



Chesterfield Equality and Diversity Forum - 12th May 2025

Present

Sarah Roy	Chair
Allison Potter	Chesterfield Borough Council
Roz Smith	Chesterfield Borough Council
Sarah Hodgson	Chesterfield Borough Council
Cllr. Judy Staton	Chesterfield Borough Council
Rachael Dammarell	WORTH
Becky	Mindscapes
Rachel Smith	Life Coach
Marita Wood	Ashgate Hospice
Karen Sheriff	Building Bridges in the Community
Tim Adwick	Building Bridges in the Community/Mindscapes
Jayne Priestley	Police
Sadie Betts	Elm Foundation
Sam Robb-King	Clinical SAIL
Ren Sansom	Bolsover Social Circle Plus Project
Carole Hodgson	Macintyre Charity
Michele Young	Peak Blindies
Sue Walters	DCC Adult Care
Pamela Williams	Derbyshire Carers
Karin Ward	NHS
Jo Gascoigne	NHS
Skip Onac	ACCA
Joan Onac	ACCA
Ian Hardy	Peak Blindies, ABC, Edge Ministries
Jenny Hardy	Peak Blindies, ABC, Edge Ministries
Annette Bentley	
Elizabeth Rozario	Care Giving Journey
Dawn McKenzie	Citizens Advice Bureau
Melissa Lines	Occupational Therapist

Item	Action
<p>1. Welcome, introductions and apologies</p> <p>Sarah opened the meeting. Everyone introduced themselves. Apologies were received from Ian Edmundson, Kelly Sheldon, Shirley Niblock, Steph Wiltshire, Kath Topliss, Carole Bargh, Mick Crossley.</p>	

2.	<p>Rachel Dammarell – WORTH (Women On the Road To Healing)</p> <p>Rachel explained that WORTH provide long term after care, the stage after crisis care. They normally run a befriender service, if anyone is interested, please let them know - the commitment is one hour per week. It runs initially as a six month block, but this can be extended, depending on the service user. They can also be referred for life counselling if necessary. WORTH also run lots of wellbeing groups; Monday – Self defence. This teaches attendees how to get out of holds, It is a 17 week course, with a certificate at the end. Monday afternoon is dance, which includes Zumba and chair based dance too. Tuesday is nature group. Last week they met in Queen’s Park . Wednesday, is writing group in the morning and chatty art in the afternoon. Thursday is therapeutic art. Thursday afternoon is expressive arts, drumming, yoga etc. Friday morning is yoga. There is also a children’s programme; activities and mindset programme also running some sessions in schools.</p> <p>Referrals can come through themselves, as well as from partner organisations.</p> <p>For more information please contact: community@worth-charity.co.uk</p>	
3.	<p>2025-26 events update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equalities training This is going to be on Monday, 6th October 2025 at the Town Hall. Marita from Ashgate Hospice is involved in the training. It is proposed there will be 2-3 hours of training concentrating on protected characteristics and what different terminology means. There will be some scenario based activities too. This will be followed by a mini networking event. More information to follow. • Holocaust Memorial Day 2026 This will be held at the library in the lecture theatre on Tuesday, 27th January, in the evening, time tbc. The speaker, Peter Summerfield is a Holocaust survivor and has a very inspiring story to tell. His grandson, Harry, will be supporting. <p>Discussion regarding other possible event ideas Other possible event ideas for this year; supporting Black History Month in October. Skip talked about working with ACCA and the West Indian residents in Chesterfield. Skip goes around the country giving addresses about racism and recently did a talk in New York, where there were 500 attendees. Skip would be happy to speak at an event. We are also looking at a ‘Speed dating event’, where we would have short talks from different protected characteristics to small groups, and then you would move on to the next. Last time we held a similar event, this was at St Thomas’ on Chatsworth Road. More information to follow.</p>	
4.	<p>Update from Climate Change Forum</p> <p>Sarah explained there is a forum meeting every quarter. The forum focus on different themes throughout the year, the first one being ‘Plan for nature’, looking at protected habitats. The forum have launched an external competition, also around ‘plan for nature’. The competition can be entered as an individual or as part of a group/organisation. The prize is £50 of Love2Shop vouchers along with a years’ membership to Derbyshire Wildlife</p>	

