

## Leicestershire Equalities Challenge Group

### Notes of the Meeting

Friday 21st July 2023

10.30am – 12.30pm

#### Attendees

Liz Blackshaw - Chair	Action on Infant Feeding
Mathew Hulbert - Vice Chair	True Colours LGBT Events, Hinckley & Bosworth
Peter Lewis - Vice Chair	Equality Action, Loughborough
Cllr Mrs Pam Posnett	LCC Cabinet Lead
Anne Lawrence	Leicestershire Deaf Association
Cath Bayley	VISTA
Dr Lyn Williams	Nursing
Lucy Smith	Older People via Blaby Arts
Mina Rogers	Older Peoples Engagement Network
Tad Stenzel	Polish Community, Melton Mowbray

#### Apologies

Alison Adams	Diocese of Leicester
Anne Glasper	Shepshed Foodbank
Dr Iris Lightfoote	Race Equality Centre
Jill Vincent	Charnwood Arts
Leela Damodaran	Digital Technologies & Social Inclusion CIC
Pam Sly	Leicestershire Deaf Association
Resham Singh	Interfaith Forum/Sikh Welfare

#### Presenters

Kate Revell	LCC Head of Service, Adults and Social Care
Kerry Skeer	LCC Senior Strategic Waste Management Officer
Ryan Dennis	LCC Interim Project Delivery Manager, Street Lighting

#### Support Officers

Barry Daws	BSL Interpreter
Marzia Sharma	BSL Interpreter
Leon Charikar	LCC Chief Executive's
Carine Cardoza	LECC Policy Support Officer

## Notes

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Liz Blackshaw welcomed members to the LECG meeting held at the NSPCC Centre.

### 2. Notes of the previous meeting: 19th May 2023

The notes of 19th May 2023 were passed as an accurate record.

### 3. Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland Living Well with Dementia Strategy 2024 - 2028

Kate Revell, LCC Head of Service for Adults and Social Care presented a short introduction to the consultation on the draft Living Well Strategy. She said more information would be provided at the next LECG meeting on the 8th September. Kate said consultation on the draft strategy was hosted by Leicester City Council and had commenced on 17th July. The consultation findings would be used by the Dementia Programme Board (DPB) to update the Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) and the strategy. Kate referred to the summary report that had been pre-circulated to LECG members, she said this report contained several useful links such as council public papers, JSNA (Joint Strategic Needs Assessment) data relating to people with dementia, demographic information on people with protected characteristics, etc.

Members raised following questions:

- Leicestershire Partnership Trust have services for people with dementia, will they be involved?  
Yes, the Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Leicestershire Partnership Trust are partners to the consultation.
- Is consultation online only? Need to have other means to reach people, especially older people.  
Acknowledged. The LCC consultation will be rolled out to over 300 adult and social care providers, to representative bodies on Dementia Partnership Board, to carers groups and networks, etc.
- Not acceptable to run the consultation over the summer months/holiday period as it restricts responses.  
Acknowledged by LCC elected members and therefore consultation period was extended from 8 weeks to 11 weeks.
- Important for the consultation to appear on social media.  
Agreed.
- Has the LGBT centre been involved in the consultation development?  
LCC worked with the LGBT Centre in 2019 to develop the Trans and Non-binary Policy and Guidance. Agreed that LCC needs to ensure that the LGBT centre and potentially worker groups overall are sent the consultation link and offered meetings.

The chair thanked Kate for her presentation and encouraged members to respond to the [LLR survey on Living Well with Dementia 2024 -2028](#). The deadline is 22nd September 2023.

### Follow Up Action

Kate Revell to attend the LECG meeting on the 8th September to provide more information on the Dementia Strategy and consultation findings.

#### **4. LCC proposed changes to Leicestershire Street Lighting**

Ryan Dennis, LCC Interim Project Delivery Manager provided a brief on the proposed changes to Leicestershire Street Lighting. Following approval at the Cabinet on the 23rd June 2023, the council launched a consultation (now closed) to seek views on dimming most of the streetlights in the county to levels of 30 percent from 8pm (down from 50%) depending on the location, and to understand where exceptions to this approach should be made. Ryan gave some background information on the current streetlights, the road/street risk assessments that were done, the replacement of LED lighting that are now controlled by computers, the dimming of streetlights in residential areas, reductions in carbon emissions, savings on council budget and partnership work with police, parish, and town councils.

