

Northampton Borough Council - Northampton Disabled People's Forum

Friday, 15 July 2016 at 10:30am - 12:30 pm

The Holding Room, The Guildhall, St. Giles Square, Northampton, NN1 1DE.

Agenda

1. Welcomes, introductions and apologies
2. Minutes and Matters Arising
3. Richard Fitzhenry - Planned Investment Manager
4. Andy Aitken - Adaptations Manager, Private Sector Housing
5. Disabled Go
6. Action Plan
7. Community Information Exchange
8. Items for Next and Future Meetings
9. Date of the Next Meeting

Map and directions at: www.northampton.gov.uk/guildhall

For more information about this meeting please contact:
Alice Morgan, Community Development Officer



alicemorgan@northampton.gov.uk



Tel: 01604 837795



More information about the Forum generally is at: www.northampton.gov.uk/forums



Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/NorthamptonDisabledPeoplesForum?ref=hl>

Please note that this Forum is supported and funded by Northampton Borough Council. The Forum may work in partnership and collaboration with other community groups, councils and local services from time to time. The views expressed and decisions taken by the Forum are not necessarily those of Northampton Borough Council.



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Code of Conduct for the Forums

This Code of Conduct sets out the standards that the Forums expect of its members. It aims to provide members with an effective ethical framework in which to do business. It is not intended to be exhaustive, or to cover every eventuality, but sets out some common sense requirements to enable the forums to function smoothly and successfully.

It is the responsibility of the Chair to encourage and enable input from forum members, to ensure all voices are heard.

1. Meeting Etiquette

As an attendee you must comply with the following requirements and any others that may be stated from time to time:

- 1.1** Contribute positively to discussions concerning the issues of the meeting
- 1.2** Be friendly, polite, courteous and respectful at all times to fellow members, and others present
- 1.3** Not insult, abuse or use offensive language or behaviour
- 1.4** Comply with Northampton Borough Councils Equal Opportunities Policy
- 1.5** Demonstrate actively that you are interested in and care about the issue that you are discussing and want to make a positive difference
- 1.6** Show respect for buildings, facilities and equipment being used
- 1.7** Speak only through the Chairman of the meeting and not interrupt, heckle, make distracting noises or gestures
- 1.8** Speak clearly into any microphone provided and comply with any instructions given about its use

2. Being Objective

- 2.1** Your own experience and views should inform, but not dominate or dictate how you participate.
- 2.2** If you have a specific issue with regards to a service matter to raise these can be discussed with a member of staff at the end of the each meeting or you can ask for the appropriate officer details. Meetings attended by other residents are not the place to raise any issues of this nature.
- 2.3** Be Fair
- 2.4** You must have and show respect for the people you deal with, and take their circumstances and personal differences into account. This is about putting equality into practice. The key is simply to respect differences fairly, so that you do not exclude anyone, or treat anyone inappropriately or unfairly because of their particular circumstances.

Breaching the Code of Conduct

If any person's behaviour breaches this Code of Conduct, they will be required to leave the meeting and vacate the premises where it is being held. They will not be permitted to attend future meetings unless they provide satisfactory evidence to Northampton Borough Council that they will comply with the Code – e.g. a letter of apology.

If you would like further information or if you would like to discuss the Code of Conduct please contact Vicki Rockall, Partnerships and Communities Manager at vrockall@northampton.gov.uk or on 01604 837074

Northampton Borough Council - Northampton Disabled People's Forum

Friday, 13 May 2016 10:30am – 12:30pm

1. WELCOMES, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

Present: Cllr Larratt (NBC Co Chair), Martin De Rosario (MD Co Chair), Beverly Mannell (BM NBC/Tennant), Laura Noble (LN Voiceability, Shared Voice Network), Vicki Rockall (NBC, VR), Stephen Campbell (SC, Olympus Care Services), Nisha Mejer (NM, NBC)*

*Took minutes

Apologies: Rashmi Shah, Jacqueline Forrest- Smith, Simon Burgess, Elnora Latchman (EL), Graeme Wilson (GW), Harvey Morgan (HM), Alice Morgan, Mike Jackson

Chair welcomed everyone to meeting

2. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

Minutes agreed as true record.

