

Meeting of Key London organisations of/for Deaf and disabled people

Meeting Notes

2 February 2010, 15:00 – 18:00,
Committee Room 5

1. Welcome and introductions

The Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, chaired the meeting and introductions were made. The Deputy Mayor explained that the Mayor's Office had reviewed the Deaf and disabled stakeholder meetings to ensure a productive dialogue and action based approach. They were keen to discuss more strategic issues with a smaller group of organisations.

2. Review of the Disability Equality Scheme,

Terry Day, Manager Diversity and Social Policy, TD gave a presentation on the review of the GLA Disability Equality Scheme and the duty the GLA has to produce a Disability Equality Scheme. The attendees were invited to begin discussions and shape and inform the development of the DES.

3. Break out sessions to set the objectives for the new GLA Disability Equality Scheme

The attendees were divided in two groups, each with a facilitator and a note taker to discuss their key objectives for the Scheme.

Group 1

List of participants

David Congdon, (Head of Campaign & Policy, Mencap)
Eleanor Briggs (Assistant Director of Policy & Campaigns, NAT)
Richard Holmes (Regional Campaign Officer, RNIB)
Abigail Lock (Head of Advocacy and Campaigns, Scope)
Anne Kane (Policy Manager Inclusion London)
Terry Railey (Chair, British Deaf Association)

Key issues raised:

- The group noted the importance of challenging attitudes and ensure that front line services have adequate training to address hate crime
- It was noted that there should be targets for disabled staff, particularly at senior level across the GLA and the functional bodies.
- The importance of the GLA and functional bodies using the social model of disability was noted by the group.
- There should be adequate communication and consultation with disabled people on all key strategies.
- There should be more opportunities for Deaf communities to express themselves
- Ensure Deaf and disabled people are engaged in sport and the London 2012 and can access all opportunities that are offered.

Group 2:**List of participants**

David Haralambidis (GLA)

Monica Rivers (Mencap)

Iain Gowans (The British Paralympic Association)

Alex Gibbons (Inclusive Fitness Initiative)

Claire Glasman (Winvisible)

Andrew Little (Inclusion for London)

Bernd Sass (National Centre for Independent Living)

Henrietta Doyle (London Visual Impairment Forum)

- Need to be clear who we mean when we refer to 'disabled Londoners'.
- Regarding transport, it was noted that the reduction in funding to boroughs will affect concessionary fares.
- It was important to ensure that cyclists only use the cycling lanes or the road but not the pavement used by pedestrians.
- Deaf and disabled to be able to have access to sport facilities as well as to be able to participate with London 2012

4. Feedback from group discussions.

The groups gathered and gave the feedback of the break out sessions. RB confirmed the importance of using this information to shape the development of the DES.

5. Presentation by Alex Gibbons and Stewart Lucas, London Forum for disabled people on the IFI Project and the “Inclusive and Active 2”

Alex Gibbons, of the London’s Sports Forum for Disabled People gave a presentation on the IFI (Inclusive Fitness Initiative) London Project.

IFI London is a four-year project funded by the London Development Agency and managed by London Sports Forum for Disabled People. By the end of the project in 2013 IFI London will have created 150 fitness facilities across Greater London, which will have achieved the IFI Mark Accreditation.

The IFI Mark is the nationally recognised standard of inclusion within the fitness industry, awarded to fitness facilities that are inclusive of disabled and non-disabled people. IFI Mark Accreditation can be awarded at three levels: Provisional, Registered or Excellent.

6. AOB

There was no other business.

7. Close of the meeting