

# **Meeting of Key London organisations off/for Deaf and disabled people**

Monday 27 September 2010

14:00 – 17:00

Committee Room 5, City Hall

## **Attendees**

See attached list.

### **1. Welcome and introductions**

Richard Barnes (RB), Deputy Mayor of London welcomed the attendees and asked the participants to introduce themselves.

### **2. Notes from previous meeting and actions arising**

Notes from previous were reviewed and agreed. There were no actions arising.

### **3. Introduction to the Disability Equality Scheme**

RB introduced the scheme to the attendees pointing out that this is a genuine consultation and that the authority is open to hear views, and proposed amendments, to the published draft DES. He stressed that it is important the document is shaped by the stakeholders themselves rather than by the GLA.

The final version of the scheme will inform the Mayor's strategies and policies and support of his equality vision for London. The GLA want to set the gold standard for Deaf and disabled Londoners when interacting with the GLA Group.

RB also pointed out that by chairing the Equalities and Access 2012 Forum gives the opportunity to ensure that equality and access issues for all disabled and Deaf people, irrespective of their individual impairments, are properly thought through and included, not only in the planning and building of the Olympic and Paralympic venues but in all open events which will take place during the games too.

### **4. Overview of the GLA's draft Disability Equality Scheme**

Glenn Marshall (GM), Senior Diversity and Social Policy Officer, presented an overview of the GLA's draft Disability Equality

Scheme to inform attendees of the content and provide some key information in order to facilitate the discussion that followed.

## **5. Group discussion and feedback on the DES**

Discussion opened with general comments around the main issues respondents were concerned about.

This included:

- The likely impact of spending cuts and the danger of raising expectations around crime reporting
- Police follow up is still shaped by prejudice and what is easy to follow up
- Hate crime is seen as low level crime
- What is needed is a culture change: in wider society there is a lack of vision and positive views on disabled people
- There needs to be a strong inclusion agenda not just a response to individual issues.
- It was also felt that there was not enough on older people in the DES who often face particular issues, (e.g.: home care)
- It was also stated that the objectives in the DES were not specific enough and difficult to measure: what is wanted is targets not aspirations. It would be useful to rename chapter 6 as 'objectives'. There were also many things missing from chapter 6 that are mentioned in the DES.

### **On the issue of housing**

- The DES does not mention the Disability Facilities Grant. There are particular issues around accessing this grant
- The Mayor could help to promote awareness of this grant and lobby government and boroughs to promote take up
- One of the problems with the grant is that the criteria used to determine eligibility varies by borough. The grant award is decided by a panel. The Mayor could press for universal standards across London
- Mention was also made of childcare places. It is important that there are appropriate places that are able to care for disabled children
- The DES would also benefit from more pictures.

Discussion then took place around each of the sections of the DES.

## **Introduction**

- On the issue of the definition of disability it is important that the language used in the text should be agreed and consistent.

## **Chapter 2**

- Reliance on the Deaf and disabled key stakeholders meetings would give a false impression of engagement with disabled people. The group has a small membership and engagement needs to be wider
- The need is to improve dialogue with more engagement, more frequent meetings with more groups.

## **Chapter 3**

- This section is aspirational rather than having clear objectives.

## **Chapter 4**

### **Housing**

- Hate crime within housing neighbourhoods is missing
- Hospital discharge is also not considered: delay in discharge is often due to lack of appropriate housing
- Note should be taken of housing benefit cuts. Research by the National Housing Federation is showing impact on disabled people. The Mayor should aim to take action to restrict the impact of Housing Benefit cuts on disabled people in London.

### **Transport**

- Door to door services are not meeting the needs of disabled people
- Cut backs on staffing of tube stations can result in lack of assistance: what happens if someone gets stuck in a lift and there are no staff to assist?
- Concerns about the cuts in step free tube stations programme
- Action on bus stops with level kerbs needs to be increased
- Action should be taken on street furniture next to bus stops
- Meeting the access needs of one group can impact on the needs of another; (i.e. drop kerbs)

- There should be also be more training for transport providers across all disabilities.

A number of issues were also raised around black cabs.

- There have been instances of people with learning difficulties and other disabled people not being picked up
- There needs to be greater diversity in provision of types of vehicles.

## **Crime**

- In cases of domestic violence services don't always follow or support people
- When a disabled person has to leave a violent home they may have to go to a borough that doesn't recognise their needs or offer them the same level of services
- This can mean that they either have to settle for less support or go back to their home
- Similarly the benefits system doesn't help women fleeing domestic violence. Benefits can be stopped or lost if people leave their homes
- Benefits should recognise the psychological impact of domestic violence and the need to support family members
- Loss of benefits can undermine this
- There should be some kind of passport to access benefits in boroughs across London.

## **Planning**

- It was felt that none of this section was reflected in chapter 6

## **Income and Poverty**

- Barriers to employment prevent disabled people getting jobs
- The agenda of moving people back to work was having a negative impact on disabled people: the emphasis on employment access has downgraded the benefits of quality jobs.
- The emphasis is often just on getting people into work that isn't always suitable
- Lack of training
- Nothing on GLA employment and a lack of measurable targets

- Home care charges are affecting how much people can spend on heating and food.

## **2012/ Sport & Culture**

- There should be more around aspirations around the cultural Olympiad
- This section is seen as missed opportunity: the UK is a leader in disability arts and this should be clearly flagged up and built upon
- A list of where all 2012 linked facilities are sited including cultural Olympiad events would be very useful for disabled people and organisations.

## **GLA as employer**

- There is a lack of measurable targets

## **Chapter 5**

This should mention voluntary sector organisations that can help with the work of the Mayor

## **6. Next Steps**

Comments from this and the rest of consultation meetings, including comments and proposals posted online will be published in a report this autumn. The comments will be taken into account when the final version of the DES will be published, which is expected early in the new year and will assist the Mayor in forming his policies.

## **7. Dates, times and location of next meetings**

27 January 2011, 14:00 – 17:00 and 27 July and 15:00 – 18:00, City Hall, Committee Room 3

## Attendees' List

First Name	Last Name	Title	Organisation
Claire	Glassman		WinVisible
Stewart	Lucas	CEO	Interactive Disability Equality Forum
Ann	Kane	Policy Manager	Inclusion London
Alan	Kerr	General Manger	GAD
Judith	Kilvington	Executive Director	Graeae Theatre
Monica	Rivers		Mencap
John	Wilkinson	Chair	Artsline
Permjeet	Panesar	Consultant	

## GLA Attendees

First Name	Last Name	Title	Organisation
Richard	Barnes	Statutory Deputy Mayor of London	GLA
Terry	Day	Manager, Diversity and Social Policy	GLA
Glenn	Marshall	Senior Diversity and Social Policy Officer	GLA
David	Haralambidis	Diversity and Social Policy Officer	GLA