

**Disability Hub Meeting**  
**Monday 29 January 2020 11am – 1.10pm**  
**Leeds Mencap**

**Present:**

Joy Fisher (Co-Chair), Claire Shearsby, Tim McSharry (Co-Chair), Nicole Harding, Bairbre McKendrick, Cllr Kevin Ritchie, Emma Trickett, Amy Beswick, Chloe Dummer, Erica Ward, Ben Mallows, James Mackenzie, Luke Ainsworth, David Wrighton, Karen Fenton, Geoff Turnbull, Alison Friebe (Notes).

**Apologies:**

Phil Hawley, Amina Manduri, Phil Gleeson, Mary Naylor, Hilary Adolfson.

**1.0 Welcome and Introductions – Tim McSharry**

1.1 Welcome, introductions and apologies were given.

**2.0 Matters Arising**

2.1 (2.1/3.3) David described his vehicle as being a rear-loading van which does not fit in to usual parallel disabled bays. This means he finds it very hard to park and often when visiting parks and other green spaces. There is a particular issue at Merrion House where there are 3 bays but if someone does have a large rear-loader this can get trapped by someone parking behind.

**Action:** David, Bairbre, Cllr Ritchie to meet to discuss this with Kasia Speakman.

2.2 (4.0) Cllr Ritchie informed the Hub that Kevin Brighton who attended our last meeting has recently won 2 awards for his work on disability hate crime. Cllr Ritchie suggested an email of recognition be sent to him from the Disability Hub.

**Action:** Geoff/Tim/Joy to put a letter together

2.3 (6.0) The hub branding now includes a logo, banners and leaflets. Accessible formats of these will be investigated with the interpreting unit. The new email address is already up and running. All social media accounts are also now available:

- Facebook 'LeedsDisability'
- Instagram @leedsdisability
- Twitter @leeds\_hub

**Action:** Further work to be done on branding and to look at the use of social media at a future meeting

**3.0 Parks & Green Spaces Strategy – Emma Trickett/ Amy Beswick**

3.1 Following the previous meeting Emma and Amy wanted to carry out a brief workshop with the Hub regarding the consultation which is being undertaken until February to help create a new 10 year strategy for our Parks and Green Spaces. This has included undertaking workshops across all types of groups and communities and an online survey which is running until end of February. This is still available: [www.leeds.gov.uk/parksconsultations](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/parksconsultations) and this will be circulated around the mailing list.

**Action:** Alison to circulate survey to Hub mailing lists.

3.2 They are particularly keen to hear from older people and disabled people as a previous survey has shown these groups use parks less frequently. This consultation is looking to find out why and to address these issues and make the spaces more welcoming to these groups.

Amy/Emma gave more information about the wide range of green spaces managed by the council and how several spaces are also supported by volunteers and 'Friends of' groups.

This survey however will not result in new green spaces and there does not include those that are not managed by Parks and Countryside such as sports pitches, allotments and cemeteries etc.

- 3.3 Emma started by asking attendees what their favourite parks were and why. A variety of parks were mentioned such as Middleton Park and Woodhouse Moor and for many reasons including for fresh air, peace and quiet, exercise and dog-walking. She went on to ask what the group to identify what is good and bad about the green places they visit. The group mentioned things like safety issues, parking, quality of footpaths, cleanliness, lack of accessible toilets etc. The good things included inclusive playgrounds and sensory/dementia gardens.

Emma answered some of the queries and discussion followed:

- Toilets can become unsafe if not maintained
- Some play areas are still not inclusive
- Public transport is poor to outer city parks such as Temple Newsam
- Signage could be improved

The results of this consultation will help form the new strategy and this will be brought back to a future meeting. For further information please contact Amy at [Amy.Beswick@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:Amy.Beswick@leeds.gov.uk)

#### **4.0 International Day of People with Disabilities Event – Karen Fenton (Forum Central)**

- 4.1 Karen gave the meeting an update around the event at Leeds City museum which Forum Central led around celebrating local older people's achievements. This was very successful with over 200 attendees, 35 stalls, films and performances.

