

Notes of the EDDC External Equalities Forum held on Tuesday 25th May 2010

Present:

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| David Ley | Open Door Centre, Exmouth (Nightshift – Open Door) |
| Rev. Peter Brain | Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Faith rep |
| Tom Roncerelli | Stallcombe House, Woodbury Salterton |
| David Pierce | Travellers (Cara) |
| Debbie Williams | Devon & Somerset Fire Service |
| Penny Dane | Plymouth & Devon Racial Equality Council |
| Lynne Robertson | EDVSA, Ottery St. Mary |
| Carol Pilley | Exeter Community Initiatives (Planet Rainbow) |
| Sam Yakoob | Community Safety Mapping Project, Exeter |
| Peter Jeffs | Corporate Director, EDDC |
| Anderson Jones | Diversity Officer, EDDC |
| Jamie Buckley | Engagement and Funding Officer, EDDC |
| Cllr Vivien Duval-Steer | EDDC Equalities Champion |

1. **Welcome, Introductions, housekeeping**

2. **Apologies** – Ricky Croal, Gerry Moore and Emma Stacey, Mel Stiles

3. **Your aspirations and objective from the Forum**

- Survey on equalities, done by Sam, can feed in
- More need by EDDC to get equalities issues right than just abiding by our legal duties
- Sounding Board as to experiences of living in East Devon
- Not just reading documents, also direct discussion
- Comments made must be taken on board
- Feedback required
- Need to help EDDC know our community
- No reliance on postcodes which may be useless for travellers
- SMS for deaf people may be required
- Romany, Irish, New travellers – some have private land. May not wish to directly engage with Council but still have rights, David Pierce will attempt to represent their needs
- Community Compact must be followed

Opportunities

- Migrant workers especially Polish – tend not to fill in papers so surveys and information cannot rely on questions etc. face to face is better
- Font and languages, mapping may be needed
- “You said/we did” feedback is required
- Use existing networks – migrant worker hubs (9 in county)
- Living Options are a useful contact
- Police PACT meetings can be used more
- Sign/vision events – Devon BSL charter – pledges EDDC can sign up to – access is one pledge, consultation is another
- Use Citizens Panel
- Can you put video signing on website? Interpreter at Deaf Academy can help
- Axminster ‘Show’ etc to get message out to people who don’t normally contact the Council
- Sometimes EDDC’s only contact with travellers is when evicted, what about other times to show a better face?
- Permanent sites are easy to use for contacts with travellers
- Accessibility of info for learning disability “keeping safe” pack as an example

- Attitudes – faith communities can be used to promote more diversity thinking for instance
- Networking will challenge preconceptions – informal outreach required
- Telling stories, exchange of case studies – more human than statistics and reports
- Hate crime levels. Not the numbers but impact that matters most – qualitative evaluation required
- Chaotic lifestyle can make contact difficult – need to explore options e.g. via Drop-in cafes
- Senior Council can help promote better attitudes – young versus old

4. **Terms of Reference**

- 1 month to feedback on Terms of Reference proposed

5. **Equality Framework for Local Government**

- Tenant Participation – good example of understanding our community
- Local businesses + Hate Crime – good example of engagement
- Equalities Framework is now about outcomes and good stories

6. **Equality Peer Review Challenge dates**

8/9th September

7. **Local Development Framework (LDF)**

Jamie outlined who we had contacted.

- It was suggested that more Diverse people need to feed in. Engagement in civic life is important for many marginalised people

8. **Anything you can tell us about experience in East Devon at present?**

Private Nursing Homes – Honiton/East Devon. Inspection needed – waking residents at 4 a.m. to get ready for 7 a.m. !

- Letters – alternative means of communication required (eg re homeless or substance abuses)
- Time scales for feedback from voluntary sector – need generous period
- Hate Crime – leading initiative at via EDDC – improve stats. If we can

9. **Any other business**

Will share out e-mail contact list and do not expect our business to only be done through formal meetings

10. **Date of next meeting**

13th July 2010 – 2 p.m. Agreed would select a chair then