

Bedford Borough Equality & Diversity Network
Minutes 9 February 2011

Present:

Livability Lifestyle Choices	Ros Graham (Chair)
Livability Lifestyle Choices	Kim Baxter
Bedford African Caribbean Forum	Dr Pamela Bernard
Bedford African Caribbean Forum	Carl Bernard
Bedford Link	Terry Darlow
VOCypf	Carol Solaiman
Spiritually, Faith & Social Justice Centre, University of Beds	Cass Howes
Horizon Health Choices	Maggie Pyrah
SEPT	Jasmin Nessa
BC of Faiths	Sheila Holderness
Bedford Borough Libraries	Anthea Slark
Voices for All (Advocacy Alliance)	Diane Hoare

In attendance:

Bedford Borough Council, Policy Team	Joella Hazel
Bedford Borough Council, Partnerships Team	David Brewer
Bedford Borough Council, Planning & Housing	Stuart O'Dell
Bedford Borough Council, Policy Team	Mark Minion
Bedford Borough Council, Commissioning Team	George Hunt

Apologies:

Bedford Borough Council	Councillor Olney
ACCM(UK)	Sarah McCulloch
BRASS	Bryden Keenan
Horizon Health Choices	Rachael Chou
Bedford Race Equality Council	Glenis Orkisz
Faith in Queens Park	Neslyn Pearson
Health Champion, Bedford Borough Council	Rubina Shaikh
Mature Action Citizens Group	Pat Horn
Mature Action Citizens Group	Stephanie Randolph
Youth Cabinet	Martin Leggett
Youth Cabinet	Carla Delahunty
	Zara Abbas
	Kamaljit Patti

No	Item	Action
9.	<u>MINUTES/MATTERS ARISING</u>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minute 2 Network Business <p>It was noted that the Network would be serviced by Bedford Borough Council's Committee Services in the future.</p> <p>Joella Hazel confirmed that she had updated the terms of reference of the Network which was now available on the Council's website:</p>	

(http://www.bedford.gov.uk/community_and_living/equality_and_diversity/equality_and_diversity_Network.aspx), with the minutes of previous meetings.

- Minute 3(ii) Bedford Borough Partnership, Governance and Delivery

The Chair reported that the Thematic Partnerships would be streamlined in the future to become more cohesive and accountable at a local level. Task and Finish Groups would be created for the following four top level priorities, where it was envisaged that this Network would be able to provide a key supporting role:

- 1) Promoting health and wellbeing;
- 2) Increasing economic participation to tackle poverty and inequality;
- 3) Empowering our citizens and communities; and
- 4) Making our communities safer.

David Brewer reported that in essence, the Partnership Board was seeking to spend less time "*strategising*" and more time delivering outcomes. He was currently considering six projects which would be considered at the Board's meeting in March, which in turn would hopefully be introduced in April 2011. Projects being considered would include speeding and/or the perception of speeding and a strategic approach to celebrating and promoting volunteering locally.

The Board was also keen to acknowledge the work undertaken to date by the Thematic Partnerships, with particular reference to the Sustainable Community Strategy.

With regard to the future of existing Thematic Partnerships, it was reported that no firm decision had been made, and that they would in effect, self-determine their own futures.

It was reported that the Partnership Board would be directly accountable for delivering the outcomes of the priorities, and that it was keen to engage with this Network in the future.

A view was expressed that this Network should continue as it was felt that it could identify and influence outcomes through the individual groups it represented. A unique role of the Network was that it could remain critical, clear and informative. It was also felt that the Network could assist in the development of the Equalities Framework in the future.

- Minute 8 Any Other Business

With regard to the Voluntary and Community Sector funding consultation event held on 15 November 2010, Joella Hazel informed the Network that the stakeholder consultation report was available on the CVS website) <http://www.voluntaryworks.org.uk/cvsmidandnorthbeds/documents/ThirdSectorAssembly-ConsultationResponse.pdf>.

ALL

	<p>Agreed:</p> <p>That the minutes of the Bedford Borough Equality and Diversity Network held on 4 November 2010, be agreed, subject to Jasmin Nessa's attendance being recorded.</p>	JH
10.	<p><u>NETWORK BUSINESS</u></p>	
	<p>i) Election of Chair and Appointment of Vice-Chair for the ensuing year</p>	
	<p>Agreed:</p> <p>i) That Ros Graham be elected Chair of the Bedford Borough Equality and Diversity Network for the ensuing year.</p> <p>ii) That Carol Solaiman be appointed Vice-Chair of the Bedford Borough Equality and Diversity Network for the ensuing year.</p>	
	<p>ii) Network Training Priorities/Forward Plan 2011/12</p>	
	<p>Joella Hazel emphasised that it was important for members to identify priorities in terms of developing the Network's Forward Plan. Once priorities had been identified, relevant officers would then be invited to attend future meetings and provide a presentation.</p> <p>It was noted that the Network would be seeking the best outcomes within current timescales and limited resources, including strategies that may be open to public consultation.</p> <p>The Network considered various suggestions regarding a priority framework/Forward Plan which remained outstanding. Suggestions included a Forward Plan (similar to that used by the Borough Council), Council lead strategies and a call-in process.</p> <p>A suggestion to create a Task and Finish Group comprising of two or three volunteers to identify priorities in line with the proposed priorities of the Partnership Board prior to their next meeting in May, was noted.</p>	
	<p>Agreed:</p> <p>That a Task and Finish Group, comprising of Ros Graham (Chair), Jasmin Nessa, Carol Solaiman and Joella Hazel be arranged to identify a priority framework/Forward Plan in line with those priorities proposed by the Partnership Board, and report back to the next meeting of the Network.</p>	RG, JN, CS & JH

