

Opportunities for People with Disabilities Group

6.30pm on Wednesday, 13 March 2013 at
Council Chamber, Council Offices, Coalville LE67 3FJ
Officer to contact: Magda Allen (01530 454570)

Agenda

1. Welcome and Apologies

Tell the group who cannot come to the meeting

2. Declaration of Interest

For Councillors to tell the group if anything on the agenda affects them, their family or their money

3. Minutes: Actions – who needed to do what

To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2013

4. PIP update (Peter Yerrell)

5. Making the Group known

- A new Name?
- Leaflet

6. Action Plan

7. Anything else to talk about

8. Dates of future meetings

Proposed 2013/1014 dates and how often:

Every 2 months (Wednesdays)

2013: 15 May; 10 July; 18 September; 13 November

2014: 22 January; 5 March

Every Six weeks (Wednesdays)

2013: 24 April; 5 June; 17 July; 28 August; 9 October;
20 November

2014: 8 January; 19 February; 2 April

MINUTES of the Opportunities for People with Disabilities Group on
Wednesday, 6 February 2013.

People who were at the meeting:

Councillor Graham Allman (Chairman)
Councillor Lesley Massey
Councillor Janet Ruff
Councillor Michael Specht
Councillor Roger Bayliss

Magda Allen (Equality and Diversity Co-ordinator)
Rachel Wallace (Local Member Support Officer)

Jhon Bateman (Labelled for Young Carers)
Alan Crook
Katherine Flannigan (Council Tenant)
Tracy Foulds (Locality Group)
Miranda Graham (Leicestershire County Council)
Jenny Lacey (Locality Group)
Beryl Spendlove (Ashby Stroke Club)
Peter Yerrell (Citizens Advice Bureau)

People who could not come to the meeting:

Anne Simmons
Danielle Walton

1. Declaration of interests – for Councillors to tell the group if anything on the agenda affects them, their family or their money

None.

2. Minutes and Actions – what happened at the last meeting

Councillor Janet Ruff asked for the following to be added into the minutes:

There had been no advertisement on the TV, radio or in newspapers about the changes to the Disability Living Allowances which is coming in the next few years. As this is very important information, Councillor Janet Ruff felt that more advertising was needed.

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2012 were agreed with the above addition.

Updates:

Disability Living Allowance

Peter Yerrell (Citizens Advice Bureau) told the group that there had been more changes since his presentation at the last meeting. Peter agreed to give the details at the next meeting. The group discussed how the changes could be promoted. Miranda Graham (Leicestershire County Council) said that the reason there was no promotion at the moment could be because the changes were not due to happen in the area until 2014.

Actions:

1. Rachel Wallace (Local Member Support Officer) to put the Disability Living Allowance update on the agenda for the next meeting.
2. Councillor Janet Ruff to arrange advertisement on local radio.
3. Councillor Michael Specht to talk to the MP about promoting the changes.
4. Magda Allen (Equality and Diversity Co-ordinator) to look at promoting the changes through the Council when required.

Disabled toilets at Hermitage Recreation Ground

Magda Allen (Equality and Diversity Co-ordinator) had contacted the recreation ground to ask if they could adapt the toilets for disabled use but was told that they were not suitable because of the lack of space inside or out. The money was not available at the moment to make any kind of adaptations.

Disabled toilets at Coalville Park

Magda Allen (Equality and Diversity Co-ordinator) found out that to use the toilets, you have to go to the small hut in the park to get the key. They will be looking into the costs of installing a radar key.

3. Canine Partners

Councillor Graham Allman introduced Canine Partners to the group who had brought Ella, an assistance dog in training with them. Some background to the charity was given and then Ella demonstrated some of the tasks she was learning to perform. When the demonstration was finished Councillor Graham Allman thanked them for coming.

4. Promoting the Group

Magda Allen (Equality and Diversity Co-ordinator) asked the group how they felt about the name and whether they had any suggestions for a new name of the group. She asked for any suggestions to be emailed to her for the next meeting.

5. Action Plan

Miranda Graham (Leicestershire County Council) told the group that as part of the Locality Plan for this area, the County Council was holding an event for people who use Adult Services. She asked the group if they would be interested in coming along as the event was in Coalville. All were happy to be part of the event. The group agreed that it would still like a smaller event in Castle Donington or Kegworth.

It was suggested writing an action plan. Also to look at plans of other groups which support people with disabilities, to see if there was information that could be shared and if there were events that the group would like to join in with.

6. Anything else to talk about

Katherine Flannigan (Council Tenant) asked if the group would be interested in meeting each month instead of every two months. It was decided to discuss this more at the next meeting.

Action: Rachel Wallace (Local Member Support Officer) to put an item on the agenda for the next meeting about how often to hold the meetings in the future.

Alan Crook asked if the group had heard anything about the fee that the Council had brought in to charge people to use Council land to reach their homes. Alan had been charged £90 per year because he needs to cross Council land to get to his home and to use it to put out his dustbin. Some of the Councillors were not happy with the introduction of the fee and were talking with the Council at public meetings.

Action: Rachel Wallace (Local Member Support Officer) to email the group details of how to make a formal complaint to the Council.

7. Date of next meeting
Wednesday 13 March 2013

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 7.57pm.

5. Making the Group Known

Existing name:

Opportunities for People with Disabilities

Alternative names:

Inspiring Disabled People

Enabling Disabled People

Disabled People First

Positive Action for Disabled People

Disability Action Group

Action for Disabled People

(strap line) supporting disabled people in North West Leicestershire.

NWL Disability Action Group

(strap line) helping disabled people in the district

Every Disabled Person Matters

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Disability Action Group

Supporting disabled people in NW Leicestershire

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Inspiring Disabled People
Supporting disabled people
in NW Leicestershire

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