

DISABILITY ADVISORY GROUP

Minutes of the meeting of the Disability Advisory Group held on Friday 29 January at 11.00 am in the Bawnacre Centre, Irvinestown.

PRESENT: Councillor Errol Thompson and Councillor Victor Warrington.

APOLOGIES: Councillor Patricia Rogers, Councillor Bernice Swift, Councillor Debbie Coyle and Robert Gibson.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Davidson, Matthew Nevin and Clarissa Beacom.

1/16 **APOLOGIES**

Ian, Head of Arts and Heritage welcomed everyone present and apologies were accepted.

2/16 **TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR COMMENT AND APPROVAL**

Ian read through the Terms of Reference document that was circulated to the Group; members discussed approvals and amendments.

Amendments included the following:

1.1 The purpose of the Group is to provide support, **(insert) guidance and direction** to Officers of Fermanagh & Omagh District Council on matters related to disability.

2.2.2 It was agreed that smaller working groups perform better than large groups. Members discussed who should be selected as a volunteer (including geographical representation) and what process should be used. It was agreed that a scoping study would be used to identify possible volunteers.

2.4.1 It was agreed that the Chairperson of the group should be a Councillor. Councillor Thompson proposed Councillor Warrington adopt the role as Chairperson and the Group were in agreement.

3.1 The Group decided that meetings will be held on a bi-monthly basis.

Action: Matthew to develop a scoping study of possible volunteers and forward to the Group.

Matthew to make the necessary amendments to the Terms of Reference document.

3/16 **CONSIDERATION OF DISABILITY ACTION PLAN**

The Disability Action Plan 2015-2017 was circulated to the Group. Ian informed the Group that the document was due for a review in August. Ian

and Matthew gave detail on each action in the plan including what stage the Council is at regarding continuing or completion of actions.

Under the 'Providing training on the disability duties to all employees and elected members' action the Group discussed the possibility of the Council providing Sign Language Classes to employees.

Under the 'Promote opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in civic life' action Matthew informed the Group that the Council have received funding for himself and Finbar Maguire, Equality Policy Officer to hold 2 accessibility events which include a presentation on access and what is available from each department of the Council. The possibility of someone attending on behalf of the Group was mentioned.

The Group agreed that advice from Margaret McMahon, Head of Policy and Strategic Services was required in order to give a full update on the plan.

Best practise for updating the Group regarding each action at future meetings was discussed. Due to the high numbers of staff involved in carrying out the work of the plan it was agreed that a written update for each action would be best whilst looking at 2 or 3 items more in depth.

Action: Matthew to explore South West College as a possible facility for staff to learn Sign Language and to research the most cost effective method.

Ian to seek advice from Margaret McMahon regarding the Group receiving progress reports against the Disability Action Plan.

Matthew to prepare a programme detailing services that are to be looked at more in depth at each meeting.

4/16 **EXAMPLES OF WORK CARRIED OUT BY ACCESS AND INCLUSION OFFICER**

Matthew, Inclusion and Access Coordinator gave an overview of his 3 year funded post from PHA and work it includes that was not mentioned in Agenda item 3/16.

5/16 **DATES OF QUARTERLY MEETINGS**

As it was agreed in Agenda item 2/16, meetings will be held on a bi-monthly basis. The next meeting is due to take place on Thursday 24 March 2016 at 2.00 pm in the Bawnacre Centre, Irvinestown.

6/16 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business reported by the Group at the meeting.