

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FORUM

Minutes of meeting held in Committee Room 5, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 21 February 2018

Chair:

Councillor Jim McGuigan

Councillors Present:

Eric Holford, Ann Le Blond, Martin Lennon

Councillors' Apologies:

Janine Calikes, Maureen Devlin, Mary Donnelly, Katy Loudon, Joe Lowe, Bert Thomson (Chair)

Attending:

Education Resources

J Allardyce, Quality Improvement Officer (Inclusion)

Finance and Corporate Resources

A Bell, Personnel Officer; J Muirhead, Administration Adviser; K McVeigh, Head of Personnel Services

Also Attending:

A Boyle, Headteacher; S Doyle and F Rogers, Senior Pupils, Sanderson High School, East Kilbride

Appointment of Chair

In terms of Standing Order No 32(b), Councillor McGuigan was appointed Chair for this meeting.

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 29 November 2017 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 26 January 2018 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the work being undertaken by Education Resources to meet the commitments of the "South Lanarkshire Working for You" Mainstreaming Equalities Report 2013 to 2017.

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

A number of projects and achievements were highlighted, including:-

- ◆ the annual John Walker Equal Opportunities Competition

- ◆ the “Treat Me Well” anti-bullying campaign
- ◆ Uddingston Grammar’s RISE (Reported, Included, Supported, Equal) Group
- ◆ Sanderson High School’s Developing Scotland’s Young Workforce project

The Forum decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 6 September 2016 (Paragraph 3)]

4 Getting it Right for Every Child in South Lanarkshire

A Boyle, Headteacher, Sanderson High School, East Kilbride and 2 senior pupils, S Doyle and F Rogers, gave a presentation on Developing Scotland’s Young Workforce (DSYW) and highlighted the importance of ensuring that children with special needs were given the same opportunities as their mainstream peers. The senior pupils spoke on their experiences of participating in various work placements.

Having responded to members’ questions, the Headteacher and senior pupils were thanked for their informative presentation.

The Forum decided: that the presentation be noted.

5 Blue Badge Scheme - Extension of the Qualifying Criteria to People with Mental Disorders or Cognitive Impairments

A report dated 17 January 2018 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted advising on the extension of the Blue Badge scheme criteria to include people with mental disorders or cognitive impairments.

Blue badges supported independent living by providing concessions for on street parking, allowing badge holders to park close to where they needed to go.

Initially, the Blue Badge Scheme was introduced for those people who had severe mobility problems, however, it was recognised that people with a diagnosed mental disorder, including conditions such as dementia, autism and Down’s syndrome, lacked awareness of danger from traffic and were likely to compromise their safety and the safety of others. Following a pilot scheme, eligibility for the Blue Badge Scheme was extended to include carers and relatives of people who posed a risk to themselves or others in traffic.

Applications for Blue Badges on the grounds of mental disorders or cognitive impairment were dealt with through a separate process from the normal Blue Badge applications and included provision for applications to be made through a paper based format.

The Forum decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 2 September 2014 (Paragraph 5)]

6 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.