

Leicestershire Equalities Challenge Group

Notes of the Meeting Friday 8th September 2023 10.30am – 12.30pm

Attendees

Liz Blackshaw - Chair	Action on Infant Feeding
Mathew Hulbert - Vice Chair	True Colours LBGT Events, Hinckley & Bosworth
Peter Lewis - Vice Chair	Equality Action, Loughborough
Cllr Mrs Pam Posnett	LCC Cabinet Lead
Alison Adams	Diocese of Leicester
Anne Lawrence	Leicestershire Deaf Association
Tad Stenzel	Polish Community, Melton Mowbray

Apologies

Anthony Marvin	
Cath Bayley	VISTA
Dr Lyn Williams	Nursing
Anne Glasper	Shepshed Foodbank
Dr Iris Lightfoote	Race Equality Centre
Jill Vincent	Charnwood Arts
Leela Damodaran	Digital Technologies & Social Inclusion CIC
Lucy Smith	Older People via Blaby Arts
Mina Rogers	Older Peoples Engagement Network
Pam Sly	Leicestershire Deaf Association
Resham Singh	Interfaith Forum/Sikh Welfare

Presenters

Sharon Aiken	LCC Adults and Social Care
Cllr Mrs L. Richardson	Cabinet Lead for Health & Wellbeing
Sally Vallance	LCC Public Health Department

Support Officers

Barry Daws	BSL Interpreter
Avril Dobson	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 21st July 2023 were passed as an accurate record.

Updates from Leicestershire's Resources and Waste Management Strategy and the proposed changes to Leicestershire Street Lighting were outstanding, Carine to contact officers.

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

The chair welcomed Sharon Aiken from the Adult and Social Care department. Sharon provided a follow up to the LLR Dementia Strategy that Kate had presented to LECG on 21st July 2023. The consultation deadline was 22nd September 2023.

Leicestershire Partnership Trust and Integrated Care Board were actively involved in the consultation and delivery of the Strategy. LCC had sent the consultation to community groups that link with dementia work, they had reissued the press release and used social media. Information had also been sent to the LGBT Centre, John Storer House and Equality Action, Loughborough.

As of the 29th of August, there were 188 responses to the online survey, 131 from Leicestershire residents, of these 131, 99 of total responses were from carers for people with dementia.

Breakdown by ethnicity was

- 133 White British
- 19 South Asian
- 4 White European
- 4 White Irish.

There were also four face to face sessions on request undertaken with AgeUK, Carers Service, Alzheimer's Group and Jamila's Legacy (South Asian Mental Health Wellbeing group).

A recommendations report will be sent to LCC's Health Scrutiny and Cabinet in November 2023. The City Council will be doing same to their Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet.

LECG members raised following points in the discussion:

- noted that there are issues with diagnosis of dementia and issues of support after diagnosis
- online consultation does not work as well as face to face, online has issues with jargon, tight deadlines
- noted that engagement with Black and Ethnic Minority groups across the County had taken place using sources such as those groups who had accessed Dementia grant, those who had attended Healthwatch meetings, and contacts through John Storer House, Equality Action Loughborough, etc. Recommended that more contact could be made through groups on the council's Interfaith Forum

- more engagement and communications also required with the Deaf community
- analysis of survey's data responses by Sharon was welcomed
- request made to Leon for a similar analysis report of LCC surveys and consultations to date

The chair thanked Sharon for providing the update and encouraged members to share and/or take part in the consultation if they had not already done so.

Follow up Action

- Sharon to contact the Deaf community and the interfaith Forum.
- Leon to provide an analysis report of LCC surveys and consultation to date, with narrative on the final outcomes of the consultations linking to LECG's comments/recommendations.

4. Introduce the Health Inequalities JSNA data and findings

Sally Vallance from LCC Public Health Department provided a snapshot of the different health inequalities in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). She said the drivers of health inequalities were

- different experiences of the wider determinants e.g., environment, education, income, or housing
- differences in health behaviours or other risk factors e.g., smoking, diet, physical activity etc.
- psychosocial factors e.g., social networks and self esteem
- unequal access to or experience of health services

Key measures are life expectancy, inequality in life expectancy (difference between least and most deprived), Under 75 mortality rates and a range of socioeconomic measures e.g., poverty and deprivation.

Examples of populations at higher risk are people who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender (LGBT), people with a disability, the homeless, Carers, those living in poverty/deprivation, etc. JSNA had identified a complex picture around race and ethnicity especially amongst Bangladeshi, Pakistani and Gypsy or Irish Travellers.

Consideration is now being given to work with people/communities at risk to protect or mitigate adverse impacts, and recommendations are listed in the JSNA. A discussion then followed, and points were made about selection of super output areas and school transport

A discussion followed and examples of points raised were people taking personal responsibility for their health outcomes (eating health and exercise), the impact of good quality joined up central/local government services with health services, limitations of Early Year's maternal health services, health repercussions of SEND service.

The chair thanked Sally for the presentation and encouraged members to read the JSNA.

Follow up action

None

5. Consultation update on the Review of Homeless Support Services

Sally Vallance stepped in to present this topic on behalf of Councillor Mrs Richardson. She said the current homeless support service contract ends on 31st March 2024, that housing and homeless services are the responsibility of the district and borough councils across Leicestershire, and that district and borough councils are given funding by the government to pay for support to people who are homeless. As the contract is coming to its natural end, Public Health are taking the opportunity to review the current service to see if it can be delivered in a different way.

The proposed model is for the County Council to cease funding a dedicated homeless support service, and instead to provide support via the Council's existing public health services where a wider number of people are eligible for support. Services will be provided through the current First Contact Plus service, Local Area Co-ordinators, and existing wider public health services e.g., substance misuse treatment and recovery services.

Next steps

The public consultation has now closed, feedback is being analysed, an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been drafted and a report on whether the proposal should go ahead will be presented to the County Councils Cabinet in November 2024.

LECG members raised following points

Service providers need

- to have a better understanding of people facing homelessness
- recognise the changing demographics of homeless people across LLR
- understand that homeless people do not recognise geographical boundaries
- to carry out an assessment of shared responsibilities to facilitate coordinated approach to services
- to provide clear signposting of support and services
- to address concerns regarding access to services, need to have a community presence so that safe and rapid responses can be made.

The Chair thanked Sally for the presentation and asked for an update after Cabinet meeting.

Follow up action

None

6. Any Other Business

Word360

Dr Lyn Williams to provide an update on the Word360 contract.
Mathew Hulbert to provide update on response from the Patient Participation Group.

Bus Passes

Mathew Hulbert to report any feedback from Leicestershire Bus Users Group meeting.

Date of Next Meetings

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

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