

Notes from the Deaf and Disabled Stakeholders Group meeting

Friday 6th July 2012, 10:00 – 12:00 at the GLA, City Hall

Attendees - members

AC Alan Kerr, Artsline
AW Adrian White, London Autistic Rights Movement (LARM)
TL Tracy Lazard, Inclusion London
FV Faryal Velmi, Transport for All
CG Claire Glassman, WinVisible
EJ Elcena Jeffers, Black Disabled People's Association
CL Claire Lindsey, Member of London Autistic Rights Move
SL Stewart Lucas, Interactive

Presenters

SG Stephen Golden, Head of Equality and Inclusion – Transport for London
BO Brian Oakaby, Senior Events Officer – Greater London Authority (GLA)
SL Stewart Lucas, Interactive
JF Julie Fleck, Advisor on Paralympics – GLA

In attendance

TD Terry Day, Manager of Diversity & Social Policy - GLA (Chair)
DH David Haralambidis, Diversity and Social Policy Officer – GLA
SJ Sue Johnson, Senior Diversity and Social Policy Officer – GLA
PP Permjeet Panesar, Senior Diversity and Social Policy Officer - GLA
NS Nasra Salah, Administrator – GLA
AC Akira Cripps, Disability Back Up
KS Kirsteen Singers, Transport for London
LM Leyla Mustafa, Transport for London

Apologies

Andrew Lee, People First
Tim Riley, British Deaf Association
Liz Sayce, Disability Rights UK
Tomato Lichy, Greater London Deaf Association

Item	Minutes	Actions
1	Welcome and Introductions	
	<p>Terry Day (TD) opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees and there was a round table of introductions.</p> <p>Richard Barnes, the former chair, was thanked for his commitment to the group.</p>	<p>Thanks will be sent out to Richard Barnes (TD)</p>
2	Matters arising from 9 February 2012 meeting	
2.1	Mayor's revised London Housing Strategy (LHS): The final strategy has not been published due to the Mayoral elections but a draft was circulated to the group.	2.1 Final LHS will be circulated to the whole group when it is published. (DH)
2.2	<p>The final version of the Transport for London accessibility implementation plan, has been published, following consultation, and circulated amongst the group. It is also available on the TFL website:</p> <p>http://www.tfl.gov.uk/assets/downloads/corporate/taking-forward-the-mts-accessibility-implementation-plan-march-2012-final.pdf</p>	
2.3	<p>The Mayor has published a revised version of 'Equal Life Chances For All', the GLA's response to the Equality Act 2010 public sector equality duty. This is available on the GLA website. It contains the GLA's statutory equality objectives:</p> <p>http://www.london.gov.uk/publication/equal-life-chances-all-2012</p>	2.3 Circulate hard and electronic copy to all members of the group. (DH)
2.4	The consultation response from the GLA to the National Disability Equality Strategy was submitted.	2.4 Circulate the Mayor's response. (DH)
3	Transport for London (TfL) Single Equality Scheme (Stephen Golden, Head of Diversity and Inclusion –TFL.	
	Members received copies of TfL's Single Equality Scheme consultation document.	

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	<p>Stephen Golden presented the draft scheme and sought views from the members present.</p> <p>Stephen Golden provided an update on how TfL is responding to the general duty and specific duties of the Equality Act and producing a new scheme which will combine all of the TfL existing schemes, and also link into other important policy documents, such as the accessibility implementation plan which was published March 2012.</p> <p>The main points of his presentation were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Equality Act 2010, section 149 of the Act tells the public authorities such as TfL that they must have due regard to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct, advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not, and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. One of the ways in which public sector bodies are fulfilling that specific duty is by the publication of equality schemes. 2. TfL has gender, race, faith, sexual orientation and disability equality schemes and they have done extensive research and consultation on the travel needs of London's diverse community. The Single Equality Scheme will replace these. 3. TfL's role is primarily to implement the Mayor's transport strategy which is decided in consultation with senior officers of TfL and other stakeholders. An essential and statutory part of the Mayor's transport strategy is the Accessibility Implementation Plan (AIP) which requires the Mayor to set out how accessibility of the transport network will be improved over a period of time. As accessibility issues are dealt with in the AIP, they are not mentioned in detail in this draft equality scheme. The AIP can be viewed at: http://www.tfl.gov.uk/assets/downloads/corporate/taking-forward-the-mts-accessibility-implementation-plan-march-2012-final.pdf 	