	<p>Trust. The link to the competition is; https://www.chesterfield.gov.uk/health-and-environment/weather-and-climate-change/climate-change/climate-action-challenge/</p> <p>Any suggestions for events or interested groups would be very welcome. We are looking for new forum members and you don't need to be an expert in climate change to take part. If anyone would like to be part of the Chesterfield Climate Change Forum then please contact us on climate@chesterfield.gov.uk.</p>	
5.	<p>Minutes of last meeting</p> <p>Minutes of the last meeting were agreed.</p>	
6.	<p>Organisation / group updates</p> <p>Carole Hodgson, Macintyre Charity – have opportunities to get involved, quite a few events held at the Monkey Park, first and third Tuesdays of the month, for example soup and chat 12-1:30pm. Next Tuesday the Asian association is coming along to teach cooking. 13th May is a mental health walk. Carole can be contacted at Carole.hodgson@macintyrecharity.org for any more information.</p> <p>Pamela Williams, All Age Carers. Carers week commences on 9th June, and they are having an event at the Clay Cross Social Centre on 9th June, 11am-3pm to celebrate unpaid carers. All unpaid carers are welcome to drop in and there will be some pamper sessions, refreshments, raffle, etc. Agencies and organisations are welcome to come and have a stall, and there are a few tables left, please contact Pamela to book one. Pamela.Williams@derbyshirecarers.co.uk</p> <p>Jenny Hardy; ABC, (Affected By Cancer) meet at the Football ground every month. It is a supportive, social event and is free.</p> <p>Jenny and Ian are also involved in Edge Ministries at the community centre in Holme Hall, which has a café 1-4pm on Tuesdays, free of charge. They have a drop in on Wednesday mornings for coffee/tea etc. These are all on the Edge Ministries website. Edge Ministries also has groups in other areas, details are also on the website.</p> <p>Marita Wood, Ashgate Hospice – improving end of life care in ethnic minority groups. They have plans for community workshops to discuss experiences of death and dying in minority groups. They are currently piloting 'last days matter', although poorly attended, was very useful. They are aimed at the general public. Any future dates will be shared with forum members.</p> <p>Ren Sansom, Bolsover Social Care Circle Plus – this is a new role for Ren, and comes primarily under Bolsover District. More details to follow</p> <p>Jayne Priestley, Police – The latest hate crime figures for the period 1st February – 30 April, 81 hate crimes reported. 1 alternative sub culture, 2 transgender, 11 disability, 3 gender, 1 other, 47 racial, 7 religion/faith, 11 sexual orientation. Broken down by Wards: Brampton East and Boythorpe 4, Brampton West and Loundsley Green 2, Brockwell 2, Hasland 3, Dunston 3, Linacre 1, Rother 5, Spire 26, Staveley Central 11, Staveley North 10, Staveley South 5, Whittington 6, Whittington Moor 3.</p> <p>Skip, ACCA – the office in Hasland also serves as a foodbank and warm space, open to everyone. Joan says they've lost their funding from DCC and are trying to find alternative funding. Sandra at Links was suggested as a good contact to help with funding.</p>	

	<p>Tim Adwick, Building Bridges and Mindscapes. Mindscapes is based at the hub at Low Pavements every Tuesday at 10am. They have breakfast clubs every Thursday and confidence building trips on Thursdays. There is also a fortnightly group, at Clay Cross, where they meet at Tesco at 10am. Find more out on their website, mindscapes.org.uk.</p> <p>Dawn McKenzie, Citizens Advice - they are at most GP practices, and over 80 outreach locations. Currently working with Aston University to produce a video about the impacts of not having heating and electricity on and how it affects health etc. Working with the Deaf Association on a project, along with Derbyshire Law Centre, NEDDC. If a patient needs an interpreter, they can come to one of the GP practices, where they can organise a BSL interpreter.</p> <p>Karen Sheriff, Building Bridges – They have recently moved premises to Ragged School, Markham Road, near the bus station, meeting every 2nd and 4th Thursday, 3:15-4:30pm, where people can come and have a chat in a supportive environment. They have received some funding from Foundation Derbyshire.</p> <p>Lesley Winnard, Work Pays was unable to attend today, but they are still supporting service users, please contact her if you require any information.</p> <p>Rachel Dammarell, WORTH is walking two miles a day, every day to raise money. Please contact her if you would like to sponsor her.</p> <p>Sadie Betts, Elm Foundation - Jada Shah is the new operations manager. There are some more staff appointments/changes undergoing currently, Sadie will report these at a future meeting.</p> <p>Michele Young, Peakay Blindies – Meet third Wednesday of every month, next meeting is Wednesday 21st May at 12noon. Contact Kath Topliss through Sight Support Derbyshire for more details. Macular Society – meet the last Wednesday of each month, next meeting is Wednesday, 28th May, at 2pm, at the Central Methodist Church.</p> <p>Sam Robb-King, Sexual abuse and incest line (Clinical SAIL). They have just started working with +14 year olds. Services can be accessed by self-referral. There are now also two male support workers. Counselling can be provided face to face or online, whatever is preferred. Contact can be made by the website - sailderbyshire.org.uk.</p>	
7.	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Allison asked that if anyone has a good contact for support regarding Autism please let her know.</p>	
8.	<p>Dates of future meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday, 21st July, 1pm, Committee Room 1 Monday, 15th September, 1pm, Committee Room 1 Monday, 24th November, 10am, Committee Room 1 Monday, 12th January, 10am, Committee Room 2 <p>The meetings will take place at the Town Hall.</p>	