011

Whetley Hill - Maureen Harrison and members who attend Whetley Hill had said they were very pleased to have contact with the Forum and they would be pleased to host a future meeting of the Forum.

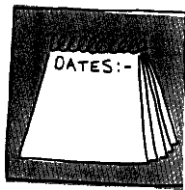
ACTION:

Cath Stevenson and Kath Beer to contact Maureen Harrison to discuss this in more detail.

Guide Dogs for the Blind - It was hoped staff would attend a future meeting of the Forum.

ACTION: Linda Hanson and Kath Beer to liaise with staff at Guide Dogs for the Blind.

6. Dates for meetings of the Forum in 2011.



3 February
28 April
16 June
1 September
20 October
1 December