

# Minutes of the West Berkshire Council's Disability Equality Scheme's External Scrutiny Board Meeting 28 July 2009

Item	Notes
<b>Board Members in attendance</b>	Bob King (Chairman), John Carr, Kate Green, Keith Hester, Norma Weaver, Sharon Langley, Sabrina McNair, Mick Hutchins.
<b>Others</b>	Councillor Pamela Bale, Councillor Julian Swift Hook, Lynn Stephens (WBC Locality Manager), Elaine Vincent (WBC Principal Policy Officer, Equality and Diversity).
<b>1. Welcome and Apologies</b>	<p>The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, with particular welcome to Sharon Langley a new member of the Board. Brief introductions were given by all in attendance.</p> <p>Apologies were received from Alan Fleming (Vice-Chairman), John Dolton, Colin Parker, Sarah Gore.</p>
<b>2 - Minutes</b>	<p>The draft minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2009 were approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.</p> <p>Actions from the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2009 were updated as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Martyn Baker would be invited to the next meeting to update the Board on progress made in completing the retrospective EIA for car parking.</li> </ol> <p>Invitations to take part in consultation had been sent out to those registered on the number plate recognition system and those with transponders. In addition, cars parking in the disabled spaces in the Wharf car park were invited to provide their views. 50 responses have been received to date. Consultation was not due to close until September, and so a decision was made not to invite Martyn Baker to this meeting.</p> <p>It was felt that all Blue Badge Holders should be included in this consultation.</p> <p><b>Action 1 – Pamela Bale to discuss the inclusion of Blue Badge Holders in the consultation with Martyn Baker.</b></p>

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	<p>2. Councillor Pamela Bale to pursue issues around tactile paving.</p> <p>A response from Highways and Transport indicated that all tactile paving was installed according to national guidelines. This was not felt to be the case and it was requested that this action remain.</p> <p><b>Action 2 – Pamela Bale to pursue issues around tactile paving.</b></p> <p>3. Councillor Pamela Bale would discuss the provision of the RNIB book service further with Keith Hester.</p> <p>The provision of the RNIB book service has returned to West Berkshire Council and is currently being reviewed as to how it will be taken forward. The Board will be updated as appropriate.</p> <p>4. Stephen Stace to work with colleagues to develop a user group.</p> <p>The first meeting was held in June with a second planned for September.</p> <p><b>Action 3 – Elaine Vincent to obtain and circulate minutes of this meeting.</b></p> <p>5. Tandra Forster (Contracts Manager (Adult &amp; Supporting People)) would be invited to the next meeting to discuss the quality and services provided by care agencies.</p> <p>Complete.</p> <p>6. Lynn Stephens to be invited to a future meeting to present the outcomes from this consultation event.</p> <p>Complete.</p> <p>7. Councillor Pamela Bale to raise the issue of buses not being fully accessible with the Chief Executive of Newbury Buses.</p> <p>To be transferred to the newly formed transport forum.</p> <p>8. All Board members would review the updated action plan and inform Elaine Vincent of any actions not considered to be complete.</p> <p>Complete.</p>

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	<p>9. Sabrina McNair to provide further information to Elaine Vincent regarding the issue of concessionary fares. Councillor Pamela Bale to pursue this issue.</p> <p>The Government scheme does not apply to mental health issues, this is a West Berkshire concession and so eligibility is reliant on meeting WBC criteria.</p> <p>10. Councillor Pamela Bale to pursue for consideration for 2010 travel token allocations</p> <p>Tokens applied for this year would be based on a permanent disability so there would be no need to reapply. Future applications could use a number of different pieces of evidence.</p> <p>11. Councillor Pamela Bale to pursue whether the developers of the Parkway area would install react speakers as part of the development.</p> <p>The Chief Executive Nick Carter would discuss this with the developers.</p> <p>12. Councillor Pamela Bale to pursue the issue of barriered areas outside pubs and restaurants in relation to smoking and obstruction.</p> <p>Smoking restrictions apply only when the area is more than 50% covered, even if food is being consumed in the same area.</p>
<b>3 – Care Agency Commissioning</b>	This item to be carried over to next meeting.
<b>4 – ‘Improving Public Access to Better Quality Toilets’</b>	<p>A briefing paper was submitted to the Board for discussion at the meeting. The Board felt that more emphasis should be placed on working in partnership with local businesses to make use of their facilities and to make this information accessible for example through the use of mobile phones or the internet. It was also important to advertise the Changing Places toilets which will soon be available in the new Cinema as this may encourage more disabled people into Newbury.</p> <p>It was noted that the Wharf public toilets could be upgraded to a Changing Places toilet for a small financial outlay</p> <p>Concern was raised that public toilets were generally locked to all after 6pm, so the use of business facilities, particularly pubs and restaurants, would be a positive step to overcome this.</p>

