

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

ETHNIC MINORITIES FORUM

Note of meeting held on 13 April 2000
at 1400 hrs within East Ayrshire Council, Council HQ, London Road, Kilmarnock

Present

East Ayrshire Council

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| Cllr David Macrae (Chair) (Cllr DM) | |
| Cllr Harry Wilson (Cllr HW) | |
| Margaret Burnell | Senior Depute Director of Education |
| David Montgomery (DM) | Chief Executive |
| Graham Haugh (GH) | Department of Corporate Services (Personnel) |
| Kathy Logan (KL) | Department of Corporate Services (Personnel) |
| Alan Murray (AM) | Department of Education (Community Education) |
| Les Aitchison | Community Services Department |
| John Butler (JB) | Department of Social Work (Children & Families) |
| Sam McVie (SMcV) | Department of Development Services (Property) |
| Hugh Mitchell (HM) | Strathclyde Police Liaison Officer |
| Joe Cassidy | Homes & Technical Services |
| Avril Harkness (AH) | Childcare Partnership Officer |

Ethnic Minority Representatives

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|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Mr Kenny Shek | KULOC Community Association |
| Mr Thmosas Ho | KULOC Community Association |
| Ms Cecilia Ho | KULOC Community Association |
| Ms Gillian Gow | Observer |
| Mrs Khan | Islamic Education & Cultural Centre |
| Mrs Malik | Chandni Asian Women's Group |
| Mr Malik | Islamic Education & Cultural Centre |
| Mr Shafique | Islamic Education & Cultural Centre |

Other Organisations

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| Aaliya Seyal | Ethnic Minority Law Centre |
| Adrian Lui | Ethnic Minority Law Centre |
| June Fraser | Ethnic Minority Law Centre |
| Anne Barbour | West of Scotland Community Relations Council |
| Christine Tsang | Ethnic Minority Worker, North Ayrshire Council |

Apologies

Cllr Thomas Farrell, East Ayrshire Council
Cllr Iain Linton, East Ayrshire Council
Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive
John Crawford, Head of Protective Services
Tom Williams, Principal Psychologist
Helen McGhee, Department of Social Work
Alison Smith, Community Services Department
Farrah Khan, West of Scotland Community Relations Officer

Note of previous meeting

Cllr DM welcomed everyone to the meeting.
The note of the meeting held on 21 October 1999 was agreed as an accurate record.

Matters Arising

Ethnic Minorities Law Centre/Grant Scheme

East Ayrshire Council has agreed to fund this Scheme for a total of £5,340.88 which would be a pro rata contribution from East Ayrshire. This would allow for an extended service to be provided.

Ethnic Minority Worker

Christine Tsang to update later in the meeting.

Islamic Education Centre

SMcV stressed that this situation is currently ongoing. He also informed that the Council has received an application for building work for internal alterations to be carried out in the premises. Once the building application has been agreed the work will progress and it is hoped that the group will be in occupancy before the next meeting which is scheduled for October 2000. Communication links between EAC and the Islamic Ethnic Community must continue for this project to be completed successfully.

Chinese School

SMcV informed the group that the former Technical Block at Kilmarnock Academy has now been sold with a view to being made into flats. It was noted that a town centre location was required for the Chinese School and that communication links with EAC and the Chinese Community would be ongoing. Any available premises will be referred to the KULOC group for their acceptance or refusal.

Social Inclusion

Arrangements are still to be finalised with regard to an Ethnic Representative being represented on the Coalfields Communities Federation. Steps have been taken to include this request in the Constitution of the Communities Federation. Dave Hewet, Social Inclusion Officer will progress ASAP. Further comments or issues, if any, will be raised at the next meeting of this forum.

Local Committees/Forums

DMcV has contacted a representative of each Ethnic Community by letter and is still waiting on a response. Communication links must improve to allow this to succeed. Anyone with comments, suggestions or show of interest in this issue were advise to contact DMcV directly.

