

Stockport Nexus Community

Enhancing equality in our locality



Changing Times

NEWSLETTER

Enhancing Equality in
our Locality

WELCOME!

Nexus has picked up momentum and we moving on to the second phase of our development. We now have clear aims and objectives and a steering group to support the process. We will be holding our first open forum this month, this edition of Changing Times, continues to share information, and about equality issues which may be of benefit.

WE HOPE THAT YOU ENJOY YOUR READ!

IN THIS ISSUE

- Welcome to Nexus new Chair Kieran McMahon
- Anchorpoint moving On
- Has Diversity Lost its spark
- Black History Month
- Events Update
- And much more.....

Nexus update

Nexus would like to welcome Kieran McMahon who is now the chair of Nexus. Keiran is having his first public meeting on behalf of Nexus on the 5th September 2013. He would like to welcome all those interested in what Nexus is doing and aiming to achieve. Kieran said:

Working for a fairer life

Nexus is about Equality for all and helping each other to achieve this aim. We are a steering group that seeks to represent all aspects of a diverse community and promote community engagement open to all. We are a Stockport –based and aim to assist in a range of activities in different settings to promote equality values alongside a sense of community. All aspects of equality are included with a particular focus on the areas described in the Equality Legislation.

We seek to focus on issues to produce outcomes and constructive solutions. This means working in Partnership with Statutory, Voluntary, Commercial, Community, Religious and other special interest groups. We are also keen to develop training, advice, support and policy guidance to Organisations and groups in all aspects of Equality Evaluation, Consultation, Involvement and Monitoring.

In 2014 we will be organising a calendar of events based around equality and diversity to promote and raise awareness in within our community and for specific organisations. Festivals and celebration days will be highlighted throughout the year to bring people together and promote inclusion throughout Stockport communities. Anyone wishing to join or for more information, please contact us at our office at Disability Stockport.

Kieran McMahon. **Chair of Nexus.**

Have the Words Equality and Diversity lost its Spark?

There is rarely a time when equality and diversity is not a hot topic in politics, but the term has recently become stigmatised. To some, this term is associated with being too 'politically correct'. These people believe that the political correctness associated with attempting to achieve equality and diversity puts this term across as nothing more than an attempt to tick boxes during processes like hiring

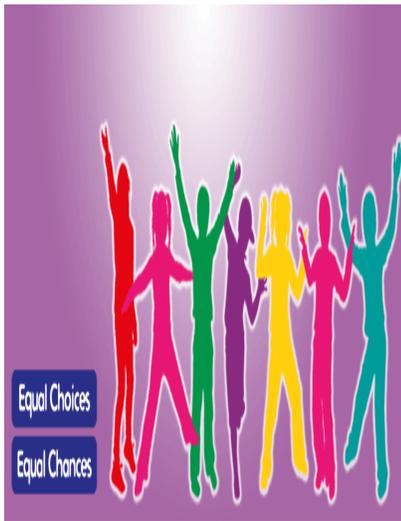
Equality and diversity issues continue to plague almost every area of Britain. Whether it is a lack of ethnic minorities and women in high-ranking government offices, accommodation that does not meet the needs of those who are elderly and disabled, those who live in minority and disadvantaged groups find themselves drawing the short straw in their day-to-day lives. Take travellers for example; as a group in British society who are often looked down on, they find themselves being uprooted from their homes, and paraded in front of the media in a tastelessly voyeuristic manner. Despite this, those who strive to achieve equality and diversity for such groups are often at the receiving end of rolling eyes and comments about being 'too PC'

The motivations for individuals pushing against the words equality and diversity tend to vary. While a small number may actually have poor intentions -- such as the BNP -- others may simply be labouring under naive beliefs. To many, Britain is a society that exists without prejudice. With such beliefs being relatively common, it is no wonder those who promote equality and diversity are perceived as fighting an empty fight

These beliefs have developed to the extent that certain associations are now seeking to define and reaffirm what equality and diversity means. One such example is the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), a body that has chosen to establish a national point plan on promoting equality and diversity. This plan includes highlighting why the elderly require further investment, promoting the needs of different faiths and cultures, improving the representation of those who are disabled or a member of the LGBT community.

