

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET COMMITTEE - EQUALITIES

13 JULY 2017

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – OPERATIONAL AND PARTNERSHIP SERVICES

ISSUES FACING DISABLED PEOPLE IN BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH

1. Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet Equalities Committee of the issues faced by disabled people in Bridgend county borough's communities and to outline the influence that the council has on improving access 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 county borough. It is linked to the Welsh Language Standards and the council's Transformation Programme and Customer Charter, and supports the community cohesion agenda.

3. Background

Cabinet Equalities Committee receives regular reports and presentations on relevant topic areas. Community representatives attend meetings and present on relevant topics to create a broader overview of issues and encourage wider engagement.

4. Current situation / proposal

The Strategic Equality Plan 2016 - 2020 and its supporting Action Plan were produced following an extensive consultation and engagement exercise in 2016 involving many local disability groups including Bridgend Coalition of Disabled People, Bridgend Visually Impaired Society, Bridgend Deaf Club, People First Bridgend and Stroke Association. Whilst access for disabled people to council services and information is improving, there is potential for more to be done.

Issues have been raised at the Bridgend Equality Forum that focus on the council's need to review the way in which some services are provided / delivered. Some of these issues will be addressed in more detail by representatives of the Bridgend Coalition for Disabled People (BCDP). BCDP is an advocacy organisation that exists to:

- campaign for improvements in the quality of life for disabled people in Bridgend county borough;
- meet and network with other disabled people in Bridgend county borough and ensure their voices are heard;
- have a strong united voice with other disabled people;
- ensure the coalition is representative of all disabled people;

- be part of the disability movement in the UK.

Issues being addressed by BCDP include:

- Challenges with direct payments;
- Wheelchair accessible taxis;
- Public transport in Bridgend county borough.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules

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

That the Cabinet Equalities Committee receives and considers this report.

Andrew Jolley

Corporate Director – Operational and Partnership Services

Date: 21 June 2017

9. Contact officers:

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Background papers: None