BEDFORD DIVERSITY NETWORK

MINUTES

8 JULY 2009
St. Andrews Church Hall,
Kimbolton Road, Bedford

Item		Action
1.	**Present:** Rosalyn Graham (RG - Chair) – Livability Cllr Pat Olney – Bedford Borough Council Jan Thomas – Lifestyle Choices Carol Mills – Lifestyle Choices Christina Jassi – Beds & Luton Mental Health Trust Paulette Rennie – Beds & Luton Mental Health Trust Tony Lindsay – Commpowerment Jasmin Nessa – BLPT/BBWA Anthea Slark – Bedford Borough Council - Libraries Stuart O'Dell (SO) – Bedford Borough Council Tracey Brimmell – Lifestyle Choices Paul Nwaorgu – One Support Alan Clark – MCAG (Mature Citizens Action Group) Patrick Horn – MCAG Stephanie Randolph – MCAG Sheila Holderness – Bedford Council of Faiths Manny Hussain – Muslim Faiths/Queens Park UCC Rakesh Ram – Community LD Terry Darlow – MCAG Angela Foll – Sight Concern Bedfordshire Rachel Chiou – Horizon Health Primary Based Commissioning Sue Herbert – Understanding Us/Advocacy Alliance Cllr Randolph Charles – Bedford Borough Council Zara Abbas – CDW BLPT Sheila Bissell – Bedford Borough Council **In attendance:** Frank Toner (FT) – Executive Director Adult Services, Bedford Borough Council Brain Glover (BG) – Chief Education Officer & Deputy Director Children's Services, Bedford Borough Council David Brewer (DB) – Head of Partnerships & Community Engagement, Bedford Borough Council Mark Minion (MM) – Bedford Borough Council **Apologies:** Mick Dillon; Peter Martin; Laura Lee; Barnaby McConnell; Neslyn Pearson RG welcomed all to the meeting	
2.	**Minutes of last meeting (8 April 2009):** Minutes agreed as a true record subject to amendments as	

	follows: Anthea Slark NOT Stark at Bedford Borough Libraries NOT Bedford Borough Council. Matters arising: (3) Grants Committee decisions had been circulated. Concern expressed that smaller bodies had lack of protocols in place – **AGREED that BDN to support these bodies and BDN to work with CVS on training** (7) Concern expressed that expressions of interest for proposed interpretation service was not widely publicised	**RG/MM**
3.	**Adult Services:** FT gave presentation on vision for Bedford Borough Council's Adult Services including pressures on service ongoing and future and voluntary sector funding. Discussion focussed on: Equality Impact Assessments (EqIAs) and responsible officers; clear evidence base needed for EqIAs; voluntary sector funding available; FT noted the constraints on funding (e.g. area-based grant) and need for joint-review with NHS of funding for voluntary sector. **AGREED vote of thanks for FT**	
4.	**Schools Consultation:** BG outlined background to consultation; three principal options; why officers were recommending 2-tier option; consultation already undertaken Discussion focussed on: responses received so far; specialist education support in middle schools; disruption to parents and communities and how to minimise this; moving to 2-tier no guarantee of increased performance; welcome approach to translation of consultation; who to make final decision? **AGREED vote of thanks for BG**	
5.	**Sustainable Community Strategy consultation update:** DB updated the Network on discussions about 'equality champion(s)' for the Partnership Board; the 'challenge' role for BDN; and an impact assessment of the whole of the Partnership's work. DB also gave an update on the SCS consultation and in particular the range of consultation meetings/events attended and the profile of the responses received so far. Discussion focussed on: BDN involvement in the drafting of the impact assessment for the Partnership; BDN as the equality champion for the Partnership **AGREED votes of thanks for DB**	

6.	**AOB:** SO suggested specific meeting on proposals contained within Equality Bill – **AGREED** Sound system required for Room – **MM to investigate** It was agreed that information for a number of events/training would be sent to MM for wider circulation RG – read out letter from Police concerning now vacant Diversity Manager post – **MM to circulate details** Date of future meeting - **AGREED that MM would obtain future dates and circulate** *Meeting closed at 13:20*	**RG/MM** **MM** **MM** **MM** **MM**