Hammersmith & Fulham Disabled People's Commission (DPC)

Meeting minutes - 21st November 2016

Who was at the meeting?

Members of the commission:

Tara Flood (Chair)

Jane Wilmot

Patricia Quigley

Kate Betteridge

Victoria Brignell

Ali Buhdeima

Also at the meeting:

Councillor Sue Fennimore

David Burns (LBHF - Housing

Strategy)

For support:

Kevin Caulfield (LBHF)

Peter Smith (LBHF)

Fawad Bhatti (LBHF)

Apologies to the commission:

Martin Doyle

David Isaac

Mike Gannon

Ramona Williams

Councillor Vivienne Lukey

Introductions and news



Tara welcomed the meeting and introduced new member Ali Buhdeima to the group.



The group went through the actions from the last meetings.

The notes from this are in the Action Tracker (separate document).

Draft of the Work Plan





Tara talked through the 6 areas of the Work Plan. Tara asked the commission members for their thoughts.



thank you

Victoria thanked Tara and Kevin for leading on lots of the work in the plan.

She said that Tara and Kevin should tell the group if they needed other members to lead on some things.

Kevin said he would share the work over time, and people were reminded that Mike had offered to lead the housing work at the last meeting.

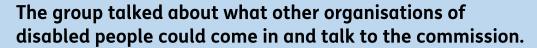


Tara said that if any members were really interested in a specific issue then they should let her or Kevin know.









Suggestions were:

Action on Disability (AOD)

Safety Net – People First (SNPF)

Deaf Plus

(Ali said that Deaf Plus were quite stretched because of funding at the moment.)





There are a lot of groups within the council and lots of different levels in between those groups.

Councillor Fennimore said that this can get very complicated.

She said that it might be most helpful for the commission to focus on its work of making the council work better with disabled people, and then make sure it is heard.

Housing for Disabled People



Tara, Kevin and David had a good pre-meeting before this meeting.

It will be good for David to hear about housing issues straight from disabled people.



David told the group that the Housing for Disabled People Strategy (plan) would be looked at by the council in March 2017.



David said that he wanted advice from the group about stopping disabled people becoming homeless, and about good housing advice for disabled people.



The commission can be helpful by giving information and doing research with other disabled people.



There will be a draft of the Strategy (plan) shared, and it will have an action plan, too.



David told the group that 90% of new homes have to be ready to be adapted.

10% of the new homes must be built to accessible standards.



Victoria asked if the council had targets for the number of disabled people on housing waiting lists.

David said he would try to find out.



Patricia asked how many housing units were accessible. David said he would also try to find this out.



Tara said that we need to look at what 'affordable' means. It means different things to different people!

Councillor Fennimore said it's about 1/3 houses owned, 1/3 rented and 1/3 from the council.



Tara reminded everyone that the commission is planning to hold some public events for disabled people to speak up about what's important for them.

It is likely housing will come up a lot!



Victoria asked if there are national rules for how many homes should be wheelchair accessible.

David said that as he had earlier told the group: 10% of homes are made accessible in H&F.



Ali said that for a deaf person, intercoms and buzzers need to have videos as well as speakers.

Ali also said that for a deaf person, contacting the council is very difficult, too.

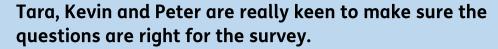


Kevin said he thinks it's also important that we remember the huge impact of benefit cuts – disabled people have less money and this has a huge impact on their housing.

Survey Questions







The council will also be involved to make sure the staff questions are right.

Draft questions will be discussed at the December meeting.



Victoria reminded the group of the importance of using clear language that people can relate to.

Webpage for DPC



Tara told the group that there is a webpage for the commission. We need to get something up soon!

Kevin will be the contact point.

We want to get something online so that people can understand what the Disabled People's Commission is working on and why – this is called the 'Terms of Reference'.

Any other business and the next meetings



Tara thanked people for sending in details of their contacts.

At the next meeting, other disability organisations could be invited.

Kamran Malik from AOD will be able to attend in December.



The next meeting will be on Wednesday 14th December at Dawes Road Hub.

Then:

- Wednesday 1st February 2017
- Monday 13th March 2017



