

Notes BVA Voluntary Sector Strategic Partnership – Diversity and Inclusion

Inaugural meeting 12:00 to 2:00 19th April 2022

Chair Ani Spalding, Basingstoke and District Disability Forum

The meeting was attended by 9 participants representing a diverse selection of organisations from across the borough. It was chaired by Ani Spalding, Basingstoke and District Disability Forum

After introductions, Ani shared the purpose behind forming the network; to bring groups together to share and hear what is happening in the Diversity and Inclusion space and to enable us to network; to provide a safe environment to improve our own understanding, to raise awareness and together look to better understand the diversity and inclusion across the many intersectional communities of Basingstoke. Potential for hybrid delivery of future meetings, some attending in person and others dialling in if they preferred. All agreed that Diversity and Inclusion is a huge topic with potential for cross over with other sections of the VSSP, our aim is to collaborate and share information not to duplicate. Attendees were encouraged to attend other VSSP meetings if applicable.

Topics/themes discussed were:

Aims of the group: With such a broad scope it was discussed whether using the characteristics from the Equality Act might be an initial way of shaping the group or whether this might of itself become restrictive in response to local issues. Link - [Protected characteristics | Equality and Human Rights Commission \(equalityhumanrights.com\)](https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/protected-characteristics)

Inclusion from the outset: Too often there is discussion and focus on adaptations to enable accessibility. The group believed that inclusion from the outset was the way forward

Monitoring: Discussed the need for data, which is often difficult to obtain. Information shared on proactive work locally to increase awareness and monitoring of race equality. Focusing upon access to digital facilities, premises, grants, and economic development for businesses from ethnic groups

Hate Crime: How might links be most effectively made between this group and the Hate Crime group

Education and awareness raising how can we as a group best share information, for now the group agreed via BVA (Mary). All agreed on a need to focus particularly supporting young people. One group member undertaking a project related to videos that may well be of benefit to this group members and member may be able to help support the creator.

Next Meeting: 18th October Suggested it is varied between mornings, lunches and afternoons