



North Yorkshire Disability Forum

York CVS, Priory Street, YO1 6ET

Minutes of the meeting held on 24th March 2017

Present	<p>Deirdre Edgar Judith Bromfield Roy Emmerson Nichola Brown Brenda Haw Nick Jewkes Phil Dodson Vanessa Langford Helen Firth Maggie Donnelly Andrew Newton (Chair) Anthony Ackroyd Ian Lawson Shanna Carrell Rob Hauserman</p> <p>Vicci Ackroyd Lucy Allison</p> <p>Guests: Cara Nimmo Daniel Harry Ruth Stockdale Dawn Nisbet Kallum Taylor</p>	<p>Hambleton & Richmondshire DF Hambleton & Richmondshire DF Hambleton & Richmondshire DF Hambleton & Richmondshire DF Harrogate Disability Forum Harrogate Disability Forum Selby District Disability Forum Selby District Disability Forum Craven Disability Forum RipPSI RipPSI Usher Friends Group Yorkshire Coast and Ryedale DF Health and Adult Services, NYCC Health and Adult Services, NYCC</p> <p>BSL interpreter BSL interpreter</p> <p>Health and Adult Services, NYCC Central Services, NYCC MS Society Welcome to Yorkshire Healthwatch North Yorkshire</p>
Apologies	<p>Nick Moxon Tracey Pickering Julie Knight Carole Manley John Manley</p>	<p>Harrogate Disability Forum Yorkshire Coast & Ryedale DF NYCIL Craven Disability Forum Craven Disability Forum</p>





1. Introductions and welcomes; declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Apologies – see above

3. Notes of the meeting held on 9th December 2016, and matters arising

The notes were agreed as an accurate record of the last meeting.

Matters arising:

- Circulate SDDF mapping toolkit - Shanna
- Update requested on Skipton canal bridge - CDF
- Invite a representative from the wheelchair and equipment forum to NYDF – Shanna
- Involvement of people who access support in staff training – to be picked up in item 4

4. New model of care and support: Cara Nimmo; Health and Adult Services, NYCC

Cara Nimmo joined the meeting to continue the discussion about the new model of care and support from the December NYDF meeting.

Cara outlined the key themes from the engagement on the new model, and explained how those themes were being considered as the model is rolled out.

Forum members asked a number of question about the model, and shared their own experiences of adult social care.

The main areas for questions and feedback were:

- Financial assessment
- Cost pressures on the local authority





- Hospital discharge
- Availability of adapted housing
- Availability of home care / reablement staff

Cara also asked for comments and suggestions on how to involve forum members in service development and review, to support the implementation of the model.

Suggestions included:

- The importance of a face-to-face element in auditing and case review
- Involvement of people in recruitment
- Request for further, more detailed discussion on the above two points and other ways of involving people

Agreed: to invite Cara back for further discussion.

5. Local disability forum reports

This item was not covered due to time pressure, but the local reports have been circulated and will be included with these minutes.

6. Accessible North Yorkshire

This issue had been raised with the Forum by Ian Lawson, a disabled person.

The discussion centred on accessibility of shops, restaurants and similar businesses, and the importance of this for disabled people to be able to lead whole, independent lives.

Ian reported that he had investigated equality legislation and powers of enforcement, and had found that while the Equality Act 2010 did require businesses to consider reasonable adjustments, enforcement was ultimately down to individuals. He felt that this meant the legislation was weak in its effect. He would like the County Council to consider its





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role in encouraging improvements to accessibility, both in practical terms and in taking a leadership role.

The Forum discussed experiences of access problems, and a number of projects that local forums had undertaken or were underway, such as the shops access checking projects in Selby and Craven.

Dawn Nisbet from Scarborough Borough Council, representing Welcome to Yorkshire, talked about accessibility in the tourism business. She mentioned the significant spend by disabled people on tourism in the UK, citing a figure from Visit Britain of £12 billion annually. The Welcome to Yorkshire website includes accessibility information and information from Disabled Go. The Yorkshire Go site also includes accessibility information for tourist attractions. She made the point that this information is not aimed just at people visiting the county, it is also for those who are resident here.

Discussions also touched on whether there was a shared understanding of access audit – were we talking about ‘the full Monty’ technical audits, or something simpler? Members referenced the previous discussions held by the Forum, and that the idea of a simpler check based on practical experience had been felt to be what members were interested in. This had been badged as ‘It Works For Us’ checks.

