

MAYOR OF LONDON

Notes from the Deaf and Disabled Stakeholders Group meeting

Wednesday 5 February 2014, 15:00 – 17:00, City Hall, Committee Room 2

Attendees

Terry Day, Manager of Diversity & Social Policy Team, GLA (In the Chair)
Alex Gibbons, Interactive
Graham Welton, British Deaf Association
Atim Abrams, Mencap
Jason Carlisle, Mencap
Alan Kerr, Greenwich Association of Disabled People CIL/Artsline
Elcena Jeffers, Black Disabled People's Association
Eleanor Briggs, National Aids Trust
Jennifer Harvey, Remploy

Presenters

James Tate, Public Engagement Manager, Mayor's Office for Policing and
Crime (MOPAC)
Richard Blakeway, Deputy Mayor for Housing, Land and Property, GLA

In attendance

Natasha Plummer, Head of Community Engagement, MOPAC
Nateisha De Cruz-Young, GLA
Sue Johnson, GLA

Apologies

Jenny Sealey, GRAEAE
Amit Sharma, GRAEAE
Tracey Lazard, Inclusion London
Henrietta Doyle, Inclusion London
Stephen Lee, Leonard Cheshire Disability
Marie Pate, Mencap
Lidia Best, National Association of Deafened People

Item	Minutes	Actions
1	Welcome and Introductions	
	Chair welcomed guests followed by introductions. She gave thanks to Monica Rivers, who has now moved on, for her past contribution to the group.	1.1 Jason will pass the group's thanks on to Monica Rivers.
2	Minutes of the last meeting and any arising actions	
	The Chair went through the minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 July 2013. These were agreed as a correct record.	
	<p>Transport for London (TfL) – Single Equality Scheme</p> <p>TfL's single equality scheme One Year On progress report and its Easy Read version have been published and circulated to members.</p>	
	<p>Liberty Festival 2013</p> <p>Lip-speakers are available at Liberty. Members were notified of this.</p>	
	<p>Police and Crime Plan/Hate Crime Reduction Strategy</p> <p><u>Hate Crime Reduction Strategy</u></p> <p>MOPAC were approached about engaging with this group on the development of the Hate Crime Reduction Strategy. This is an item on the meeting agenda.</p> <p><u>MPS hate crime group</u></p> <p>Commander Mak Chishti is leading a hate crime group for the MPS with various stakeholders, which covers all areas of hate crime. Anne Novis, who sits on the UK Disabled People's Council, is on the group.</p> <p><u>Disability hate crime definitions</u></p> <p>At present the MPS uses the following disability hate crime definition.</p>	

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	<p>'Any incident that is perceived by the victim, or any other person to be due to a person's disability.'</p>	
	<p>The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) definition for Disability Hate Crime is</p> <p>'Any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by a hostility or prejudice based on a person's disability or perceived disability'</p> <p>The MPS has, to-date, not adopted the ACPO definition.</p> <p><u>Initial contact kiosks</u> A list of the Initial contact kiosks and information about them was sent out to members. The kiosks use Makaton, which may be of use to some learning disabled people. The group asked if other symbols used by learning disabled people are being used.</p> <p><u>Vulnerability assessment framework</u> Commander Christine Jones is leading on the Vulnerability Assessment Framework (VAF). This is still being developed.</p> <p><u>British Transport Police</u> A representative from the British Transport Police (BTP) has been invited to the MPS Hate Crime Diamond Group, which has been providing input into the MPS's Hate Crime Strategy.</p> <p>The MPS has recently (along with City of London) agreed a service level agreement with BTP in relation to domestic abuse that takes place on public transport. This may form the basis for something similar on hate crime.</p>	<p>2.1 MPS will be asked if the kiosks use other symbols used by learning disabled people.</p> <p>2.2 Once completed, the VAF will be circulated to the group.</p>
	<p><u>Sports update</u> An update on the sports programme was circulated to members prior to and at the meeting.</p>	

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	<p><u>Length of meeting</u> So that members are able to discuss issues as fully as they would like to, the room had been booked to allow the meeting to overrun, should members wish it.</p>	
3	Chair's update	
	<p><u>TfL sub regional mobility fora</u> The pilot stage has now ended and an assessment has been undertaken. A report is being taken to TfL's Equality and Inclusion Leadership Group in February.</p>	
	<p><u>Liberty Festival</u> The Mayor of London's Liberty Festival 2013 took place on Saturday 7 September as part of National Paralympic Day (NPD) at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. It was a free event and celebrated disability sport and arts a year on from the end of the Paralympic Games.</p> <p>Also in September, Liberty was the first festival ever to receive a Gold award, from Attitude is Everything, for the level of access it provides to Deaf and disabled people.</p> <p>Following last year's joining together of Liberty Festival with National Paralympic Day, it is proposed to work with the London Legacy Development Corporation and the British Paralympic Association once again, with a follow up NPD/Liberty event.</p> <p>A review of Liberty has been carried out which included various consultations in November-December 2013 with arts and disability groups, partners and sponsors. The findings will help to ensure that Liberty continues to progress and develop into the future.</p> <p>The plans for this year are currently being made, in particular engagement of a producer, which will take place over the next few weeks. A date has been proposed for Saturday 30th August. Confirmation is</p>	