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	<p>4. The Single Equality Scheme out for consultation includes areas around transport and planning, network affordability, safety and security.</p> <p>5. TfL spends a large amount of money with the private sector on investing in building railways, providing rolling stock and offering day-to-day services that TfL procures to assist working Deaf and disabled employees and progressing accessibility.</p> <p>6. A topic that is not in the scheme but TfL would like to put forward is the introduction of Regional Mobility Fora led and funded by TfL with Deaf and disabled people and stakeholders. These will focus on cross borough transport issues allowing for TfL to get appropriate levels of management at the meetings and talk about some long term issues rather than focusing on local and specific ones as is the case with the current borough mobility forums.</p> <p>TD asked about the time scale for the creation of the sub regional mobility fora and SG clarified that it will run as a pilot in one area. It is hoped it will be up and running by 2013. The intention is then to start the whole process across the city for all of the sub regions at the beginning of 2014.</p> <p>The deadline to respond to SG about the sub regional forums is on 1 September 2012.</p> <p>The following issues and comments were raised: CG asked if there is a way that people can raise issues on an ongoing basis instead of waiting for meetings.</p> <p>SG advised that the comments and complaints procedures to TfL are being made more accessible and streamlined to be more specific to individuals. SG stated that he accepts email, telephone call or tweets.</p> <p>AW pointed out that there are many forms and procedures to go through when raising a complaint, which can be bureaucratic and most of the time, are</p>	<p>Members to contact SG suggesting main objectives for the forum and encourage members to respond before the September 1 2012 deadline. (members)</p>

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	<p>not answered. He also suggested that TfL needs, apart from consulting the local and regional mobility forums, to take into account the opinions of under represented groups too.</p> <p>TL suggested that the sub regional forums are linked into the local disabled people's forums in that area, so that policies are shaped by the reality on the ground.</p> <p>TL asked SG to clarify the objectives of the fora and she suggested that one of the objectives in developing the Regional Mobility Fora could be to scrutinise service in that sub region and to feed into policy development by talking to senior staff at TfL. Another objective could be to work with disabled people's organisations to develop pan-London policies as well as dealing with complaints and day to day issues.</p> <p>TL asked if there are equality objectives in the draft Single Equality Scheme and SG stated that there are some high level objectives such as accessibility, affordability, safety and security, but he hopes to get some specific ones from the consultation.</p> <p>SL commented that the inclusive sport agenda is also linked with providing inclusive transport to leisure facilities and schools.</p> <p>SG explained that he aims to use good practise examples from facilities such as schools, leisure centres and other inclusive places as examples and guidance for TfL.</p> <p>EJ said that it is often difficult for disabled people to participate in procurement procedures and asked whether TfL has thought about making these more accessible.</p> <p>SG stated that TfL wants to encourage Deaf and disabled people to start their own businesses and support inclusive enterprises that are operated by women and BAME groups or disabled people so they</p>	

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	<p>are discussing how to simplify the procedures. He also stated that TfL aims to increase employment of Deaf and disabled people in TfL.</p>	
4	Cultural Programme 2012 and participation of Deaf and Disabled artists. (Brian Oakaby, Senior Events Officer - GLA)	
	<p>Brian Oakaby (BO) briefed the group about the cultural programmes for 2012 and participation from Deaf and disabled artists.</p> <p>BO gave an overview of his role at the GLA and Liberty Festivals for the past 10 years.</p> <p>He informed the group about a number of different events taking place across London where Deaf and disabled people can participate as well as artists. These events include 'The Big Dance, Surprises, Show Time, Secrets – Hidden London and London 2012 Festival'. He also named the partners who are involved in marketing and who they are working closely with such organisations as Shape, Interactive and the GLA.</p> <p>He explained that all staff and volunteers have been trained to raise their inclusive awareness. Therefore a lot of procedures have been put in place to ensure access provision. There are also some BSL interpreted shows and hearing loops available at some shows depending on venue. Trafalgar Square, National Theatre, Royal Festival Hall and the British Film Institute are some of the main venues the out door events are taking place in.</p> <p>AC questioned BO why he has not heard of any of these events so far.</p> <p>BO informed AC there were a couple of meetings held and AC could not attend hence the reason why he hasn't heard of some of these events. He still encouraged the members to spread the word as it is a great opportunity.</p> <p>The website address is: http://www.molpresents.com/</p>	<p>Information about all events to be circulated by and amongst group members. (DH and members)</p> <p>DH to send web links to all members.</p> <p>All members to have a look at the website.</p> <p>BO to set up a Liberty Festival Advisory Group meeting.</p>

