

Minutes of a meeting held on 15 January 2008

1. Apologies

Received from Neil Irving, Drew Fussey, Liz White

2. Present:

David Walker – North Yorkshire County Council
Cathrine Hall – North Yorkshire County Council
Chris Shield – North Yorkshire Forum for Voluntary Organisations
Judith Bromfield – Richmondshire CVS
Nigel Phillip – North Yorkshire Fire Service

3. Welcome and introductions

David Walker welcomed Nigel to the meeting and there were general introductions.

4. Update on NYSP Equalities Task Group

David circulated copies of the minutes of the last meeting of the NYSP Equalities Task Group, held on 6 December 2007, and several issues were considered.

David advised the group that guidance has now been produced by the Department of Communities and Local Government, relating to translations and community cohesion and he has circulated this to the members of the group.

In relation to the mapping of organisations, groups and the work being undertaken in relation to migrant workers and BME groups, Judith advised that Richmondshire LSP's Stronger Communities Group is also trying to map this work within their area.

In relation to the inclusion of York City Council, whilst the Action Learning Sets have been fully booked, they will be welcome to attend and contribute to the proposed 'reference group' meetings.

Nigel re-emphasised the new stronger legislative powers that the Fire Service now have over the use of accommodation above restaurants and shops.

Prohibition Notices can be served if the accommodation is not fit for purpose. It may be possible for the post codes of premises where notices have been served to be released to other organisations.

David suggested to the group that it may want to revisit its membership following the next meeting of the NYSP Equalities Task Group.

5. Action Learning Sets (ALS)

It was agreed in principle, that following the first (morning) meeting of the ALS, the sets should start with lunch at noon, and work from 1pm until 4pm. The reference group arrangements would be finalised in the ALS discussions, however, they will act as peer group review mechanisms for the ALS. There will be an open invitation for the reference group meetings for the 'welcome pack', but a smaller, organisationally based meeting may be more useful for the discussion around the use of volunteers. They may be organised by the voluntary sector, to reduce potential barriers to inclusion.

The timetable for the reference group meetings is only provisional at this stage, and in particular the timing of the first one may be premature.

6. Data sets

The group was provided with tables and the most recent maps available of data involving migrant workers.

7. AOB.

None

8. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the group is scheduled for 18 March 2008 at 2pm at Northallerton Fire Station.