

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FORUM

Minutes of meeting held via Microsoft Teams and in the Corporate Dining Room, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 2 September 2020

Chair:

Councillor Bert Thomson

Councillors Present:

Councillor Janine Calikes, Councillor Maureen Devlin, Councillor Mary Donnelly, Councillor Eric Holford, Councillor Katy Loudon, Councillor Jim McGuigan

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Ann Le Blond, Councillor Martin Lennon, Councillor Joe Lowe

Attending:

Education Resources

D Lindsay, Getting It Right Officer

Finance and Corporate Resources

G Bhatti, Employee Development and Diversity Manager; G Cochran, Administration Assistant; S McLeod, Administration Officer; K McVeigh, Head of Personnel Services

Also Attending:

G Doran, Pupil at St Andrew's and St Bride's High School, East Kilbride; C Williamson, mother of G Doran

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Equal Opportunities Forum held on 30 October 2019 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

The Forum decided: that the minutes be approved as a correct record.

3 Annual Report on Mainstreaming Equalities and Diversity – Education Resources

A report dated 18 August 2020 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on work being undertaken by Education Resources to meet the commitments of the "South Lanarkshire Working for You" Mainstreaming Equalities Report 2017 to 2021.

Details were provided on the strategic and operational work being undertaken by Education Resources, as it worked in partnership with other Council Resources, to develop equality outcomes to meet the general duty set out in the Equality Act 2010.

Appendix 1 to the report provided an overview of a range of work undertaken across the Resource as part of its activity to contribute towards achieving the Council's equality outcomes.

The Forum decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 22 May 2019 (Paragraph 3)]

4 Presentation – Gregor’s Story

Gregor Doran, a 5th year pupil at St Andrew’s and St Bride’s High School, East Kilbride and his mother, Christine Williamson, gave a joint presentation on Gregor’s educational journey, as a pupil with Down’s Syndrome.

The presentation provided information on the following key areas:-

- ◆ specific arrangements that had been put in place throughout Gregor’s educational journey at nursery, primary and secondary school, which included 1 to 1 support
- ◆ school staff’s genuine understanding of Gregor’s learning profile
- ◆ Gregor’s involvement in the secondary school community which included participating in dramatic productions and assisting with the P7 Induction Programme
- ◆ Gregor’s hopes after leaving school of entering employment and living independently

Having responded to members’ questions, Gregor Doran and his mother were thanked for their informative presentation and wished every success for the future.

The Forum decided: that the presentation be noted.

5 South Lanarkshire Men’s Shed Programme

A report dated 19 August 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the development of the Men’s Shed Programme and the progress of the Mobile Men’s Shed Project.

Seniors’ Together had been supporting the development of men’s sheds for 6 years and, more recently, via the Mobile Men’s Shed Project, had been engaging isolated older men in the Men’s Shed Programme. As a result, the number of static men’s sheds established in South Lanarkshire had risen to 12 and the Stonehouse shed was now going through the Asset Transfer process. Each shed had its own individual membership with an average of 50 men registered at each shed.

Detailed information was provided on the following areas:-

- ◆ funding received from the National Lottery Community Fund to develop ‘Shed in a Box’, a toolbox containing the essential items required to start a ‘Pop-Up’ shed
- ◆ the positive mental and physical health benefits for those who attended men’s sheds
- ◆ a research project, ‘Sheds for Sustainable Development’ being undertaken by Glasgow Caledonian University’s which had enabled the Seniors’ Together Project to share practice and findings with the University
- ◆ support from local GPs and the Health and Social Care Partnership
- ◆ over 1,500 older people had been involved in awareness and engagement events regarding men’s sheds and the Mobile Shed Project with current estimates that 2,250 people were involved in the Mobile Shed Project
- ◆ the support and backing of the Mobile Shed Project and the Shed Network/community in South Lanarkshire which had been a critical component in the success of the men’s sheds
- ◆ the impact of Covid-19 which had caused the closure of all the men’s sheds and the decommissioning of the mobile shed and the support that had been provided to the ‘shedders’ by Seniors’ Together to prevent people from becoming isolated
- ◆ the launch of a new international Facebook page ‘Sheds Sans Frontières’ (Sheds without Borders) to share good practice and keep shedders connected
- ◆ the intention to identify funding to secure the extension of the Mobile Men’s Shed Project beyond January 2021 and also a long-term sustainability plan for the Men’s Shed Programme

The Forum decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 20 September 2017 (Paragraph 5) and minutes of the Finance and Corporate Resources Committee of 15 November 2017 (Paragraph 12)]

6 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

Chair's Closing Remarks

At the request of the Chair, the Employee Development and Diversity Manager advised members that:-

- ◆ in light of updates to equalities legislation, members of the Forum would be offered tailored training
- ◆ members would be asked if they wished to attend training and, if so, to indicate any specific subjects that they would wish to receive training on as a priority
- ◆ an update report on the provision of training would be submitted to the next meeting of the Forum