

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO CABINET COMMITTEE - EQUALITIES

2 APRIL 2015

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES

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 our communities and to outline the influence that the council has on improving service and information accessibility.

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 Cabinet Equalities Committee receives regular reports and presentations on topic areas relevant to their remit. Community representatives present on relevant topics at meetings to achieve a broader overview of issues and wider engagement.

4. Current situation / proposal.

4.1 The Strategic Equality Plan and Action Plan were produced following an extensive consultation and engagement exercise involving Bridgend Coalition of Disabled People, Bridgend Visually Impaired Society and the Bridgend Deaf Club. Access to council services for disabled people is improving however more can be done to ensure that all council services are fully accessible to disabled people.

4.2 At the Bridgend Equality Forum various issues have been raised which focus on the council's need to review the ways services are delivered. These issues will be addressed in detail by representatives of the Bridgend Coalition for Disabled People which 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 and ensure their voices are heard;
- 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:

- Direct Payments
- Wheelchair accessible taxis
- Development of a dedicated bus shuttle service between Bridgend Railway Station and Bridgend Bus Station.

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.

Sarah Kingsbury

Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development

Date: 12 March 2015

9. Contact officers:

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Background papers: None.