11.	<u>BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL STRATEGIES</u>	
	i) Report back/progress on previous strategies presented to Network	
	No further progress had been received regarding this matter.	
	ii) Adult Services: Draft Market Shaping Strategy 2011-2014	
	<p>George Hunt, Head of Commissioning, Adult Services introduced his report on the Adult Social Services draft Market Shaping Strategy 2011-2014. He advised that the Market Shaping Strategy described how Adult Services would shape the adult social care and support, health and well-being market in the Borough. The Borough Council was required to develop a clear approach towards the social care market as part of its transformation programme working towards personalisation.</p> <p>Following “Transforming Social Care (DOH 2008)”, the Borough Council needed to influence and show leadership in providing a range of services within the market which matched the diversity of local people.</p> <p>As the lead role in market shaping, the Borough Council needed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase market knowledge; • Develop a structured approach to shaping it through market segmentation; and • Develop an action plan to intervene in the market to implement the structured approach. <p>Members were referred to the draft Market Shaping Strategy 2011-2014 which was available on the Council’s website (http://www.bedford.gov.uk/health_and_social_care/help_for_adults/support_for_providers/whats_new.aspx) for public consultation and comments by service providers. As part of the consultation, an Equality Impact Assessment had been undertaken and considered by the Adult Services Joint Partnership Board. Any comments received by this Network would be welcomed and would also form part of the consultation.</p> <p>In response to a question, George Hunt confirmed that no adverse impacts regarding the strategy had been identified to date, however it was noted that some may occur if essential services were lost in the future.</p> <p>Compared to other local authorities, a view was expressed that Bedford Borough Council had insufficiently promoted public events regarding the personalisation agenda, and it was felt that if such events were restricted, they would disadvantage certain groups that often needed to be made aware/educated of the services available to them. Concerns were also expressed regarding the steps that had/not been taken to identify and reach those groups who were unable to attend such events.</p> <p>In response to this view, George Hunt advised that by developing a</p>	

	<p>structured approach through market segmentation, it would be possible to provide more efficient and easily accessible information to people who were in need of it most.</p> <p>A comment suggesting that the strategy needed to be more innovative and creative to provide people with a choice regarding the services available to them was noted.</p> <p>The Network was requested to forward any further comments regarding the draft Market Shaping Strategy 2011-2014 to George Hunt (george.hunt@bedford.gov.uk) by no later than Wednesday 16 February 2011.</p>	ALL
	<p>Agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) That the draft Adult Services Market Shaping Strategy 2011-2014, be noted. ii) That any further comments regarding the draft Market Shaping Strategy 2011-2014 be forwarded to George Hunt (george.hunt@bedford.gov.uk) by no later than Wednesday 16 February 2011. 	
	<p>iii) Child Poverty Strategy Needs Assessment</p>	
	<p>Mark Minion, Policy and Projects Manager introduced his briefing note on Bedford Borough's Child Poverty Needs Assessment. He confirmed that the Child Poverty Act 2010 provided a framework to ensure that local partners fully understood what needed to be done to tackle child poverty in their area. This would be undertaken by a Child Poverty Needs Assessment (CPNA) co-ordinated by the local authority. Bedford Borough's CPNA was being facilitated by the Poverty Task Group.</p> <p>It was noted that Bedford Borough's CPNA had tried to include local stories/flavours by talking to children and young people, parents and carers to understand the challenges they had experienced.</p> <p>In response to a comment, a suggestion to create a Task and Finish Group to assist with child poverty issues within the Borough was noted.</p> <p>Four main elements of the Bedford Borough CPNA had been identified:</p> <p>1) Defining Child Poverty</p> <p>This element considered data sources including National Indicator 116 - dependent children living in households in receipt of out of work means-tested benefits and those in families in receipt of tax credits where their reported income was less than 60% median income, as its baseline.</p>	

