



**West  
Northamptonshire  
Council**

## **Disabled People's Forum**

Minutes of a meeting of the Disabled People's Forum held at on Thursday 3 February 2022 at 2.30 pm.

Present Martin DeRosario (Co-Chair), Cllr Alan Chantler (Co-Chair), Rachel Flaxman, Eleri Neale, Suzy McClernon, Andrew Vincent, Rashmi Shah, Helen Heng, Jayne Evans, Kian Saville, Kit Nicholas, Shirley Roche, Alex Rex, Cllr Rufia Ashraf, Henrietta Amponsah, Graeme Wilson, Jatish Shah, Debs Burns, Debbie MacColl

### **1. Welcomes, Introductions and Apologies**

Everyone was welcomed to the meeting and introductions were made around the table. Apologies were received from Paul Meadows.

### **2. Code of Conduct**

### **3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Minutes of last meeting (October as December was the IDPWD virtual event) were agreed as a true record. Rashmi wanted to add that, as he had not been able to attend that meeting, the Voi scooters situation should be kept an eye on as he was not sure they were being moved very quickly. He also asked whether Voi would be prepared to give a contribution to some of the Disabled People's organisations for doing all the reporting.

Andy added that the delivery robots sitting on the pavement awaiting their tasks were also a risk to those with limited vision and mobility. **Action: Debbie make enquiries about the 2 issues above.**

### **4. Restorative Justice**

Shirley Roche from Voice gave a presentation about restorative justice (RJ). RJ is a reactive process occurring after the crime with the main aim of addressing the harm done and requires the offender to take responsibility for their actions. It is not mediation where no one needs to have accepted responsibility and a compromise needs to be reached.

It is a free and confidential service and separate from any criminal proceedings but can run alongside to afterwards – there is no time limit. Victims may need support from a friend or family member through the process or even have someone stand in for them.

The first meeting will be checking access requirements, explaining the process, finding out what has happened and checking what they want to get out of the process. This can be done directly face to face, as a type of shuttle with the

facilitators going in between each side in different spaces, with an apology or impact letter or video.

At each meeting the facilitators will be identifying any risk, needs and support while preparing the 2 parties for the final conference where an outcome is agreed.

The criteria for RJ is:-

- Resident within Northamptonshire
- Aged 18+
- There has been a crime
- Willing to participate
- Offender has admitted guilt/entered a guilty plea

Referrals can be made by email, website (buttons for both professionals and self-referrals) or by phone

**Website:** [www.voicenorthants.org](http://www.voicenorthants.org)

**Email:** [info@voicenorthants.org](mailto:info@voicenorthants.org)

**Telephone:** 0300 303 1965 - Voice office

**Opening Hrs:** 8am – 6pm Mon, Weds Fri

8am – 8pm Tues, Thurs

9am – 5pm Sat

Please also see leaflets circulated with the minutes and also a link to the animation storyboard - [Homepage | Voice for a Restorative Northamptonshire \(voicenorthants.org\)](http://www.voicenorthants.org)

Action: Kit and Shirley to have a conversation outside the meeting about Kit supporting those with Autism and also the LGBTQIA community through the process.

Alan asked what evidence there was that the process led to a reduction in repeat crimes. Shirley stated there had been some research in 2013 that showed 85% of participants were satisfied with the process and 14% of offenders had ceased to offend. RJ was funded differently in different local authorities which made it difficult to fully evaluate.

## 5. IDPWD De-Brief

The event had received good feedback again and even had a viewer from Australia who wished they could have something similar! Debbie thanked both Kian and Debs for all the work they had done on the day. It had also been very good to have had Kian in the same building and actually to have met him face to face for the first time! This also opened up the possibility of having a hybrid event which could include interviewing people face to face and live streaming it.

Suzy stated that it sounded a really good event but she had not known it was going on and could promotion go wider. Perhaps exploring the potential of screening the event in public venues such as libraries so that people without internet would be able to view. Suzy also suggested asking schools to send out electronic flyers. Graeme added that the Born to Perform video was a standout from the last event and it would be interesting to know of any wider impact from the event.

## 6. **Community Information Exchange**

Kit reported that she was doing a big piece of work the NHFT on how to support people with learning disabilities into work. It involved consultation to find out what the barriers were and would appreciate people putting anyone they knew who would be interested in touch. Looking to set up a co-production group with experts and those with lived experience working together.

Rachel informed the group that they would be running their annual disability fun event on 26 June from 1-5pm at Fernie Fields. They were also running bi-weekly sessions for over and under 16's again at Fernie Fields.

Alex – funding at the moment included

**Northamptonshire Federation Disability Sport Fund** - designed to support the county's sports clubs, groups and non-profit organisations. The fund will offer grants of up to £1,000 for sport activities catering for any disability, sensory impairment and/or mental health problem. Next deadline for the fund is 4<sup>th</sup> March - <http://www.ncf.uk.com/grants/grant-finder/nfdsfund>

**Cecil Pettit Legacy Fund** - to fund community projects which are supporting people with disabilities in Northamptonshire, grants of up to £5,000. Deadline is 18<sup>th</sup> February – email [alex@ncf.uk.com](mailto:alex@ncf.uk.com) for an expression of interest form

### **Global Goals Fund for Northamptonshire**

The Global Goals Fund for Northamptonshire aims to help build a sustainable and safe future for Northamptonshire communities. The fund will focus on the following themes in 2022 which aim to address: decent work and economic growth; reduced inequalities; sustainable cities and communities; peace, justice and strong institutions.