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	expected in February / March.	
	<u>Digital Inclusion</u> The GLA is developing a Digital Inclusion strategy, Nateisha De Cruz-Young is leading on this.	
	<u>Paralympic Legacy Advisory Group (PLAG)</u> PLAG launched its Built Environment Professional Education Project in November 2013. This is aiming to work with the key built environment professional institutions responsible for accrediting professional education courses at universities and further education colleges over the next 5 years to increase and improve the level of inclusive design training in built environment professional education courses covering areas such as highways, facilities management, engineering, architecture and surveying.	
4	Hate Crime Reduction Strategy – James Tate, Public Engagement Manager, Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime	
	<p>Stephen Greenhalgh, the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime would have liked to have attended this meeting, but was unavailable.</p> <p>James Tate presented the outline proposals being considered for the Hate Crime Reduction Strategy. It will focus on prevention, protection and prosecution and will acknowledge that hate crime affects different groups in different ways.</p> <p>Members made the following points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hampshire Police provide hour long training sessions for their officers on people from different communities; including an hour on people with mental health issues, people with learning disabilities, people with autism. • The Police College’s materials are out of date and stigmatising. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist interest groups can provide training to the police (e.g. Deaf people can provide training on Deaf people’s issues and needs) • MENCAP may be able to help with enabling learning disabled people to recognise crime and reporting it. • People with HIV/AIDS are reluctant to report crimes out of concern about how the police will respond to them. <p>Natasha Plummer acknowledged that police officers are not provided with enough training.</p> <p>The Police College is a national body. As such MOPAC has some but limited influence over it.</p> <p>Members asked what the difference is between the role of the MPS and the role of MOPAC in relation to hate crime?</p> <p>James Tate explained that the MPS will be developing a Hate Crime Strategy which will be about the actual operational strategy for dealing with hate crime on the ground. MOPAC’s role is to hold the MPS to account. Therefore, MOPAC’s Hate Crime Strategy will be about how best to hold them to account. Both strategies will complement each other.</p> <p>Members asked when the MPS’s strategy would be published.</p>	<p>4.1 Natasha will provide details of the timescales for the development and consultation of MPS’s hate crime strategy.</p>

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	<p>A member asked what is being done with regard to disabled people committing suicide in response to being subjected to hate crime?</p> <p>Natasha responded that educating people on how to report is an important element.</p> <p>James mentioned that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOPAC is holding a Challenge on Hate Crime on 13 February • members can let him have further comments on the strategy's proposals directly or take part in the on-line survey which will go live in the next few weeks. 	<p>4.2 Members can provide further feedback on the strategies proposals.</p> <p>4.3 James to confirm deadline for providing comments.</p>
5	Draft London Housing Strategy – Ric Blakeway, Deputy Mayor for Housing, Land and Property	
	<p>Ric Blakeway presented relevant elements of the draft London Housing strategy.</p> <p>Members posed the following questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the policy to prioritise working people receiving housing mean that disabled people, who cannot work, lose out? • Has best practice on housing for disabled people adopted by other world cities been considered? • Are there brownfield site in London available for building on and is the GLA able to force people to develop it? • What pressure can we put on developers to use local people to build housing and then be able to live in the housing that is built? • Should there be more ethical developments, i.e. developments that are not just about making money? • What is being done to map both the current and projected increased demand for accessible housing against supply? 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the GLA able to enforce the lifetime homes standards and 10 per cent wheelchair accessible standards? 	
	<p>Members made the following comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fixed term tenancies can cause anxiety to those disabled people, who may never work or can work some of the time, but not all of the time. • There is only a limited amount on accessible housing in the strategy. • Estate agents can be part of the problem of putting profit before behaving ethically. • Developers may change the wheelchair accessible housing back to standard housing, if someone who needs such accommodation does not take it up straight away. <p>Ric Blakeway provided the following responses to members' questions.</p> <p>Some people, including disabled people will be exempt from fixed term tenancies and fixed term does not mean that tenancies will not be renewed. The revised strategy will make this more explicit.</p> <p>The GLA has looked at who owns what land that has received planning permission. Some are big schemes that take a long time to complete and some is being held for speculation. We are looking to address this by limiting the time land can be held without planning permission being implemented.</p> <p>The building industry recognises that it has a skills shortage and it is becoming accepted practice for planning applications to push for a commitment to local job creation.</p> <p>Planning gain is being used to do such things as create new jobs and provide new community facilities. We are also introducing creative new products to address the issue of a lack of affordable</p>	

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	<p>housing in London, such as funding low rent homes and schemes to make it cheaper to buy homes.</p> <p>The GLA is looking at letting agents and the increase in private homes, but there is little it can do. We are looking at whether we can make sure letting agents fees are transparent and conditions are improved. The strategy focuses on what the GLA can do.</p> <p>A lot of accessible housing is not currently let to people who need them. The GLA is pushing the Accessible Housing Register. Ric has written to all the London boroughs who have not signed up to the register, asking why they have not signed and when will they.</p> <p>The London Strategic Housing Market Assessment and the Housing in London reports provides some data on supply, demand and projections.</p> <p>The lifetime homes and wheelchair accessible standards can be enforced through the Mayor's planning applications review role and through anything that we fund.</p> <p>The consultation closing date is 17 February.</p>	<p>5.1 The projections, the supply and demand and the need for accessible housing will be circulated to members</p> <p>5.2 Members to submit any further comments on the draft housing strategy by 17 February.</p>
6	AOB & date of next meeting	
	<p>Graham Welton asked if he would be able to review the MPS's Initial Contact Kiosks.</p>	<p>6.1 GLA officers will raise this request with MPS.</p>

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	<p>Employment, jobs and training is to be the focus of the next meeting.</p> <p>Members asked to be informed should there be opportunities to contribute to training provided to agencies.</p> <p>Date of the next meeting This will be determined by the availability of the relevant Deputy Mayor. The end of June is most likely.</p>	<p>6.2 Members to email Sue Johnson suggestions of what they would like the employment, jobs and training item to cover.</p> <p>6.3 Notice of the next meeting will be provided at the earliest opportunity.</p>