A question-and-answer session and members and raised the following points:

- more consideration needs to be given for people with sight loss, the potential hazards and issues vary for different vision impairments/conditions.
- there are Issues in rural areas particularly for people who have dementia and mental health conditions.
- the dimming of lights from 8pm will result in safety issues for the elderly, women and vulnerable people.
- more reassurance required to reduce negative perceptions/impacts of increased thefts, hate crime, anti-social behaviours, etc.
- concerns that the LCC consultation was mostly online.

The chair thanked Ryan for his presentation and encouraged him to consider all the above concerns raised by LECG members in drafting final recommendations to LCC Cabinet.

#### **Follow Up Action**

Ryan to provide a summary report to LECG later this year, detailing the results of the consultation and the proposed recommendations.

#### **5. Leicestershire Resources & Waste Management Strategy 2022 - 2050**

Kerry Skeer, LCC Senior Strategic Waste Management Officer presented Leicestershire's Resources and Waste Management Strategy 2022 – 2050. She provided background information on the review and engagement of the previous strategy, the key themes and implications that had emerged, the funding issues, the 12 pledges and the Equality Impact Assessment which explored potential barriers and mitigation measures from the engagement. The Environment & Climate Change Overview Scrutiny Committee considered a report in January 2023. Elected members supported the strategy and welcomed partnership working. All the District Councils adopted the strategy.

A discussion followed Kerry's presentation and the following points were made:

- there are many issues regarding fly tipping across the county, this requires more LCC communication and more action from enforcement teams.
- landfill targets need to be supported with more public education and information.
- There needs to be more joined up approaches for recycling sites across the city and county.
- more clarity is required on which councils do 'what and when'.
- many concerns regarding high cost of disposal of garden waste collections.
- more accessible depots required for disposal of paint.

The chair thanked Kerry for her presentation. Kerry said she would take all above points back to her colleagues for further consideration and referred members to the to the [Less Waste website](#) to find out more about recycling and waste services in Leicestershire, including how to reduce waste, reuse materials, recycle and compost, and how to get involved.

### **Follow Up Action**

Kerry to circulate 12 pledges in the strategy.

## **6. Any Other Business**

### **Word360**

Word360 is a NHS approved interpreting and translation service for deaf people to access GP's and health care. LECG member, Anne Lawrence said that many deaf people were unaware of the service and those that did use it, claimed that it is a very poor service that is often not supported by NHS professionals. Responsibility lies with the Integrated Care Board (ICB) who commission interpreting contracts for Primary Care Services (i.e.GP practices)

### **Action**

LECG member, Dr Lyn Williams offered to contact Haseeb in ICB to find out who is the commissioner leading on the Word360 contract so that LECG can feedback concerns of deaf people.

Mathew Hulbert to write to the Patient Participation Group to raise above concerns.

### **Bus Passes**

Bus passes can only be used by county residents after 9.30am. There are more restrictions on the county resident use of bus passes than the city's residents use of bus passes. This affects many older and vulnerable county residents who rely on public transport to access NHS care services, GP appointments, etc. before 9.30am.

### **Action**

Mathew Hulbert to raise the issue with the Leicestershire Bus Users Group at their meeting in September 2023 and to report back to LECG.

### **Emergency Ambulance Service**

The chair asked members to liaise with Carine if they experienced any problems with regard to the Emergency Ambulance Service.

### **National Award**

LCC has been shortlisted for a national award by the Local Government Chronicle for Employer of the Year for equality, diversity, and inclusion.

### **LCC Interpretation and Translation Service**

LCC contract with DA Languages has now ended. New interpretation and translation service providers are being sourced particularly those working with Deaf people. Leon to contact local providers i.e., the Deaf Forum and iNet Interpreting Ltd.

### **LECG Newsletter**

News items, events, articles are required for the next edition of the LECG newsletter, pictures are welcome. Members to send info to Carine by 31st August 2023.

### **Date of Next Meetings**

Meetings will be 'in person' at the NSPCC Centre, Leicester, LE4 1EZ.

- Friday 8th September 2023
- Friday 10th November 2023
- Friday 26th January 2024