

DES Board Actions List

March 2015 meeting	
Action 2: Tandra Forster to discuss AF's care provision issue with Mary Page and AF to make a formal complaint about his treatment.	Thames Valley Police has completed its investigation but AF's case is still ongoing.
October 2015 meeting	
Action 1: The information RC had emailed to the Board on the grants and assistance available to people with disabilities was not what was required. It had been discussed at a Council meeting about new grants in Dec 14 – Jan 15 and Jo England had been present. RC to invite Jo to the next meeting to discuss	<p>Jo England has advised that she is not the correct person to advise on this and that it is Mel Brain so Mel has been invited to attend the meeting.</p> <p>Email sent to DES Board 22/12 setting out the information that JE and MB can provide to check that MB is able to provide the information they require:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jo England would be able to provide information on the Communities grant which gives help to people in emergencies and was the old Social fund. It is primarily for people on benefits which would include people with disabilities. • Mel Brian would be able to provide information on the Flexible Home Improvement Grant, the Home Repair Assistance Grant and the Disabled Facilities Grant. <p>JC has suggested that the information provided by JE is what is required as she can advise on Government policies etc. Unfortunately she is on leave on 28/1 and so is unable to attend.</p>
Action 2: RC to obtain dates for consultation exercises to enable the Board to discuss issues prior to it going out to public consultation.	<p>DES Board advised by email on 3/11/15 of consultation on WBC savings proposals. RC monitoring WBC Forward Plan for other consultation exercises.</p> <p>DES Board sent email by Paul Hendry on 30/12 about proposal to cut the Access Officer post and response received from AF.</p>
Action 3: JC is no longer on the Council's consultation list. This appears to have started on 17/8 when he stopped receiving emails from WBC. RC to investigate.	JC is still on the WBC consultation list along with the rest of the DES Board and emails with consultation details will be sent out by RC. An email advising about consultation on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme was sent out on 14/9 and another email advising of the public consultation on the council's savings proposals was sent on 3/11.
Action 4: RC was asked (i) if the	i. The need for transponders has been included in the

<p>car park transponder tender includes the ability for the new transponders to operate in both the Newbury multi storey car parks (ii) if Blue Badge holders will have to apply for the new transponders. (iii) that the Board is advised of timescales for any changes.</p>	<p>tender. Martyn Baker has informed that existing and working transponders already issued will continue to function as the signal receivers will not be changed;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. They will produce information for Blue Badge holders on how to apply for new transponders nearer to the implementation date of the new equipment; iii. They do not have a firm date as yet, but it is likely to be in the period February to March 2016 and car parks will provide information for all of customers. <p>Martyn has been invited to the January meeting to provide an update and answer any questions</p>
<p>Action 5: Barbara Billett had advised that she could add links from the Council website to the CCG if the Board could identify where these should be. RC to discuss this with AF</p>	<p>JC has suggested a link from a health-related page would be appropriate. RC to bring examples of health-related pages on the WBC website to the meeting.</p>
<p>Action 6: Board Members to contact Karen Felgate if they want to be involved in defining tender specifications.</p>	
<p>Action 7: Matthew Metcalfe to advise if it's possible to discuss with RBC fact that 2 wheelchairs are not able to travel together on Reading Buses.</p>	<p>The buses used by Reading Buses on their local bus services comply with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and the PSV (Accessibility) Regulations 2000. The legal requirement is for local buses to have wheelchair access and appropriate accessibility features approved by the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee. There must be a designated space for one wheelchair passenger. Unfortunately this means that the design of the buses (compliant with all the regulations and legislation) is such that two wheelchair passengers could not travel together.</p>
<p>Action 8: Matthew Metcalfe to email a map showing the location of Kassel kerbs to John Carr so he can put it on the www.wbda.org website.</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>Action 9: Matthew Metcalfe to find out if the markings were now in place at the bus stop in Hilden's Drive.</p>	<p>This December there will be a parking consultation covering Hilden's Drive in Tilehurst. The proposal is to protect the approaches to the Kassel Kerbs with double yellow lines. The council anticipates a lot of objections from people who park their cars in the vicinity of the Kassel kerbs.</p>
<p>Action 10. Matthew Metcalf to investigate whether it is possible for information cards with driver information to be made available</p>	<p>Matthew has discussed this with the officers who introduced the safer journey card. The conclusion was that the Council would not be in a position to introduce a Braille version because of the high cost of doing so. Also, there was the thought that the Blue assist Scheme app is a better solution</p>

