

Minute of DAG Meeting – 1st April 2015 (Item 7)

PROPOSALS PAPER AND FEEDBACK

“With reference to article 3 of the minute of the meeting held on 11th December 2014, the Disability Advisory Group (DAG) had before it a paper prepared by the Director of Communities, Housing and Infrastructure, which set out various prompts for discussion and identified various options to stimulate debate on what could be possible changes for the Disability Advisory Group.

The report explained that the suggestions were only ideas at present to help stimulate debate, and to invite comments from DAG members prior to engagement with the wider DAG forum. Alternative ideas were also sought on changes, so that meaningful participation was in place for planning DAG’s future.

The paper explained that DAG had recently moved to a new directorate, following the council committee restructure, with DAG now under the Communities, Housing and Infrastructure committee. As a result it was felt that this was an opportune time to take a fresh look at and review how DAG currently operated. It was explained that there was a renewed commitment to community and neighbourhood planning, partnership and networking, community empowerment and capacity building - so that DAG could bring real and measurable benefits to local communities, particularly those considered to be deprived or at risk.

The paper then went on to set out the proposed changes and **recommended that the Advisory Group considers:-**

- (a) Flexible options so that DAG opens up the opportunity for people currently excluded from participating in meetings;
- (b) Wider representation of groups;
- (c) How to specifically target young people to become involved, giving consideration to the bigger picture of “succession planning”. And that DAG further considers opportunities for introducing teleconferencing/ videoconferencing facilities to optimise participation by members;
- (d) Carrying out a short survey with group member organisations by telephone/ face to face so that personal contact is made and any barriers to participation are addressed;
- (e) Allocating a group membership place to the chair of the Learning Disability Group, in recognition of the importance of his input

- (f) Not offering a membership place to the Aberdeen Taxi Consultation Group, instead allowing the group to continue to be invited to DAG meetings as the agenda requires;
- (g) Inviting Grampian Regional Equality Council (GREC) to join membership so that the gap in representation from the wider groups is addressed;
- (h) Sharing with and inviting views from the Wider Forum as part of the review in regards to membership on the group expiring after a certain amount of time;
- (i) Requesting that a shorter and simplified version from the Code of Conduct is made available in easy read format, large print and BSL, to ensure that the document is accessible and that DAG members can sign up to a positive, open, welcoming, respectful and learning environment, and that training and development opportunities are offered to DAG members;
- (j) Taking the opportunity to step back, reflect and rethink the way DAG is currently structured and operates - exploring any ideas DAG may have for a more radical transformation.

The Advisory Group resolved to:-

- **Agree that the meeting times be made more flexible, with the next meeting fixed at 10.30am on Wednesday 3 June, (thereafter to become more flexible); and**
- **Otherwise to approve the recommendations.**