The fact that such guidelines need to exist clearly highlights that equality and diversity is not something that everybody takes seriously. As this term is seen as being too politically correct, there is a risk that its existence won't continue to serve the purpose it was designed for. The more people continue to see equality and diversity as being too PC, the harder it will be to promote the needs of those who need the most support in our society. By redefining and highlighting the needs of those who require more support, it will be easier to ensure that their needs are met, and remove the negative connotations associated with this phrase. (Diversity Link)

New Human Rights toolkit The British Institute for Human Rights (BIHR) has created a new guide to support people who want to raise a particular issue with public bodies and organisations who provide a service. It is possible to benefit from the protection of the law without resorting to the courts. Often just raising human rights concerns, can be enough to make sure people are treated fairly and with dignity and respect. For more information go to the BIHR Website: <http://www.bihr.org.uk/sites/default/files/BIHR%20HRCG%20Guide%202012%20NEW.pdf>



Equal choices, equal chances - resources for schoolchildren

The equality and Human Rights commission has launched a brand new careers education resource for primary school children in England: “Equal Choices, Equal Chances”. Developed by the Commission, together with a panel of education and careers experts, and tested in primary schools, the free toolkit for Key stage 2 teachers helps to challenge any stereotypical ideas which pupils may already have started to form around the world of work. Commission research shows that formal careers advice needs to start in

Primary School and the Commission hopes that this resource will help to show pupils the varied possibilities the world of work has to offer, whilst making it clear that race, gender, faith or disability need not limit their choice of career.

The toolkit is made up of five learning areas each of which contains flexible activities which can be used to create whole lessons or slotted into existing lesson plans. The toolkit also contains an inspirational video called “Pass it on” which contains vox-pop videos and audio recordings to help capture pupils’ attention.

Careers education can provide an excellent opportunity for schools to develop relationships with local businesses and organisations and “Equal Choices, Equal Chances” provides a comprehensive guide on how to involve local organisations in careers education. It will also help schools to deliver effective careers and work-related education as part of their PSHE curriculum, and supports achievement of the ACEG (Association of Careers Education and Guidance) learning outcomes for Key Stage 2 introduced in April this year as part of the new framework for careers and work-related education for 7-19 year olds.

New Disability Action Alliance

Announced to deliver disability Strategy, the Government recently announced the formation of a new disability action alliance to help respond to the ideas put forward by disabled people and their organisations on living fulfilling lives. Convened by disability Rights UK and supported by the office for disability Issues, the alliance will consider thousands of suggestions put forward by disabled people earlier this year as part of the Fulfilling Potential discussion. Minister for disabled People, Esther McVey said: ‘The Paralympics truly captivated the hearts of the nation and have undoubtedly helped shift attitudes and perceptions towards disabled people. What we have now is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to capitalise on this and to work with disabled people to deliver lasting change.’

The alliance will put disabled people and their organisations, at the heart of creating inclusive local communities and changing attitudes to disability. For further information, visit the Department for Work and Pensions website <http://tin.vurl.com/9rufouu>



ANCHORPOINT
Stockport

Anchorpoint Moving On! Welcome to Tony

Anchorpoint Stockport is the lead voluntary organisation in Stockport aiming to support Community groups to develop to their full potential. Tony, Shield is the new Chief Officer for Anchorpoint. He has great vision for Anchorpoint and the Community it serves.

He comments “Over the last twenty years, I have worked with a number of charities; this also involved me working closely with many community and voluntary groups. I have a passion for making a difference to people’s lives, by providing them with opportunities to make their own choices, and not have others choose for them. I know the Anchorpoint Stockport team are on side with this, and we will be launching some new initiatives over the next few months.”

Currently a standalone project managed by Synergy Stockport Ltd, Anchorpoint Stockport connects the voluntary and community sector to the information and people they need to grow & succeed. As well as the resources and information, they facilitate projects to support the strength and vitality of the sector in the borough. Anchorpoint Stockport is entering a new phase and is now in the process of becoming a charity in its own right. Tony, as Operational Director, will help to focus on the issues that are important to the people, and organisations they support.