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	<p>Councillor Swift-Hook noted that Newbury Town Council were looking at the issue of working with local businesses and the responsible officer could be invited to meet with the Board to provide an update on progress.</p> <p><b>Action 4 – Councillor Swift-Hook to enquire about inviting a Newbury Town Council officer to a future Board meeting to discuss access to better quality toilets.</b></p>
<p><b>5 – Review of DES Action Plan</b></p>	<p>The action plan has been updated to reflect activity up until June 2009. The Board reviewed all actions with a view to removing those considered to be complete.</p> <p>A number of actions relate to the work of the new Transport Forum and have therefore been removed from the action plan and transferred to this Forum. The actions remain open to be reinstated should it be felt appropriate.</p> <p><b>Action 5 – Elaine Vincent to update action plan with agreed activity.</b></p> <p><b>Action 6 – Bob King to contact Alison Love to clarify current position of All U Need 2 Know.</b></p> <p><b>Action 7 – Elaine Vincent to obtain notes of first Transport Forum and circulate to Board.</b></p> <p><b>Action 8 – Elaine Vincent to add an action which compels new buildings over one storey to incorporate a lift.</b></p> <p><b>Action 9 – Elaine Vincent to obtain figures of the number of disabled employees within WBC.</b></p>
<p><b>6 – Results of Day Services Consultation</b></p>	<p>Lynn Stephens gave a verbal presentation on feedback from the consultation into Day Services. The event was held in St Nicholas Church Hall. 39 people attended representing service users and carers and included representation from rural areas. An external facilitator ran the sessions to provide a neutral perspective. The consultation was structured around headings in the guidance from the Department of Health.</p> <p>Some key requirements of service users were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Day time base for drop in and peer support</li> <li>• Support for getting back into the workforce</li> <li>• Information about services</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No restrictions on when support can be accessed</li> <li>• Support for getting into education</li> <li>• A help line (not a crisis line)</li> <li>• Week end services</li> <li>• Continuation of services when considered to be well.</li> </ul> <p>The next steps will be for an options paper to be drafted setting out some options for how to move forward. Lynn will seek input from the Board, in particular Sabrina, before formal consultation on prior to a decision being made.</p> <p>Lynn Stephens clarified that she was working with Nigel Owens and the Transformation Team to understand the link this has on personal budgets.</p> <p>Bob commented that this was the most positive report on the issue of Mental Health support since the Board was formed but warned everybody as always any action will depend on resources available.</p> <p><b>Action 10 – Lynn Stephens to visit 8 Bells to consider joint working and the possibility of providing some services through them.</b></p>
<b>7 – AOB</b>	<p>Bob King proposed an extraordinary meeting to undertake a review of the achievements of the Board and to discuss whether it may be appropriate to make any changes to the working practices of the Board. It was agreed that this would take place on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September. Invitations would be sent out in due course.</p>
<b>8 – Next Meeting</b>	<p>Bob King proposed that future meetings should focus on one key theme. This was agreed and it was decided to invite Tandra Forster back to present information about Care Agency Commissioning for the next meeting.</p> <p>Dates for the meetings in 2009 have been agreed as:</p> <p>Extraordinary Meeting – Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2009 – 2:30pm</p> <p>Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2009 – 2:30pm</p>

<b>Item</b>	<b>Notes</b>
	Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> January 2010 – 1:00pm to begin with lunch  All meetings will be held in Committee Room 2 at the Council Offices in Market Street.