

Disability BackUp Planning Team meeting Minutes Friday 25 July 2014

Attending: Sandra St. Hilaire, Maureen Ford, Anthony Larvin (chairing), Andrea Rawlings, Karl Farrell, David Holland, Helen Wildbore

Apologies: David Thornton, Ron Newman

Action items are in **bold**, with the name of the person to action in brackets.

Report back from last Forum meeting

It was thought that the last Forum meeting (on 30 June) went well but that the attendance was a bit low. 28 people attended, but our target is to have at least 30 people attending. There was a discussion about how to increase attendance, including having a 'clean up' of the database by **including a return address on the newsletter envelope** so that we can remove any old addresses (HW and DH to action) and **adding a reference in the database to which members are active/last contact made** with each member (HW).

It was also suggested that we should send a copy of the newsletter to Lord Lowe. **Other suggestions of non-**

members we should send the newsletter to should be sent to Helen.

HW will type up the feedback forms from the last Forum and circulate them to the planning team.

DBU admin update

Helen reported on progress made with DBU's database. It has been updated following a mail-out of Contact Update Forms with the last newsletter. We now have many more email addresses for members. She has also asked the IT consultant (John) to make some changes to the website (removing the 'rolling banner' so it is more accessible for the visually impaired and putting the date of the next meeting on the home page). Helen and John will also be populating DBU's Facebook page and Twitter feed. **Circulate links for Facebook page and Twitter to members FYI (HW).**

A marketing strategy was discussed and the following actions were agreed:

- **Redesign of the DBU leaflet (HW)**
- **Circulation of the leaflets to the planning team (HW)**
- **Distribute the leaflets at events/meetings we attend (all)**
- **Send leaflets to Hackney libraries and the mobile library with copies of the newsletter (HW)**
- **Send leaflets to Hackney hospitals (HW)**

- **Send leaflets to be displayed at the Hackney Service Centre** (HW already discussed with Sonia Khan at LBH)

Other suggestions of where to send the leaflets are welcome.

Some new pages for the website were discussed, including:

- Keep in touch/update your contact details
- Page for people 'newly disabled' or new to Hackney – signposting/links re services etc
- Feedback page/what would you like to see?

HW to draft this new content and send to John for uploading. Ask John for a report of visits to the website (HW).

Access audit training

Two suggested dates for the training had been circulated and there was a preference for 26 August. That date was agreed upon. **HW to finalise the arrangements and circulate details to attendees.**

Planning for Forum meeting in September

It was agreed that we would invite the new cabinet member for housing to speak at the next meeting and ask him to bring along an officer. We would also invite the chief executive of Hackney Homes. We agreed a list of potential issues for discussion:

- What is being done to ensure tenants are getting the benefits they are entitled to?
- A connected issue is the implications of the 'bedroom tax'.
- New housing – is it accessible (and affordable)?
- Waiting lists for housing for disabled people
- 'Lifelong living'

HW to approach speakers with this outline.

It was agreed that we would **approach the cycling team at LBH again and invite them to discuss their proposed campaign on considerate cycling (HW)**. It was also agreed that we would **write to the parks team at LBH**, copying in the cabinet member for leisure, and ask them for a response on the change in policy on cycling in parks (HW and DH to draft). We will collect evidence from DBU members of their experience/stories on this issue.

It was agreed that we wouldn't invite a speaker to the Forum on concessions in council tax. Instead we would **include an item in the next newsletter** on this, asking for people's experiences/problems in getting the concession (HW to draft).

It was agreed that DBU would look into accessibility of polling stations ahead of the next general election. A new report by Scope of the 2010 election showed that only 1/3 polling stations was accessible. **HW to check the reports' findings on Hackney polling stations.**

We would **ask LBH for their response to the report and report back at the next Forum to ask if members had any problems/issues in 2010 (HW).**

Streetscene

We have a meeting with Streetscene on 1 August. We have responded to several planning proposals, in particular to the proposed scheme on New Inn Yard.

August newsletter

It was agreed we would have items on the following:

- Summary of this meeting/work of the planning team. **Anthony to draft and send to HW by 8 August.**
- Telecare Focus Group, which 3 DBU members have joined. Article to ask DBU members what their experiences are of Telecare. **HW to draft**
- Streetscene – report back of the meeting scheduled for 1 August. **HW to ask John Thornton to draft by 8 August.**
- Proposed changes to the Stoke Newington Gyratory. **HW to ask John Thornton to draft by 8 August.**
- APPG on Disability, report back of recent meeting. Anthony has sent to HW already.
- Concessions on council tax. **HW to draft.**

DBU would continue to work on the issue of encroachments on pavements but it was agreed a piece wasn't needed for the next issue of the newsletter.

Any other business

It was noted that the London Cycling Summit will take place in Hackney on 7 August. It was agreed DBU could cover the cost of one admission for someone to attend and represent the views of DBU. **Maureen to circulate details to see if a member of the planning team wanted to attend.**

Karl reported that he is setting up a new Forum for blind and partially sighted people to replace Foresight. It was thought this would complement the work of DBU. It was agreed that DBU would work closely with this issue-specific group and do joint work/link up where appropriate.

The next DBU planning team meeting will take place on Monday 6 October at 11am at the Hackney Museum.