

MINUTES

20th January 2021
10.00 am – 11.30 am
Via Zoom

Attendees:

Debbie Abbott	BHCC Finance & Resources
Jacob Bayliss	Community Works
Carolyn Bristow	BHCC Children's Services
Geraldine des Moulins	Possability People (Joint Chair) – <i>Chair for this meeting</i>
Cllr Amanda Evans	BHCC
Tantara Fox-Stillwell	Sussex Police
Dee Humphreys	BHCC, Policy, Partnerships & Scrutiny
Darren Jensen	Surdi
Melinda King	BHCC Communities, Equality & Third Sector
Emma McDermott	BHCC Communities, Equality & Third Sector
Nora Mzaoui	Community Works
Cllr. Steph Powell	BHCC (Joint Chair)
Momtaz Rahman	University of Brighton
Paul Ross-Dale	BHCC Finance & Resources
Cllr Dee Simson	BHCC
Jess Sumner	Community Works
Ellie Thompson	Equality & Diversity
Emma Turner	Equality & Diversity
Lynn West	BSL Interpreter
Laura Williams (left at noon)	Community Works
Keira Woodroofe	East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service
Emily Zinkin	Crown Prosecution Service

Apologies:

Anne Richardson Locke	BHCC Health & Adult Social Care
Laura Williams	Community Works (Jess Sumner representing)

1 Welcome, introductions and apologies

Geraldine Des Moulins welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly Cllr Evans and Emily Zinkin, both new to the Partnership. Everyone introduced themselves and apologies were noted.

2 Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 6th October 2020 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

2.2 All actions had been completed with the exception of:

- KR to share with GDM the list of changes made as a result of resident feedback. **Action:** EMcD to remind KR to share the list with GDM.
- LB to organise the Inclusive Cities taskforce. EMcD explained that this was in progress. It had been difficult to find a date, but suggested dates had now been put forward to those who volunteered to be on the taskforce.

EMcD

LB

2.3 Research on impact of Covid on communities of disadvantage and identity

EMcD gave an update. This piece of work had been paused due to the paucity of quality and meaningful time series data to track impact as a result of Covid. Instead, a series of smaller pieces of research were being carried out, starting with research on unemployment. GDM queried how the decision had been made to begin with unemployment. EMcD explained that this had been prioritised by the Leader of the council, recognising that many of the city's most vulnerable residents were in the employment sectors hit hardest by the pandemic.

Action: EMcD to find out which issues/themes will be tackled next and when the unemployment report will be available.

EMcD

2.4 Discussion on the public realm

Discussion on highways, pavements, access to open space/parks to be tabled at an appropriate meeting, likely July, as conditions with the pandemic changed. All agreed that this was an important issue for all equality groups.

EMcD

3 Deaf Hate Crime Survey

3.1 MK gave some background to the survey and explained that it had been identified to do a more detailed piece of work to understand the experience of D/deaf people; awareness levels with the D/deaf community, accessibility of current services, what information would be of use to the D/deaf community and what improvements were needed. The survey was the first part of this work and the results would be used

to shape an engagement event to start detailing improvements and raising awareness.

3.2 The survey found:

- good awareness of what extremism was amongst the community;
- the examples witnessed of more organised extremism were historic, the ongoing concerns were about underlying hate and ongoing systemic discrimination;
- 70% found it difficult or very difficult to report to the police, with a range of barriers identified.

3.3 Although the number of respondents to the survey was small, it had nevertheless provided a significant amount of useful information to follow up. The aim was to do a wider piece of engagement when Covid guidelines allowed.

3.4 SP agreed that more needed to be done within the council and the Police. She offered to champion this. SP also asked if TFS could raise the matter with the Sussex Police Crime Commissioner about more sustained focus on equality groups and accessibility.

SP
TFS

3.5 EMcD explained the purpose of the Deaf Services Liaison Forum (DSLFL) and the attendance at the Forum by statutory agencies, including Sussex Police and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). A detailed conversation about the CPS had been scheduled for the next DSLFL meeting. EZ reiterated the commitment of the CPS to improvements and attending the DSLFL to start having detailed conversations about the issues.

3.6 MK advised that the next step for the survey results would be to take them to the Sussex Police Hate Crime Working Group

MK

3.7 DS raised the importance of embedding D/deaf awareness and accessibility in all work and strategy across the board.

3.8 GDM emphasised that all services - public, voluntary or private sector - must be aware that one size did not fit all.

4 Equalities and Access Workstream Interim Report

4.1 MK gave a presentation to the meeting.

4.2 EZ asked whether it would be appropriate, whilst sensitive, to have discussions about domestic abuse with diverse community groups, given the concerns about increased risk during lockdown periods. MK explained that there was a specialist workstream for domestic abuse and agreed to take EZ's point back to the workstream.

MK

4.3 AE offered councillors help to raise issues at the Tourism, Economy, Culture & Communities Committee and the Health, Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

AE

4.4 JB advised that Switchboard had been very focused on reaching out to the LGBTQ+ community throughout the pandemic and were looking at further collaborative work to understand the socio-economic impacts. It had been raised that Survey Monkey was not accessible and JB was keen to ensure the consultation was accessible. GDM offered to liaise with JB on accessibility.

GDM

5 **Anti-Racist Strategy Update**

EMcD updated the group on the work the council was enabling to move toward being an anti-racist council and support an anti-racist city.

She referred the meeting to the Tourism, Environment, Culture & Communities Committee reports on the Anti-Racist Pledge, January and March 2021.

6 **Any other business**

There was no further business.

7 **Close and Date of Next Meeting**

The Chair confirmed that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 21st April 2021, 10.00 am – 12.00 noon.