

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

ETHNIC MINORITIES FORUM

Note of meeting held on 14 December 2000
at 1400 hrs within East Ayrshire Council, Council HQ, London Road, Kilmarnock

Present

East Ayrshire Council

Cllr Alexander Walsh (Chair) (CllrW)	East Ayrshire Council
David Montgomery (DM)	Chief Executive
Kay Gilmour (KG)	Head of Community Support, Educational & Social Services
Graham Haugh (GH)	Department of Corporate Services (Personnel)
Douglas Campbell (DC)	Head of Corporate Development & Communication
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 (JoeC)	Homes & Technical Services
John Crawford (JC)	Head of Protective Services
Tom Merry (TM)	Development Services
Alex Drain (AD)	Finance Department
Hilary Long (HL)	Childcare Partnership Officer
Anne Basford (AB)	Network Support Co-ordinator

Ethnic Minority Representatives

Mr Malik	Islamic Education & Cultural Centre
Mr Iqbal	Islamic Education & Cultural Centre

Other Organisations

June Fraser (JF)	Ethnic Minority Law Centre
Allan Beattie (AIB)	North Ayrshire Council
Sergeant Andrew McIlwraith (SMcIl)	Strathclyde Police
Superintendent Alistair McKie (SupMcK)	Strathclyde Police

Apologies

Cllr David Macrae, East Ayrshire Council
Cllr John Weir, East Ayrshire Council
Cllr Andrew McIntyre, East Ayrshire Council
Cllr Harry Wilson, East Ayrshire Council
Cllr Iain Linton, East Ayrshire Council
Cllr Thomas Farrell, East Ayrshire Council
Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive
Kathy Logan, Personnel Services
Mrs Seyal, Ethnic Minority Law Centre
Mr Shafique, Islamic Education & Cultural Centre

Introduction

(CllrW) welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that he was substituting for Councillor Macrae. No objections were noted. He apologised for the length of time from the last meeting and proceeded to inform the Forum of the restructuring within the Council.

He informed the Forum that there is now a Corporate Resources Department. Amongst other support responsibilities this department has responsibility for Community Planning and Social Inclusion.

The restructuring has also provided the Council with the opportunity to bring together Educational and Social Services under one new department.

(CllrW) indicated that Kay Gilmour, who now carries a lead responsibility within the Council for liaising with ethnic minority communities, is keen to review how successful the Forum has been in planning and developing services in partnership. It is likely therefore that she will be in touch in the coming weeks.

Apologies

As previously noted. It was also raised that as this was the month of Ramadan, Islamic members are in prayer and would be unable to attend.

Minute of Previous Meeting

The note of the meeting held on 13 April 2000 was agreed as an accurate record.

Matters Arising

(CllrW) informed the group that Christine Tsang (North Ayrshire Council) and Avril Harkness (East Ayrshire Council) have both left Council employment since the last meeting. Hillary Long who replaces Avril Harkness was welcomed to the Forum.

- **Islamic Education Centre**

(SMcV) informed the group that the building warrant may be issued in the next few days. He also informed the meeting that the Islamic Group wished to purchase the premises. He stated that he would liaise with the Homes & Technical Department to progress this as the building maybe required to be declared surplus to Council requirements.

(SMcV)

- **Chinese School**

Suitable town centre premises are still unavailable and (SMcV) will continue to monitor the situation.

(SMcV)

- **Interpreting Service**

(KG) advised that she would be contacting ethnic groups to arrange individual meetings to discuss how best to address the needs for interpreting services and required support.

(KG)

(DM) stressed that the issue of interpreting services is not only an Ayrshire-wide concern but has been recognised at National level.

(AB) asked the Forum if they were aware of, or had used a Language Call Line Service. It was agreed that this should be looked into along with other options for interpreting services.

(KG)

Action

- **Social Inclusion**

(DC) briefed the Forum about the current representation for the Coalfield Federation. He advised the Forum that there was still a place for an ethnic representative to be on the Federation but stipulated that the representative must be from the Coalfield Area (Cumnock & Doon Valley area). (DC) to write to all Ethnic communities for nominations.

(DC)

- **Ethnic Minorities Representatives on Area Local Committees**

(CllrW) informed the Forum that East Ayrshire Council is still very keen to include ethnic minority representation on Local Committees and a place is now available on the Kilmarnock Central Local Committee and if anyone on the Forum is interested they should contact Melanie MacLeod on Tel: 576094. The Council is happy to arrange for any support that a representative may need to participate in local committees, including interpreting services if required.

(KG) asked that the Ethnic Group representatives consider and advise her, at future individual meetings, of support needed to encourage ethnic representation onto Local Committees.