in Braille.	than the paper information card.
<p>Action 11: Glyn Davis to check on the legality of moving the green man to the pole on the opposite side of the road at the St John's Post Office Pelican Crossing.</p>	<p>The green men on the opposite side can be used but not with the near side green men. This would mean that the council would have to replace all the push buttons and run new cables as a minimum around the site and fit new far side green men. The cost of this providing no duct work is required would be in the region of £20k.</p> <p>A further issue is that the Department for Transport advise against far side green men, and although this is only advice, the council does try to adhere to all DfT guidelines as liability is a concern.</p> <p>So there are two issues with far sides which are cost and liability. GD does not have the budget to even consider this at the moment as there are other sites in dire need of refurbishment/update and these must remain a priority.</p> <p>They could consider fitting repeaters to the Post Office crossing. These are as the name suggests repeater units of the green men but they are mounted higher up the pole above the push button unit and above head level so they are visible to all, these are on the side they cross from not opposite as far sides are..</p>
<p>Action 12: Stewart Souden to ask Valerie Witton to carry out an access audit of Linear Park to see if the proposed kissing gate solution could be installed in areas which aren't too steep.</p>	<p>SS has ordered the upgrading of the access point into Linear Park to become DDA compliant as requested. However he does not currently have any funding to upgrade the other points but will be able to look at it again in 2016.</p> <p>Unfortunately the Access Officer post is at risk, as part of the savings being consulted on at the moment.</p>
<p>Action 13: Stewart Souden to investigate whether a mechanism can be inserted into the overhead barriers that restrict entry to car parks to enable vehicles with wheelchairs to open and shut the barrier</p>	<p>SS mailed a key to AF in October to enable him to open the overhead barrier. Email sent to AF by RC on 19/10 confirming this.</p>
<p>Action 14: (i) Stewart Souden to provide RC with an update on progress with making access points wheelchair friendly. (ii) John Carr to draw a plan of how this may operate</p>	<p>(i) There is no update at present as the funding for this work will not be available until the new financial year. (ii) The plan was not required as JC has been sent a key.</p>
<p>Action 15: RC to invite Andrea</p>	<p>Andrea King will be giving a presentation to the DES Board</p>

<p>King to the next meeting to provide an update on the new ways of working being implemented.</p>	<p>at the January 2016 meeting.</p>
<p>Action 16: RC to request that the minutes of the DES Board meetings from 2007 are put back on the Equalities page of the WBC website.</p>	<p>DES Board minutes from 5/5/09 have been put onto Issue Manager with the other Council meeting minutes and are accessible via the Council's website. RC sent an email to the DES Board on 10/12 to advise that they are now accessible and providing the link.</p>
<p>Action 17: RC to discuss why JC, KH and AF were not directly consulted about the Council Tax Reduction Scheme with the Consultation Team and Bill Blackett.</p>	<p>Bill Blackett has advised that he was unaware of the existence of the DES Board or the WB Disability Alliance. However they did consult with every current recipient of council tax support, who fell into three groups, working age (who will be affected by the proposed changes, pensioners and vulnerable. The latter two groups are protected and not affected by the changes. Vulnerable has been defined as those in receipt of disability related benefits.</p> <p>When the consultation was published, notification went out on twitter and facebook and also anyone registered for consultation should have received an email alert. Those who claim council tax relief were written to individually and everyone else was emailed. RC sent an email to the DES Board on 14/9 advising about the consultation.</p> <p>As they review annually and consult on any proposed changes they will take on board the need to specifically include such groups.</p>
<p>Action 18: JC to invite Gwen Mason to join the Board / RC to amend the ToR.</p>	<p>RC has amended the Board's ToR and these were emailed to the Board with the October meeting minutes.</p>
<p>Action 19: JR to discuss EOK's membership of the Board with her</p>	