	<p>2) Determining levels of Child Poverty in Bedford Borough</p> <p>On the deprivation scale (Index of Multiple Deprivation – IMD) Bedford Borough ranked midway of all the local authority areas in England. NI 116 was last measured in 2008. At this point 20.1% (6,095 or 1 in 5) of children were classed as living in poverty. There were 4 Wards within the Borough where the rate was above 30% (Kingsbrook, Queen’s Park, Cauldwell and Goldington). At the Lower Super Output Area level there were 21 areas with rates over 30% of which only 1 was rural (Eastcotts).</p> <p>Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity was also assisting with the assessment by considering rural poverty issues beyond economic factors including access to services (i.e. GP’s, schools and shops etc).</p> <p>3) Drivers of Child Poverty</p> <p>Drivers and impacts of child poverty could include child care, educational attainment, work and skills, money and debt, health inequalities and housing.</p> <p>4) Most Vulnerable Groups</p> <p>Based on national data (and local data where available) the following groups had been identified as being most vulnerable to child poverty: lone parents, teenage parents, BME groups, gypsy, traveller and Roma children, families with disabilities and looked after children. Anecdotal data of local young carers was also being considered.</p> <p>In response to a question, the Network suggested that partnerships with GP commissioning, schools and Bedford Borough Learning Exchange be established to seek further data regarding this matter.</p> <p>The Network emphasised that issues regarding information, awareness, education and access to advice/guidance were key to resolving poverty issues in the future.</p> <p>Arising from a further question, Mark Minion confirmed that the needs assessment had tried to incorporate a balance between national data and personal experiences of local Children Centre users. He also confirmed that the current Child Poverty Strategy Needs Assessment contained data from 2008 and suggested that any anecdotal evidence available from this Network would assist in bringing the document up to date. Additional work regarding BME and disability voluntary groups remained outstanding and would be worked on in the future.</p>	ALL
	<p>Agreed:</p> <p>i) That the Child Poverty Strategy Needs Assessment, be noted.</p> <p>ii) That the Network forward any further comments regarding the</p>	

	Child Poverty Needs Assessment to Mark Minion (mark.minion@bedford.gov.uk).	
12.	<u>THEMATIC PARTNERSHIPS STRATEGIES</u>	
	There were no Thematic Partnership strategies to consider at this meeting.	
13.	<u>SOCIAL INCLUSION COMMUNITY COHESION AND CULTURE THEMATIC PARTNERSHIP – UPDATE/REPORT (MINUTES OF LAST MEETING 13 DECEMBER 2010)</u>	
	The Network considered the minutes of the last meeting of the Social Inclusion Community Cohesion and Culture Thematic Partnership meeting held on 13 December 2010.	
	Agreed: That the minutes of the Social Inclusion Community Cohesion and Culture Thematic Partnership held on 13 December 2010, be noted.	
14.	<u>COUNCIL UPDATE ON EQUALITY OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS</u>	
	<p>Joella Hazel reported that at a recent Corporate Equality Group, chaired by the Executive Director for Adult Services, it had considered the Public Sector Equality Duty which will come into effect on 6 April 2011. A key Council equality priority is preparing for the requirements of the Duty. She reported that the Group considered this Network as an integral part in terms of supporting the collation of data, case studies and feedback regarding equalities data, which will need to be published by 31 July 2011.</p> <p>It was noted that at the Adult Social Care and Health Policy, Review and Development Committee held on 7 February 2011 had considered the Adult Services Departmental Equalities Report (http://www.councillorsupport.bedford.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=7519).</p> <p>Lynn Featherstone, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State responsible for Equalities and Criminal Information would be meeting the Mayor of Bedford Borough on Tuesday 15 February 2011. The Network was requested to email Joella any issues related to equality and diversity that, if the opportunity arise, they may wish to be raised by the Mayor to Ms Featherstone, by noon on Monday 14 February 2011.</p>	ALL
	Agreed: i) That the Council update on equality objectives and targets, be noted. ii) That any issues for Lynn Featherstone, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State responsible for Equality and Criminal	

	Information related to equality and diversity be sent to Joella Hazel (Joella.hazel@bedford.gov.uk) by noon on Monday 14 February 2011.	
15.	<u>EQUALITY GROUPS NEWS</u>	
	No Equality Groups News was reported.	
16.	<u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u>	
	Update from Network representatives:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carers' Partnership <p>No further update was available regarding this matter.</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport Forum <p>Members were requested to consider the proposal of Carol Solaiman to represent this Network at the Transport Forum.</p> <p>Agreed:</p> <p>That Carol Solaiman represent this Network at the Transport Forum in the future.</p>	
17.	<u>DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS</u>	
	<p>Agreed:</p> <p>That the next meetings of the Bedford Borough Equality & Diversity Network Thematic Partnership be held at Bedford Borough Council, Borough Hall (meeting room to be confirmed) on the following dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 11 May 2011, 6-8pm; • Thursday 15 September 2011, 2-4pm; and • Tuesday 13 December 2011, 4-6pm. 	
	The meeting finished at 5.58pm.	