(KG)

- **Parents Leaflets – Assessment of Bilingual Pupils**

(AB) advised that the leaflets were ready to be produced in the 3 main ethnic languages and would be distributed to schools in the near future.

(AB)

- **Profile of Skills 3-5**

(AB) explained in detail the assessment process surrounding the Profile of Skills Booklet and informed the Forum that a pilot scheme would be started at Nursery level through to Primary School between now and the Summer of 2001. This project is European funded and the booklet has already been translated into Chinese with a view to being translated into Urdu and Punjabi.

(AB) informed the Forum that the Scottish Executive Education Department has also produced SEN and Nursery curriculum leaflets for parents in a range of languages which will be obtainable from herself and schools shortly before the summer of 2001.

All departments to include representative ethnic minority groups on mailing lists as a matter of routine.

(ALL)

- **Pilot After School Care Club – Chinese Community**

(HL) advised that an application has been submitted to New Opportunities Fund for £63,962 for Out of School Hours Childcare Places. The pilot project will be based in Irvine town centre, North Ayrshire but will be available throughout Ayrshire. (CllrW) hoped that this would be a successful bid.

- **Children's Charter**

(JB) circulated to the group current information on the Children's Charter in leaflet and poster format. He also gave the group a verbal report on the current situation stating that it is hoped that the final Charter will be produced alongside the new Children's Service Plan. The Charter will then be produced in the 3 main ethnic languages and distributed accordingly.

(JB)

INVOLVEMENT IN PLANNING

(DC) advised the Forum that following the New Year there will be three consultation exercises to progress the following:

- Children's Service Plan
- Joint Community Care Plan
- Community Plan

(DC) suggested that a special one off meeting be arranged with ethnic groups to consult about the three plans. Discussion followed with regards to available times for meeting. (DC) to write to Ethnic Groups to arrange meeting.

It was agreed that preparation for this would be essential including translation and interpreting services.

(DC) to progress

CORPORATE COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

(DC) gave a brief update to the meeting on the above and advised the Forum that guidelines have been in place since the summer of 2000 and is being used Council-wide. Monitoring and evaluation systems are in place every six months and a future report will be presented at the Ethnic Minority Forum for information.

(DC)

FORMATION OF MARIM – MULTI-AGENCY RACIAL INCIDENT MONITORING

(GH) introduced (SupMcK) and (SMcII) to the Forum. (SupMcK) informed the Forum that the first MARIM group was formed in 1987 to monitor and establish racial incident procedures and guidelines and is Police led. MARIM is an Ayrshire-wide Forum involving all services including the Council, Police, other agencies and ethnic communities. In 1999/2000 forty-one racial incidents were reported leading to 70 people being charged. (SupMcK) sought continued support for the continuation of this group and the work that is carried out.

Communication issues regarding reporting racial incidents was discussed at length and (SupMcK) requested that ethnic communities report any incident to the Police or to him direct.

(GH) thanked (SupMcK) on behalf of the Forum for not only his, but the Police commitment on this issue.

KULOC CHINESE COMMUNITY CENTRE

After discussion on the above issue it was agreed that (AIIB) would progress an Ayrshire-wide meeting to take forward the possibility of a joint Ayrshire Chinese Community Centre taking account of:

(AIIB)

- Premises
- Employment of Support Worker
- Cross ethnic community use – advantages and problems arising

(AIIB) informed the Forum that it is hoped that Christine Tsang's post within North Ayrshire Council will be filled in the very near future.

AOCB**• Interpreting Services**

(AIB) informed the Forum that in North Ayrshire eight Chinese representatives have indicated that they would wish to develop their skills for interpreting services. As this is a Council-wide issue it was agreed that (AIB) would include this issue in the Ayrshire-wide meeting.

(AIB)

(SupMcK) informed the Forum at this point that there is an emergency translation facility available through Strathclyde Police.

• Ethnic Minority Law Centre

(JF) gave the Forum an update on the current work of the Ethnic Minority Law Centre and thanked the Council for continued funding received in 2000. (JF) explained that the Law Centre currently holds surgeries within East Ayrshire, at which it is proposed to provide interpreters for support purposes in the future. There are plans to expand services in East Ayrshire but (JF) stated that current services provided are being well used at present by ethnic communities.

It was agreed that (KG) would be the Council's contact with regard to Ethnic Minority issues.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would take place in the Spring of 2001. Date and time to be confirmed.

(CllrW) thanked everyone for their attendance and reminded the Forum that (KG) would be in contact with them in the near future.

AGENDA