

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO CABINET COMMITTEE - EQUALITIES
6 DECEMBER 2012

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE, PERFORMANCE

ISSUES FACING THE LOCAL DISABLED COMMUNITY

1. Purpose of Report.

The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet Equalities Committee of the issues faced by Disabled people in our communities and to outline the influence that the council has on improving services and removing barriers to accessibility to services and information.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/Other Corporate Priorities

The Strategic Equality Plan is a statutory plan and a cross cutting issue that impacts on the whole of the council. It is linked to the Welsh Language Scheme and the council's Customer Care Programme and supports the community cohesion agenda.

3. Background.

3.1 In July 2010, members of the Cabinet Equalities Committee agreed to receive reports and presentations on topic areas relevant to their remit and for community representatives to present on relevant topics at meetings to achieve a broader overview of issues and wider engagement of the work area.

3.2 An update on the current issues facing the local disabled community was added to the Committee's Forward Work programme.

4. Current situation / proposal.

4.1 The council's Strategic Equality Plan is supported by a detailed Action Plan which was produced following an extensive consultation and engagement exercise involving Bridgend Coalition of Disabled People, Bridgend Visually Impaired Society and the Bridgend Deaf Club. The council is pleased that access to council services for disabled people is improving however it is mindful that more can be done to ensure that all council services are fully accessible to disabled people.

4.2 At recent meetings of the Bridgend Equality Forum various issues have been raised by representative groups which focus on the council's need to review the ways in which certain services are delivered. These issues will be addressed in detail by representatives of the Bridgend Coalition for Disabled People. BCDP is an advocacy organisation whose main activities are:

- To campaign for improvements in the quality of life for Disabled People in Bridgend County Borough
- To meet and network with other Disabled People in Bridgend County Borough

- To ensure Disabled Peoples' voices are heard about issues that are important to them
- To have a strong united voice with other Disabled People
- To ensure the Coalition is representative of all Disabled People
- Obtain the support of other Coalition members
- To be part of the Disability Movement in the United Kingdom

4.2 Issues to be addressed by the Coalition include:

- Accessible sporting opportunities for disabled people in Bridgend
- Physical and attitudinal barriers to social and shopping opportunities
- Staff training for public sector staff
- Improved access to transportation
- Access to information
- Communication and availability of information

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules.

5.1 The report has no direct effect upon the policy framework or procedure rules but is required to effectively implement the Council's statutory duties in relation to equalities and human rights.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

Whilst no Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out, this report provides the Committee with information which will positively assist in the delivery of the Authority's equality duties.

7. Financial Implications.

None in this report.

8. Recommendation.

8.1 That the Cabinet Equalities Committee receives and considers this workforce report.

Vanessa Young
Assistant Chief Executive – Performance
Date: 20 November 2012

9. Contact officers:

Paul Williams
 Human Resources Business Partner

Email: Paul.williams2@bridgend.gov.uk

Telephone: 643212

Background papers: None.