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5	Launch of major new funding stream for disability sport (Stuart Lucas, Interactive)	
	<p>Stuart Lucas (SL) informed the group about the history of Interactive and their campaigns over the past 5 years.</p> <p>He highlighted that sport involving disabled people needs to involve Disabled People's Organisations as much as the sports sector.</p> <p>After much campaigning Sport England have listened and created a fund called 'Inclusive Sport', launched in June 2012 for £8million, which identifies DPO's involvement in improving participation amongst disabled people.</p> <p>The purpose of Inclusive Sport is to increase regular participation of Deaf and disabled people in physical and sporting activity. They are aware that ¾ of Deaf and disabled people are not active and this funding is there for disability organisations to deliver projects to change these statistics, changing mindsets and linking into sports organisations.</p> <p>Projects for £10,000 or more and can bid up to £8million.</p> <p>The best place to go for information is the Sport England website - www.sportengland.org, alternatively, email or call Stuart Lucas. Apply for funding before the 31 August 2012 deadline.</p>	<p>DH to circulate to all members for information.</p>
6	GLA's London 2012 Accessibility for Visitor Programme (Julie Fleck, Advisor for Paralympics – GLA).	
	<p>Julie Fleck (JF) presented on how the GLA has improved accessibility for disabled people across the Capital.</p>	<p>Circulate the presentation to the group. (DH)</p>

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	<p>There are three key areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ physical access improvements ▪ online information for disabled people about accessibility ▪ online disability awareness training for staff from businesses, restaurants and bars on being aware of different types of disabilities and how they interact with and welcome disabled people. <p><u>Improved accessibility at the South Bank Riverside walk.</u></p> <p>The GLA worked with Southwark and Lambeth councils and with the Government Olympic Executive (GOE) who funded £4million to improve access along the riverside walk, improved cobbled surfaces, and pavements, put in better lighting, more signage and improved ramp gradients. These improvements are not just for the London 2012 Games but for London's public in the future.</p> <p><u>Inclusive London</u></p> <p>Direct Enquiries have set up a website on the accessibility of London venues. It enables businesses to advertise themselves, with 35,000 businesses registered so far.</p> <p>It also enables people to complain or compliment good service/practice about the registered organisations.</p> <p>There have been 10-12 million hits so far. http://www.inclusivelondon.com/defaultIL.aspx</p> <p><u>Destination London</u></p> <p>This is a website which offers a free online course to help hospitality staff welcome disabled visitors to London. It also has a lot of information about how to improve access to services and can be used as a training tool. http://www.london.gov.uk/destinationlondon</p>	

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	<p>All the volunteers at the London 2012 Games have received disability equality training.</p> <p>AW wanted to know if the neuro- diverse community is represented on LLBEAP - the London Legacy Built Environment Access Panel. This is not a GLA panel but is run by Vicki Austin and Ian McKinnon at the London Legacy Development Corporation. Rob Newman is a member.</p> <p>JF will email AW for more information on the LLBEAP</p>	<p>JF to email AW information on the LLBEAP.</p>
7	AOB	
	<p>Events happening during the Paralympics Terry Day informed the group that during the London 2012 Games, City Hall is being turned into London House, which will be a place for really welcoming many, many visitors from across the world.</p> <p>Mayoral Reception On Friday 7 September, the Mayor is holding a reception for Deaf and disabled peoples' organisations as part of the overall celebrations of the Paralympic Games.</p> <p>Diversity Works for London On Wednesday 5 September, Diversity Works for London, which is the Mayor's primarily web based programme aimed at businesses, promoting diversity in business, will be hosting an event aimed at small and medium enterprises in London.</p> <p>Autism Forum West Midlands Police has an autism forum. AW would like a similar forum, as there is gross over representation for autistic people in prisons. 7 per cent of the prison population are autistic.</p>	<p>PP to research and identify key lessons learned in West Midlands.</p>

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	<p>Engagement with the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime LARM and Inclusion London would like more engagement with MOPC.</p> <p>Frequency of meetings and group attendance Some members of the group suggested the group may be more effective if there were more meetings throughout the year and if it was opened up to more organisations.</p> <p>The provisional date for the next meeting will be on 25 January 2013 from 10:00 to 12:00 at Committee Room 5, City Hall.</p>	<p>DH to liaise with MOPC.</p>