

JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WITH ETHNIC MINORITY ORGANISATIONS
28 MARCH 2011

7.15 TO 9.15 PM

PRESENT: Councillor Edith Macauley (Chair), Councillors Stan Anderson, Logie Lohendran, David Simpson.

Mr Islam, Mr Rahman, Mr Rizvi, Mr Savage, Mr Karim, Ms Anderson, Mr Musse, Ms Colquhoun, Ms Batallones, Mrs Salmon, Miss Salmon.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Agatha Akyigyina.

Annie Ford – Nurse Consultant and Project Manager, NHS Sutton and Merton.

Chief Inspector Mark Lawrence.

Evereth Willis, Diversity and Community Cohesion Manager.

Susanne Wicks, Democratic Services Officer.

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mrs Ahmed, Mr Sheikh and the Revd Mrs Neale.

3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 OCTOBER 2010

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting are agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

4 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

5 MERTON HEALTHCARE LIMITED HEALTH DIVERSITY AND BI-LINGUAL ADVOCACY PROJECT 2009 – 2011

Annie Ford introduced this report and invited questions and comments. She explained that as a starting point for the project, much of the data and background information was obtained from Public Health, and from local GP surgeries.

Annie Ford advised that the Health Diversity project aims to improve levels of interpreting available to service users, and to raise levels of take up. She advised that bi-lingual advocates have assisted 87 people to register with a GP, and a protocol has been developed for GP practices to use in support of migrants registering with a GP.

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In response to some of the suggestions made, Evereth Willis reminded the committee that there is no funding available to support the project, but the learning from the project will be widely shared. She explained that the NHS needs to understand the health priorities for communities in Merton, and suggested that organisations represented on the JCC could contribute to that.

Annie Ford explained that people are encouraged to register with a GP, to avoid using A&E in hospitals for non-urgent issues. She explained that staff in A&E departments endeavour to redirect non-urgent cases to GPs or walk-in health centres.

Councillor Edith Macauley thanked Annie Ford for her report, and encouraged JCC members to assist with the supply of information on the health needs of the groups they represent.

Report received.

6 CRIME UPDATE – RACIAL INCIDENTS SEPTEMBER 2010 TO MARCH 2011

CI Mark Lawrence introduced this report. He went through the racist and religious offences for the period in some detail.

Mr Musse asked if data was available on Somali offenders, and in particular youth offenders, and detailed a planned project to prevent offending. CI Mark Lawrence undertook to discuss this further with Mr Musse outside the meeting.

In response to questions, CI Mark Lawrence outlined the action currently being taken to address the recent spike in burglaries in the borough.

Report received.

7 IMPLEMENTING MERTON'S BAME STRATEGIC PLAN 2010 – 2013

Patricia Anderson introduced this report, and asked the JCC to identify their priorities and actions for consideration and regular monitoring for 2011/12.

Patricia Anderson advised that the shaded text on pages 22 – 39 highlights the priorities identified by the BAME Forum seminar that took place on 1 March. The event was well attended by both the statutory and voluntary sector. She suggested that the JCC could consider those priorities, and may wish to set up workshops rather than discuss the priorities at formal meetings.

Councillor Edith Macauley explained that two Cabinet Members attended the seminar on 1 March, along with various other councillors. She confirmed that there was a lot of participation and very good discussion.

With regard to changes to the PCT, Evereth Willis explained that the PCT will be providing further clarity on their future involvement in the delivery of the identified

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priorities. She also responded to JCC members' concerns about the extent of their influence, reminding the JCC that this will form part of the policy framework, making service providers more accountable to service users.

Patricia Anderson reminded the JCC that the plan is not funded, but will enable groups to work together and to make grant applications. The plan can also be used to assist lobbying. She encouraged all present to make use of the plan to promote further collaborative working. Furthermore Evereth Willis explained that the groups represented on the JCC all form part of the Compact, which should also lobby for funding. This statement was supported by Councillor Edith Macauley.

Patricia Anderson undertook to compile a table of the highlighted priorities in the plan, to be monitored at JCC meetings. Responsible officers will be asked to attend the meetings where appropriate to update the JCC on progress against the priorities.

Report received.

8 ANNUAL RESIDENTS' SURVEY

Evereth Willis introduced this item.

Councillor Edith Macauley advised that the report shows that fear of crime remains a concern for residents of the borough, and noted that information on actions taken by Police to address crime is regularly given to the JCC.

Report received.

9 REVISION OF THE JCC CONSTITUTION

Evereth Willis introduced this report and welcomed comments and questions.

There was some debate around the role of the vice-chair for the JCC. Councillor Edith Macauley advised that the vice-chair should consult with all groups on the JCC, to ascertain what items they would like to discuss at meetings, and to liaise with officers to ensure reports can be brought to meetings. Evereth Willis supported this view, and encouraged all members to suggest agenda items within the deadlines described in the constitution.

Evereth Willis undertook to amend paragraph 7.3 of the Constitution to reflect the JCC's view that appropriate officers should be encouraged to attend meetings of the JCC where required.

RESOLVED: That, subject to the amendment shown above, the Joint Consultative Committee with Ethnic Minority Organisations approves the revised Constitution.

10 NOMINATION OF A JCC REPRESENTATIVE ON MERTON'S SCHOOLS FORUM

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This report was presented by Evereth Willis. It was noted that representatives for the new municipal year will be agreed at the meeting on 17 May, so the JCC undertook to nominate a new representative at that time.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Evereth Willis encouraged all present to complete the Census.