

City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council

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Minutes of a meeting of the Bradford Community Legal Advice Service Partnership Board held on 7 March 2007 at City Hall, Bradford

Commenced 1800

Concluded 1850

PRESENT

Members of the Board

Jan Curry	CHAS Housing Aid	Voluntary Sector
Fiona Hedar	Bradford Law Society	Private Sector
Lynette Kirk	Manningham Project	Voluntary Sector
Councillor Howard Middleton	Liberal Democrat Group	Bradford Council
Councillor Adrian Naylor	Conservative Group	Bradford Council
Liz Reveley	Bradford ACSG	Voluntary Sector
George Scully	Bradford & Airedale PCT	Health Sector
Sue Williscroft	Bradford Law Society	Private Sector

Also present

Sikander Hussain	Key House Project, Keighley	Non-Voting Member	Co-opted
Julie Robinson-Joyce	Community Funding Unit	Bradford Council	
Andy Taylor	Bradford CAB	Voluntary Sector	
Claire Tomenson	Secretary	Bradford Council	

132. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Zahida Mallard and Dave Preston.

Lynette was elected to chair the meeting in Dave's absence.

133. MINUTES

It was agreed:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2007 be accepted as a correct record.



134. **MATTERS ARISING**

- (i) Julie reported that she had contacted the person involved in relation to the advice for lottery research and had supplied the information requested.

135. **REVIEW OF ACTION PLAN TARGETS TO END OF FEBRUARY 2007**

The Board went through the targets contained within the Action Plan with particular reference to those with a February timescale. Additional points are noted below:

Tackling Financial Inclusion

It was noted that the work to be undertaken by a consultant was being progressed and would be resolved soon. The funds for the debt training course had to be spent by the end of March 2007 and this would be achieved.

Joint Working

Julie reported that liaison among the key funders was ongoing and that monitoring requirements were being progressed. Links were trying to be established with a partner within the Building Communities Executive to enable additional funding to be sought.

Shared Futures

Work had been undertaken in relation to domestic violence in order to see if joint working could be undertaken. Julie explained that the advice for people from East European countries had not been progressed as yet and that a fresh focus was required for the 'Promoting Independence' priority area.

With regard to access to advice for people in full time employment, Andy stated that the telephone advice was now operating.

As an associated issue, Sue informed the Board of a scheme from the Legal Services Commission (LSC) involving Community Legal Service (CLS) Direct and undertook to report back on any issues.

It was noted that two child information workers had been appointed to give advice and link into the Children and Young People's Partnership.

Strategic Social Policy

Julie confirmed that the Social Policy and Communications Strategy were ongoing.

Ensure Availability of Resources for Training, Infrastructure Support and Publicity

It was noted that the advice infrastructure was working well.

136. **SOCIAL POLICY REPORT**

Julie tabled a briefing note on the Social Policy issues that had been highlighted during October to December 2006 (copy attached as Appendix 1).

It was noted that a number of cases were emerging regarding Social Security Appeal Tribunals in relation to the plight of European Economic Community (EEC) nationals and the failure of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to act on the decisions made. Julie suggested that there may be an organisation that would be interested in these case studies and undertook to progress the issue.

ACTION: Julie

As an associated issue, Sikander reported that the Tribunal Service in Keighley had found alternative accommodation in Bradford.

137. ADVISORY SUB-GROUP PROGRESS REPORT

Julie explained that unfortunately the Sub-Group had not met since the last meeting, however, a meeting would be convened prior to the Board meeting in May 2007.

138. COMMISSIONING UPDATE

Julie explained that the Funders Group had made recommendations in December 2006, though they had not been able to make these public as the budget had not been finalised at that point. The Council's budget had been set on 1 March 2007, however, it was not yet clear whether the amount of funding was static or there would be an uplift. Dave was progressing the matter and letters would be circulated to the groups shortly. Once issues were clarified Julie confirmed that she would be liaising with the groups in relation to the contracts.

139. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (i) Jan tabled notification of a competition being held by CHAS Housing Aid, Bradford, on Thursday 22 March 2007 at the Midland Hotel, Bradford, in aid of homeless and vulnerable families in the Bradford area.
- (ii) It was noted that this would be the last meeting attended by Jan as she was due to retire in May. The Board thanked her for her contributions to the meetings and wished her well for the future.

Chair

Note: These minutes are subject to approval as a correct record at the next meeting of the Board.

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