No matters arising.

3. STEPHEN CAMPBELL - OLYMPUS CARE SERVICE

SC has been an occupational therapist (OT) since 1999 and has worked predominantly in Northamptonshire. SC has managed OCS for approx. 5 years.

SC gave figures on the work achieved by OCS:

8209 – contact with clients

4070 – assessments carried out

3,000 – Cases where telephone advice has been given.

There is an average of 6 weeks waiting times to carry out assessments. 67% of clients have received equipment to help them and 30% have received minor adaptations to their home.

The OT service sits in the middle of other care services.

Cllr L: This could lead to problems. Can services be brought together to work more closely?

SC: We try to. The contract for minor adaptations is with Millbrooks. All minor adaptations for people in Housing Associations get sent to Housing Associations. Where major adaptations are concerned, a copy of the report is sent to Housing Association if it concerns them.

Cllr L: Are assessments available to individuals who contact them?

SC: Yes. Some Housing Associations have their own OTs. Always keep the door open for a second opinion. SC stated that he deals with complaints personally.

BM: There is a New Housing Allocations Bill. The changes in the policy cannot be ignored. There are properties not fit for disability needs. The outcomes do not come to the expectation of the tenant.

SC: The local authority should be approached to explore all options. Schemes can

be developed to move tenants to new properties. OCS does liaise with private sector housing and talk to tenants about best options.

Cllr L: There is lots of development and social housing in Northampton. Does OC have input into this? Could have a supply of properties which could meet the needs of disabled people and be adaptable to specific needs.

SC: No – have never been consulted. Argued that there would be better facilities if OCS is advising at the planning stages in areas being developed.

ACTION: NM to contact Director of Planning to liaise with OCS to have lifetime homes.

SC: In terms of size, OCS comprises of :

18 staff- equates to 16.5 full time.

3 admin

11.5 OTs

5 assistants – (do lower level assessments).

Proud of service provided. All staff is in a different culture to county council and therefore OC is given more freedom to adapt to services. Therefore, it is less bureaucratic.

Cllr L: Pleased with progress. However concerned as to the part that County Councillors play in this. They have a democratic role in this and there needs to be accountability.

BM: Thanked SC for attending the forum. Please be aware that elderly people are discharged from hospitals and there is not adequate care for them. They are often left in limbo.

SC: The OCS is a joining together of organisations as there is a lack of care agencies.

4. OLYMPUS CARE - ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SERVICE

SC: A virtual house has been created online to enable people to see products which are available to help people in their daily life. People can monitor their loved ones – text messages can be sent to them. Sensors can be added to fridges and food cupboards. This helps manage anxieties and risks.

This helps reduce reliance on money invested back to services. Helps raise awareness.

BM: This can help dementia patients.

VR: This is a more preventative approach.

BM: The service can be promoted to NPH.

ACTION: NM to contact OC to carry demonstration of this at next meeting.

ACTION: Promote this service at the next Disability Day.

ACTION: Presentation to be made at NPH board AM/NM to make enquiries.

SC: would like to set up a focus group to help meet the needs of people

ACTION: SC or colleague to attend next meeting to use the Forum as a focus group.

5. ACTION PLAN

Will be discussed next meeting.

6. COMMUNITY INFORMATION EXCHANGE

LN: Voice ability will be in One Stop Shop on Thursday 12-3pm.

BM: There is a new Air Ambulance shop in Kingsthorpe. Please donate.