Daniel Harry, Scrutiny Team Leader at North Yorkshire County Council, explained his role. Daniel works with county councillors within the council’s political decision-making structure. He said that scrutiny committees could make recommendations to Executive, but were not decision-making bodies. If the Forum thought that working with Scrutiny committees could be a way forward, it would be useful to quantify the issues and consider what value scrutiny by politicians could bring.

He said that he could discuss the issues raised with colleagues at NYCC to consider possible ways forward and the role of the county council. However, this would take some time, in part due to the hiatus caused by the county council elections.





The Chair welcomed this proposal and said that the Forum was taking a long-term view.

A number of suggestions for areas to explore/possible ways forward were made, including:

- Seek clarity on potential NYCC role / councillor leadership role
- Develop positive relationship with businesses/organisations that represent businesses
- Chester has been awarded the EU City of Accessibility this year – could we talk to them about how they've achieved this?
- Pull together and share practical tools eg checklists, top ten tips for businesses to make themselves more accessible
- Be proactive on an individual level where possible/able to do so – constructive challenge to local businesses, offer suggestions for how access could be improved
- Importance of education, and of developing people's confidence to challenge/participate
- Include National Parks
- Importance of Changing Places and campaigning to increase the number

Agreed: further investigation to be undertaken by NYCC officers, reporting back to the North Yorkshire Disability Forum to discuss options with a view to agreeing a way forward.

7. **Healthwatch North Yorkshire: update – Kallum Taylor, Volunteering and Engagement Officer, HWNY**

Kallum joined the meeting to give an update on the activities and future plans of Healthwatch North Yorkshire. This was in fact Kallum's last day with Healthwatch North Yorkshire, and the Forum extended their thanks to Kallum for making time to join them.

Healthwatch North Yorkshire will be an independent organisation from the beginning of April, and are developing their work plans, volunteers, and networks.





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The Board of Trustees for Healthwatch North Yorkshire has recently been refreshed and Judith Bromfield (Richmondshire CVA), who attended this NYDF meeting as a representative for Hambleton and Richmondshire Disability Forum, is the Chair.

NYDF asked Healthwatch to consider how they could work with forums in the future, and Judith explained that they were committed to working more effectively with existing networks such as NYDF and local forums. There will need to be some thinking about how best to do this, looking at the following questions:

- How can HW use Forum views and experience to influence the work plan?
- How can HW work with forums on specific issues?

Possibilities included HW staff attending NYDF, interested volunteer(s) to attend, further discussion on how to take proper account of the work and views of the Forum.

Forum members mentioned some previous experiences of volunteering for Healthwatch North Yorkshire, particularly Anthony who had done a considerable amount of work on access for Deaf people who use BSL. Feedback and recommendations from Anthony's research had been given to Healthwatch; the main recommendation was to improve availability of video BSL interpreters.

Anthony said that he felt that there had been an over-reliance on one volunteer to represent an entire community, and he had had to fund some of his volunteer work from his Direct Payments. Judith said that the new Board, from April, would have more discretion over the budget. Anthony's experience should not have happened.

There was also some discussion about NHS complaints and the role of Cloverleaf, and it was agreed to invite Cloverleaf to a future NYDF meeting (Chair/Shanna).





8. NYDF project fund

Shanna updated the forum on two bids that had been received, from Craven and Harrogate. Chairs had been asked to review/approve the bids. Both related to access audits of local businesses and shops.

9. Any other business

- Andrew mentioned that Harrogate Disability Forum and Harrogate and District Access Group were discussing ways of working more closely together; he suggested that other forums got involved at District/Borough level if they were not already doing so.
- Deirdre said that a simple access toolkit would be good, for consistency. Shanna said that some work on this had been undertaken and she would share what we have so far, but that everyone needed to contribute their ideas to build the checklists.
- Andrew brought up the enforcement issue mentioned by Ian, Nichol and Roy – eg that enforcement seemed to be down to the individual which was very difficult and ineffective. He asked the Forum for their ideas on how to progress this. Would it be via Government? Councils? The discussion centred on campaigning for change, via MPs and councillors, and on education. The value of ‘everyone doing something’ was highlighted.

Dates of next meetings (all at York CVS, Priory Street, York)

- Friday 9 June 2017 (AGM)
- Friday 22 September 2017
- Friday 8 December 2017
- Friday 16 March 2017

Details of North Yorkshire Disability Forum meetings are available at the following link: <http://www.nypartnerships.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=16811>