- 4.2 The event was a huge learning event for the team around accessibility with several staff training as visual guides etc. Many groups want to be involved next year and a report will be available by the end of February. This was a good opportunity for consultation and the next event will be more accessible. Any questions should be addressed to Emma Trickett at [Emma.Trickett@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:Emma.Trickett@leeds.gov.uk)

Blue badge parking was again mentioned as an issue. Geoff commented that there is a major planning application going in to redevelop the old City College site behind the Museum so it would be timely to consider disabled parking in the area as part of this scheme. It was suggested that Planning be invited to the next meeting.

**Action:** Cllr Ritchie to talk to Planning.

#### **5.0 Brexit and the potential implications for disabled people – Ben Mallows (LCC)**

- 5.1 Ben gave the Hub an update regarding Brexit. Apart from us not having Members of the European Parliament any more no other change is expected at present. Post 31<sup>st</sup> January the UK will enter a transition period until the end of 2020 during which things like E111 health certificates, pet passports, import and export rules etc will all remain valid. From the start of 2021 the UK will be entirely responsible for all laws and regulations so we do not know at this time what might be up for negotiation in future trade deals.

- 5.2 The council has put together a strategic response plan for the city which covers areas such as general infrastructures, supplies, services, economy eg NHS/Adult Social Care medications etc. This also considers the impact on the business community which may

include supply shortages and have a major impact on staff. An estimated 3 million European workers are in the UK and these will have to apply under the Settlement scheme to remain.

- 5.3 The impact on disabled people is expected to be minor in the short term but longer term the potential impacts are not yet known. The Government has said that no changes are planned around equality rights and safeguarding and the Equality Act will be maintained. The Hub did however express concern about changes around equality and human rights moving forward.
- 5.4 Cllr Ritchie expressed concern around the rise in hate crime following the referendum and it was agreed that this will most probably continue. Ben and Geoff explained that the council and partners have put in place various measures around community tensions and cohesion so issues eg low level signs are identified and reported as early as possible.
- 5.5 Ben agreed to return to the Hub to update on future Brexit issues. He agreed that his contact details be made available for queries: [Benjamin.Mallows@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:Benjamin.Mallows@leeds.gov.uk) or 01133782814

## **6.0 Disability Report to Leeds City Council Executive Board – Geoff Turnbull (LCC Equality Team)**

- 6.1 Geoff explained that Councillor Jonathan Pryor has asked for a report outlining how the council makes sure all services are accessible. All services such as Adults and Health, Housing, Planning, Taxi Licensing, Culture, Sport etc have been asked to provide a comprehensive range of information.

This has never been done before – bringing all the information into one place and topped and tailed with key challenges. A lot of information has been received which will be incorporated and will help to identify gaps in provision. This will provide areas for the AUAG and the Disability Hub to work on.

A draft report will be available soon and a copy will be shared with Cllr Ritchie. The final report will be available a week before it goes to the March Executive Board meeting.

**Action:** The Disability Report to be a major item at a future Hub Meeting or a separate halfday event possibly with representatives from different services attending in order to answer questions.

## **7.0 Any Other Business**

- 7.1 For information about any of the next Hub meetings etc - the contact details for the Equality team are:
- Email – [leedsdisability@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:leedsdisability@leeds.gov.uk)
  - Tel: 0113 378 5998
  - Text phone and mobile: 07891 270 162

Please leave a message if no-one answers. Also please see our social media links in item 2.3. For more information re. access to council buildings or services contact Bairbre: [Bairbre.McKendrick@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:Bairbre.McKendrick@leeds.gov.uk) or telephone 01135351156

## **8.0 Date and Venue for Future Meetings**

Future meetings tbc (at the Vinery Centre 11-1.30):

- 29<sup>th</sup> April
- 22<sup>nd</sup> July
- 21<sup>st</sup> October