Graeme Wilson provided the following information:

- Eleanor Robinson from Northampton Swimming Club recently competed in the British Para Swimming Championships in Glasgow where she won 1 Gold & 2 Bronze medals breaking the British Record in the 50M Butterfly in the process of winning the Gold medal. Eleanor then made her Senior British debut at the European Championships in Portugal last week where she won 1 Silver & 3 Bronze medals. She won Silver in the 50M Butterfly where she again broke the British Record & swam quicker than the old World Record in a race won by a 21 year old Ukrainian who hasn't been beaten for 4 years! Eleanor's time in the 50M Butterfly beat the consideration time for the Rio Paralympics, so she's now waiting to find out if she's been selected for the squad! <http://m.bbc.co.uk/sport/disability-sport/36135891>
- Northampton Swimming Club now has 5 swimmers with disabilities training & competing for them.
- A training course was recently ran in the county by the Amateur Swimming Association for pool instructors which was attended by 6 people from facilities ran by Northampton Leisure Trust to help them learn how to include disabled swimmers in their sessions.
- There are some new Tennis sessions being ran for disabled people & anyone with a sensory impairment in Northampton at Abington Park every Sunday 10 – 11am. More details below: <http://www.tennisnorthampton.co.uk/disability-tennis/#accessible-tennis-in-northampton>
- Inclusive Community Training workshop for Parents/Carers of disabled people & anyone else who supports them from day care centres, charities, support organisations etc being ran at Northampton University's Park Campus on Thursday 16th June 6:30 – 9:30pm costing £10 per person. More information can be found on the booking page of our website below: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/active-kids4all-inclusive-community-training-tickets-24962162500>
- We are running a sports quiz at Northampton Saints on Thursday 9th June 7:30pm to raise funds for Northants Federation of Disability Sport. Entry costs £20 for a team of 4 & can be booked on via the following website: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/northamptonshire-sport-fundraising-sports-quiz-tickets-25191413195>

Northampton Leisure Trust has a new Sports Development Officer who will be leading on their work around developing opportunities for disabled people in the Borough. He is called Harvey Morgan & his email address is HMorgan@northamptonleisuretrust.org.uk.

7. AOB

BM: Talked about PIP assessment as it was recently highlighted in Dispatches programme that an assessor failed to maintain professional standards.

Cllr L: The House of Lords are looking at questions in the assessment to review.

BM: Questions are being asked but not logical. The work capability assessment is not fit for purpose. The assessors are on a bonus scheme. There is advice to report

to Community Law and the organisation advises the individual to go to the GP. However, they may not know the medical history. This puts more pressure on surgeries. This was not thought through properly by Iain Duncan Smith.

ACTION: NM to invite GPs to look at the impact of PIPs and the workload of GPs.

8. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

15 July Jeffrey Room, The Guildhall 10.30am – 12.30pm

Forum Action Plan						
Chair:	Cllr. Larratt and Martin De Rosario		Responsible Forum:	Disabled People's Forum		
Outcomes identified within the Corporate Plan:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empowered local communities with a greater capacity to become involved in community life Promote integration and cohesion Appropriate support provided to those in most need Services are fair, accessible and responsive to individual needs residents and customers feel informed and engaged in service quality and design Future developments informed by the views of local people Delivery of events to celebrate and enjoy the Town's heritage and culture 					
Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify issues of importance to disabled people who live or work in the Borough, research/discuss issues and decide on outcomes to achieve Promote and sustain effective communication between NBC and disabled people living or working in the Borough. Work towards equality of access by disabled people to services, including accessible formats, removing barriers, promoting dialogue and identifying specific requirements. Promoting partnership working by statutory and voluntary sector organisations, and Disabled People's groups and communities 					
Actions:						
Action	Owner	Activity (intelligence led)	Timescale	Cost	Measure	Last Updated
Improve attendance at forum, bringing different groups together to build upon the forum. Including service providers as well as service users.	Partnerships and Communities Team	Continue to promote forum through various networks and communications channels.	Ongoing	Nil	% increase at forum	March 15
Hate Crime Awareness and Support	TBC	Work with Northamptonshire Police to develop more third party reporting agencies, for access by the Disabled Community	Ongoing	Nil	Reporting centres set up and utilised	March 15
Disability Awareness Week	AM & NM	Awareness raising event, promoting services available. Event venue, One Stop Shop and Guildhall Foyer (this is due to Great Hall and Courtroom not being available, but through traffic of people will be better in one stop shop)	3 rd December 2015	Nil	Event held and % no attendees	January 2016

		Event was a great success for a pilot. Look to develop for 2016 – look at alternative venues due to unprecedented demand for stalls.				
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