BEDFORD DIVERSITY NETWORK

MINUTES

21 OCTOBER 2009

St. Andrews Church Hall,
Kimbolton Road, Bedford

Item		Action
1.	**Present:** Rosalyn Graham (RG - Chair) – Livability Jan Thomas – Lifestyle Choices Christina Jassi – Beds & Luton Mental Health Trust Paulette Rennie – Beds & Luton Mental Health Trust Jasmin Nessa – BLPT/BBWA Stuart O'Dell – Bedford Borough Council Tracey Brimmell – Lifestyle Choices Sheila Holderness – Bedford Council of Faiths Terry Darlow (TD) – MCAG Angela Foll – Sight Concern Bedfordshire Barnaby McConnell – Understanding Us/Advocacy Alliance Malcolm Ross – Lifestyle Choices Adam May – Bedford Street Angels Janet Ridge (JR) – BRCC Sally Heard (SH) – Bedford Borough Libraries Sarah McCulloch (SM) – ACCM (UK) Carl Bernard **In attendance:** George Hunt (GH) – Head of Commissioning, Adult Services, Bedford Borough Council Gillian Abbott – Community Service User Engagement, Adult Services, Bedford Borough Council Mark Minion (MM) – Bedford Borough Council **Apologies:** Anthea Slark; Rakesh Ram; Paul Nwarogu; Leanne Long; Neslyn Pearson; Rachel Chiou; Gail Shanahan; David Brewer; Mick Dillon; Patrick Horn; Stephanie Randolph; Glenis Orkisz RG welcomed all to the meeting	
2.	**Minutes of last meeting (8 July 2009):** Minutes agreed as a true record. Matters arising: (6) SO updated Network on progress of Equality Bill. MM noted that speaker being sought for future network meeting. Network congratulated Dave Hodgson on his election as Mayor of Bedford Borough.	
3.	**Bedford Borough Partnership:**	

	MM/JR gave an update on the Partnership including the forthcoming Borough Assembly; community engagement events; changes in 'Inclusive' chapter of the Sustainable Community Strategy; comprehensive community engagement strategy; partnership website (to be launched); and equality impact assessment of the BBP	
4.	**Adult Services Consultation:** GH to circulate copy of the draft Carers' Strategy currently being developed. Discussion noted the following points: Carers' needs assessment; number of carers who are hard-to-reach; definition of carer; view of BME communities 'looking after their own'; membership of Carers' Partnership Board. GH thanked for this attendance and he agreed to circulate electronic copy of the draft Strategy	
5.	**Equality & Diversity at Bedford Borough Council:** MM gave an update on current developments within equality and diversity at Bedford BC. Points included: new Corporate Equality Panel; recruitment to E & D post; new equality impact assessment template and; a Single Equality Scheme. Discussion included: Role for Diversity Network on the Equality Panel; sharing EqIA with Network when drafted.	
6.	**AOB:** SM outlined details of Free Health Check sessions SH noted library events for Black History Month TD noted need for Older People Support Network *Meeting closed at 14:50*	