Anchorpoint Stockport has created a fantastic website, which features masses of really useful links and information, which they regularly update. There is a dedicated funding portal, Open4Community, which allows groups to register and gain up to the minute details of funding relevant to their projects. Since going live in November, there has been over 5000 repeat users.

As well as the resources and information of the site, they host a plethora of events, distribute e-bulletins, fit4funding newsletters and facilitate projects to support the strength, and vitality, of the sector.

Anchorpoint Stockport also supports organisations who involve volunteers within their work. They support you to find the volunteers you need, helping you develop great volunteering experiences, and promoting your opportunities to potential volunteers.

Explore the website www.anchorpointstockport.org.uk to connect to the funding portal, register for the latest FREE to attend training and events. Plus find out about CRB checks, volunteers and volunteer opportunities.

Anchorpoint Stockport - Strengthening, Supporting and Enabling

Caste discrimination to be outlawed by Equality Act



Caste discrimination is to be outlawed in the UK, Business Secretary Vince Cable has announced in what is a U-turn on previous government policy.

The House of Lords has voted twice for legal protection to be given to the estimated 400,000 Dalits - so-called untouchables - who live in the UK.

MPs overturned the first Lords vote, but after peers again backed the plan on Monday, there has been a rethink. Mr Cable said caste would in future be treated as "an aspect of race". Keith Porteous Wood, of the National Secular Society, said: "We are delighted that the government has accepted that discrimination against caste should enjoy the same statutory protection as all other forms of protected characteristics. For more information <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-22267147>

lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB) in later life

A hard hitting report by Stonewall (one of the UK's leading charities supporting LGB People) outlines the issues that many older LGB people have in later life. This pioneering research examines the expectations that both heterosexual and gay people have about getting older and underlines how their experiences differ. It demonstrates that older gay people are accessing the services they need and are afraid about who will support them as they estimated one million lesbian, gay and people in Britain over 55 are not confident services will meet their needs. Half feel comfortable being "out" to care home one in three wouldn't be comfortable being "out" to hospital staff, a paid carer, social workers or to their housing provider. If older people feel unable to be open about their sexual orientation, they are unlikely to secure the support they require and deserve. Stonewall's data paints a compelling picture of a group of people who are more likely to live alone, are estranged from their families and who face the prospect of their informal support and social networks falling away. Added to this, many have experienced discrimination earlier in their lives - at work, from families or from authority figures - and this leaves them doubtful about the future.



not genuinely age. The bisexual that public wouldn't staff and

For more information about this report please refer to Stonewall's website. http://www.stonewall.org.uk/documents/lgb_in_later_life_final.pdf

EVENTS

Parents In Partnership Stockport (PIPS) Annual Information Day 2013 -Thinking Local, Acting Personal

PIPS is a group for parents and carers who have children or young people in Stockport with disabilities or additional needs.

PIPS Annual Information Day 2013 -Thinking Local, Acting Personal. Will take place on Wednesday 16 October 2013 9:15am to 4pm (times provisional)

· Free Admission - Accessible Venue, lunch and refreshments provided.

To book follow this link: <http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/event/7863151899/efbevent>

Also join PIPS online at <http://www.pipstockport.org/index.php?page=members>

Adventure & Empowerment Conference 2013

North West Regional Youth Work Unit

A Conference for Youth Workers, Managers and Volunteers who work with Girls & Young Women, this is your opportunity to take part in practical workshops, share ideas, develop your practice and gain more tools through the Young Women's Adventure Club (YWAC) curriculum

Location: Manchester Metropolitan University, Didsbury Campus,

Wilmslow Road, M20 5PG

Date: Saturday 14 September 2013, 10am-4.30pm

Book your place and find further details at: <http://adventureempowerment.eventbrite.co.uk>

Support Stockport Mind for the amazing job they do

Stockport Mind is an independent adult mental health charity that offers friendly, accessible support and information to promote well-being in the community.

Thursday 10th October is World Mental health Day.