This is a rolling programme meaning you can apply at any time and the maximum funding award is £3000, for more information please visit -

<http://www.ncf.uk.com/grants/grant-finder/global-goals-fund-northamptonshire>

### **Arts Council Let's Create Jubilee Fund**

The Let's Create Jubilee Fund will support voluntary and community groups to develop creative and cultural activities as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in June 2022. This fund has been created by Arts Council England (ACE) with funds from the National Lottery. It is open to voluntary organisations with charitable aims and working towards a common goal which does not have to be based solely around arts and culture.

Groups can apply for amounts between £750 and £10,000. Projects must:

- Focus on art and creativity
- Engage with at least one of the artforms that ACE supports (see below)
- Be high quality and inclusive in their approach
- Culminate in June 2022

- Benefit people in Northamptonshire particularly those on low incomes or facing disadvantage

The closing date for applications is **28<sup>th</sup> February**, for more information please visit - <http://www.ncf.uk.com/grants/grant-finder/lets-create-jubilee-fund>

Rashmi asked if NCF reached out to organisations that had previously applied for funding as it was onerous to apply for small amounts of funding. Alex stated that they did contact organisations previously funded and she like to attend the forums in order to network with new organisations. However, although some funds offered repeat funding, they had to be accountable to the funders. Sadly occasionally grant fraud happened and there needed to be a balance.

Graeme gave an update on disability sport in the county.

#### DISC (Disability Inclusive Sports Club)

Northants Carers have taken on the running of DISC which is based at Towcester Centre for Leisure on a Sunday 2-4pm. Their first session on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> January was very successful with 50 disabled people taking part, so they are keen to attract more participants & volunteers for future.

[Disability Inclusive Sports Club \(northamptonshire-carers.org\)](http://northamptonshire-carers.org)

#### Sense Active Report

Sense are a national charity who support people with complex needs & dual sensory impairments. They've produced a report to help providers know how to include people they support in activities.

[Sense release report about understanding the physical activity needs of families who have children with complex disabilities | Northamptonshire Sport](#)

Sense also have a number of homes & care facilities in the county, so might be worth inviting Chloe Brown who is their Activity Development Officer to a future forum, so she can present on all of their great resources etc. Chloe's email address is

[Chloe.Brown@sense.org.uk](mailto:Chloe.Brown@sense.org.uk).

[Sense Sport | Sense, for people with complex disabilities](#)

#### Northants Trampoline & Gymnastics Academy (NTGA) Win National Inclusion Award

NTGA have won the British Gymnastics National Inclusion & Equality Award. This is due in no small part to the work they've done to get disabled people into their sport, so are definitely worth contacting if individuals, or groups would like to do

trampolining, gymnastics & climbing at Benham Arena. [Northamptonshire Trampoline Gymnastics Academy Win National Award | Northamptonshire Sport](#)

Inclusive Activity Programme workshops Northamptonshire Sport coordinate these in the county to provide training for activity providers, parents/carers, healthcare professionals, day care centre staff & anyone else who helps support disabled people. These courses are designed to help these people know how to include disabled people in activities & the organizations available to support them in finding regular opportunities in the community. Courses can be delivered in person, or online. We have funding available for day care centre staff to attend this training, so please email [Graeme.Wilson@northamptonshiresport.org](mailto:Graeme.Wilson@northamptonshiresport.org) if you're interested.

[Inclusive Activity Programme | Training | Activity Alliance](#)

[Get involved to have your say | West Northamptonshire Council \(westnorthants.gov.uk\)](https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk)

Susie wanted to raise the voice of disabled people within Councils, people were not getting information and did not know how to speak out. She especially asked how people get involved with Overview & Scrutiny. **Action: Debbie make enquiries.** He also asked if there was any chance of a short training course on Teams as he was finding it not as user friendly as Zoom. Eleri informed the group of the upcoming IAG (Independent Advisory Group) police community event and would send out information shortly.

## 7. **Items for Future Meetings**

Andy asked about support dogs and whether there was guidance on which venues they were allowed in as many venues did not recognise them as working dogs. Suzy responded that she had looked into this and it would be very helpful to have a set of guidance that was easily available.

Jatish said that with the new Highway Code coming in was there an opportunity for someone from Highways or the Police to come in and give advice on where disabled people stood and what support there might be. **Action: Eleri to make enquiries.** He also asked if there was any chance of a short training course on Teams as he was finding it not as user friendly as Zoom.

## 8. **Date of Next Meeting**

2.30pm Thursday 7 April on Teams and in the Jeffrey Room at the Guildhall. If you would like to meet face to face in the Guildhall, please let us know by emailing [Debbie.maccoll@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:Debbie.maccoll@westnorthants.gov.uk) so we can look out for you and to ensure we have sufficient refreshments. Looking forward to seeing some of in person!