

DISABILITY ADVISORY GROUP

Minutes of the meeting of the Disability Advisory Group held on Thursday 24 March 2016 at 2.00 pm in the Bawnacre Centre, Irvinestown.

PRESENT: Councillor Victor Warrington (Chair), Councillor Errol Thompson, Councillor Patricia Rogers and Gerry Knight.

APOLOGIES: Councillor Debbie Coyle, Dermot Devlin, Eileen Drumm and Gerry Maguire.

IN ATTENDANCE: Robert Gibson, Ian Davidson, Matthew Nevin, Margaret McMahon, Finbar Maguire and Clarissa Beacom.

7/16 **WELCOME**

Councillor Warrington welcomed everyone present and introduced Alexander, a student on work experience, to the meeting.

8/16 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were accepted.

9/16 **MATTERS ARISING**

Councillor Thompson proposed the minutes recorded on Friday 29 January 2016 and the Group agreed.

Introductions were given for the benefit of new member, Gerry Knight.

Robert, Director of Community, Health and Leisure, informed the Group that the Council intends on addressing disability in all forms with the help of Matthew, Inclusion and Access Coordinator, and all departments within the Council. Matthew's post is funded by the Council and the Public Health Agency (PHA). Gerry commended Matthew for his work and welcomed the Group in helping improve peoples' lives.

Action: Matthew to ensure 'Minutes' is an item on every Agenda.

10/16 **PROGRAMME OF SERVICE PRESENTATIONS**

Matthew, circulated the draft Service Presentation Schedule to the Group. As there are so many services within the Council, this schedule will allow all sectors to give a presentation to the Group.

Councillor Thompson congratulated Matthew on his work and Councillor Rogers agreed, that it is best to have a detailed approach.

It was agreed that Capital Projects should become an item on the Service Presentation Schedule for September 2016. The Commission Manager,

Head of Contracts and Head of Parks and Open Spaces should be invited to give a presentation.

Action: Matthew to make amendments to the Service Presentation Schedule and circulate to the Group.

11/16 **SERVICE UPDATE: POLICY AND STRATEGIC SERVICES**

Margaret, Head of Policy and Strategic Services, circulated the Policy and Strategic Services Overview presentation to the Group. Margaret, emphasised the importance of equality within the Council, explaining that it was based in the Chief Executive's sector.

Finbar, Equality Policy Officer, went through the presentation in detail focusing on consultations, safeguarding and equality. Finbar, circulated the Equality Action Plan and the Disability Action Plan 2015-2017 to the Group.

The Group was assured that all policies would be circulated to staff within the Council and training would be carried out.

Margaret informed the Group that the annual report on the Disability Action Plan 2015-2017 will be brought to the Groups' attention before being submitted to Council.

12/16 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is due to take place on Thursday 26 May 2016 at 2.00 pm in the Bawnacre Centre, Irvinestown.

13/16 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Matthew informed the Group that a mystery shopper has been arranged to visit venues within the Arts and Heritage sector.