Events will be happening in and around Greater Manchester.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

August 2013 has led awareness of the Luther King. This anniversary of Dr Jr's monumental 'I which spoke about all freedom and peace in truth and justice. On joined over 250,000 of in Washington to centenary of Lincoln'.



the way in raising work of Dr Martin year marks the 50th Martin Luther King have a dream' speech God's people living in a world governed by that day, Dr King his fellow Americans commemorate the President Abraham

'Emancipation Proclamation' to free African-Americans, Dr King was in Washington to argue that the freedoms promised by President Lincoln to the newly emancipated African Americans never really materialised, and the march on Washington was an attempt to encourage all Americans to re-commit themselves to the Emancipation Proclamation.

Watch out for the programme of events happening in and around Stockport, in the month of October 2013. The month will start with a Black History service which will take place on the 1st Sunday at Hazel Grove Methodist Church Stockport. All are Welcome.



STOCKPORT SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD



SAFEGUARDING CONFERENCE 2013

OCTOBER 10th 2013

EDGELEY PARK

9.30AM TO 3.30PM

This multi-agency conference aims to provide practitioners and managers information about:

- the learning from national reviews and local audits,
- Working Together 2013
- Trafficking in the UK - speaker from Barnardos
- Child Sexual Exploitation -
 - speaker from the national working group, and
 - 'Somebody's Sister, Somebody's Daughter' GW Theatre Company

Places are limited and will be shortlisted to ensure multi-agency representation. Please complete an application form and return to the SSCB Training Administrator via staffdev@stockport.gov.uk
There is no charge to attend but if you are allocated a place and do not turn up on the day then a charge will be made to cover costs.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS SEPTEMBER 16th 2013.



EalCO has supported African and Caribbean young people in Stockport since 2009. This year we were one of the winners on the local Dragon Den competition, they loved what we do so much they also gave us an award. The Greater Manchester BME Network said we were the most 'Inspirational and Creative' group in 2013

We are grateful.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

We are looking for a Young People Support Worker

We are an ambitious, progressive organisation that strives to provide modern and responsive service for young people and with young people. If you enjoy working with young people and have the expertise, then please read on!

Purpose of job:

We are looking for a youth support worker to take a lead role in supporting young people to develop the strategic element of their creativity, to develop their performing skills and their aspirations. You will also be working with groups of young people to provide an integrated approach, and delivering services to achieve the principle aim of EalCO. This creative and exciting post offers you a great opportunity to get to know local young people and to support them to use their leisure time constructively, as well as having an awareness of their cultural heritage.

To be considered for the role, you must:

- Have a minimum of 2 years' experience working with young people age 7-18 years old, from diverse backgrounds and have knowledge of CP/CIN/LAC.
- Have a recent enhanced CRB/DBS
- Ability to start with 1-3 weeks' notice

Whilst the vacancy is initially until November 2014, the aim is that the time frame will be extended.

Salary: £ 14-16 per hour

Hours: Part Time

Contract type: Interim - Temporary for twelve Months, may be extended depending on funding availability

Location: Stockport

Closing date: 14th September by 5.00 p.m.

Ref: Ea/01-01-2

If you are enthusiastic, hard working and 'up for the challenge' we want to hear from you. **Please contact Chloe Nuttall on 0161 4771914 or**

Email: admin@eaicostockport.org for an application

An enhanced Disclosure will be required for this post. You will be responsible for paying your tax.

A Policy for Older LGBT

In the framework of the 2012 European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations, AGE Platform Europe (AGE) and ILGA-Europe have decided to focus on the situation of older LGBT people in Europe. In a joint policy paper, the policy paper *'Equality for older lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex people in Europe'* is the first of its kind at European level. AGE and ILGA-Europe call for a comprehensive and coherent approach to tackle multiple discrimination of older LGBT people, and for development of adequate policy responses to support ageing LGBT communities on a national



and as well as on an European level. In the policy paper AGE and ILGA-Europe have identified four main challenges faced by older LGBT people: The lack of recognition of same-sex couples has an impact on their access to social protection and on their financial security. This becomes particularly worrying when people get older and cannot ensure that their partner will have access to their pensions and assets.

Secondly Older LGBT people may have specific health needs and may face ongoing stigmatisation in the field of healthcare. Some elderly LGBT people experience social exclusion and invisibility and cannot rely on the same family support as other older people.