Action

DH

Corporate Complaints Procedure

KL briefly updated the forum on the visit by Fharra Khan, West of Scotland Community Relations Council to East Ayrshire. KL explained that Fharra expressed comments and suggestions with regard to the format of the guidelines on the Corporate Complaints Procedure. As a result the guidelines are currently being amended to incorporate Fharra's suggestions with regard to the Ethnic Communities point of view. These draft guidelines will be brought to the next Ethnic Forum for consultation. These guidelines will eventually be produced in the 3 main community languages. The outcome of the Stephen Lawrence Enquiry will be taken into account in the procedures. MB commented that a system for reporting and monitoring incidents of racial abuse currently operates within the Education Department.

FL

Draft Children and Young Person's Charter

JB briefly spoke on the draft Young Person's Charter (Leaflet distributed at meeting). He mainly covered the contents of the leaflet highlighting that the Charter refers to children aged between 0-18 years. He also informed that the Charter was referred to the East Ayrshire Youth Conference and is awaiting feedback from the Youth Conference on the Charter. Following consultation procedures the final draft will be forwarded to Local Committees for approval before being issued in the 3 main ethnic languages. JB will write to Ethnic representatives to encourage them to express their views or comments on the Charter within the consultation timescale.

JB

Parent's Leaflet - Assessment of Bilingual Pupils

MB referred to the leaflet in the agenda and briefly led the forum through the purpose of the leaflet. She highlighted that AB will work with parents and children to assess children's individual needs. The leaflet will be produced in community languages. MB stressed that if anyone has any concerns or comments to contact either her or Anne Basford direct.

Profile of Skills - Children 3 to 5

MB referred to the proforma in the agenda and detailed its importance and its use and advantage to educational establishments and the individual child. MB informed that the profile will be used in Early Years and Pre-school Establishments, and also invited any comments on the proforma to be sent direct to herself or Anne Basford for consideration.

Childcare Partnership Update

AH briefly updated the forum on the current position of the Childcare Partnership and highlighted that she was currently undertaking a Childcare Audit. Within this audit there is a section targeting Employers needs or requirements with regard to childcare for employees. Business throughout North, South and East Ayrshire have been targeted but not a great response has been received to date. AH also highlighted that the Childcare Information Service have a Website available to try and encourage wider use of childcare facilities.

AH informed the group that a pilot project for After School Care Clubs will be targeted, in the first instance, to the Chinese community.

Ethnic Minority Worker

CT introduced herself to the forum and gave brief details of her job description and the aims of the Ethnic Minority Worker. CT in conjunction with AH have been identifying childcare provision for ethnic community groups within North, South and East Ayrshire Council's.

DM stressed once again that communication links between Authority and Ethnic Communities must improve so that the maximum childcare provision can be truly identified. Ethnic communities were asked to contact CT or AH if they have any questions, ideas or comments on required childcare provision.

CONNECT

Cllr DM referred to this item as for information only.

AOCB

Local Interpretation Services

CT raised the issue that there is a need for local Interpretation Services within Ayrshire to be created. DM said that this issue would be reviewed and it would be raised with the Social Inclusion Partnership in the first instance. If it is viable/agreeable to them they will contact North and South Ayrshire Council's and the Ayrshire & Arran Health Board for their views on a joint venture to implement such a service within Ayrshire. Findings will be brought to the next meeting of this forum.

DM

Ethnic Minority Law Centre

Adrian Lui expressed his thanks on behalf of his colleagues and the Law Centre for the continued financial support from EAC and personally thanked Councillor Walsh and Margaret Burnell for all their hard work in connection with the Law Centre.

Adrian Lui also informed the forum of the Law Centre's AGM in May and openly invited all ethnic representatives to attend.

Farewell to Margaret Burnell

Cllr DM informed the group that as of 30 June 2000, Margaret Burnell is taking voluntary severance from East Ayrshire Council. All expressed their thanks to Margaret for her hard work and contribution to the Ethnic Community Forum and wished her well for the future.

Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be held in October 2000. The date, time and venue will be notified at a later date.

AGENDA