

EQUALITIES FORUM

MONDAY 24 OCTOBER 2016

CONFERENCE ROOMS 7 & 8, VICTORIA QUAY

Present

Lisa Freeman (Chair)	SEStran
(LF)	
John Ballantine (JB)	SATA
Nikki Boath (NB)	SEStran
Karen Brown (KB)	NHS Lothian
Angela Chambers (AC)	SEStran
Mark Craske (MC)	NHS Forth Valley
George Curley (GC)	NHS Lothian
George Eckton (GE)	SEStran
Mike Harrison (MH)	Midlothian Access Panel
John Moore (JM)	LCTS
Gordon Mungall (GM)	West Lothian Access Committee
Moira Mungall (MM)	Disability West Lothian
Emily Whitters (EW)	SEStran
Dennis Wilson (DW)	Edinburgh Access Panel

Apologies

Cllr Lesley Hinds	City of Edinburgh Council
Sophie Bridger	Stonewall
Lesley Crozier	Mid/East Lothian Council
Jane Findlay	Fife Council
Toni Giugliano	Age Scotland
John Jack	Non Cllr Member
Stuart Lockhart	One-Ticket Ltd
Alan Rees	SATA
Catriona Scally	West Lothian Access Committee
Tim Steiner	JMP

Ref	Actions	
1	Introduction	
	LF welcomed everyone and conducted round the table introductions. Apologies were noted as above.	
2	Matters Arising from Minutes of Previous Meeting	
	<u>Thistle Card Update including App Development</u> GM agreed to get symbols from Catriona Scally to support the primary disability sticker.	Gordon Mungall
	GM to send a contact list from other Access Panel Networks for feedback on app.	Gordon Mungall

	<p><u>Waverley/Haymarket/Edinburgh Gateway</u> LF has spoken to Network Rail regarding the taxi rank at Waverley Station and a business plan is underway. Network Rail will be holding a meeting with City of Edinburgh Council.</p> <p>There were no further matters arising from the previous meeting.</p>	
3	Passenger Transport Authorities	
	GE outlined the paper and a general discussion took place.	
4	Review of SEStran Liaison Structures	
	<p>GE gave a verbal report regarding Forums structures and suggested that potentially some of the current Forums could be integrated. GE highlighted that the Equalities Forum is valuable and invited comments from the Forum members. A general discussion took place and it was highlighted by members that the Forum has been diluted. LF reported that SEStran has done a recruitment drive to invite other organisations with protected characteristics to attend the Equalities Forum. JM suggested contacting the TSIs directly.</p>	Lisa Freeman
5	Equality Outcomes	
	<p>GE presented a paper on Equality Outcomes. GE recommended that the focus should be on delivering a smaller number of Equality Outcomes for period 2017-2021. GE advised a consultation paper will be sent out at the beginning of 2017 and the Equalities Forum will have an opportunity to review these comments following the consultation at the next meeting before publishing in March 2017. JB questioned the proposed new format and highlighted it is important to look at more than just data. GE agreed with the comments but advised that a baseline needs to be set. The general consensus was that the new format needs to be tried.</p>	
6.	Board Diversity/Succession Plan	
	<p>EW presented a paper and outlined the contents. EW invited feedback on the paper from the Forum. A general discussion took place and it was suggested that appointing a service user with protected characteristics to the Board could be beneficial.</p> <p>GM communicated that he would be willing to attend the Partnership Board as an Observer and highlighted that this is a good opportunity for Personal Development. GM suggested an alternate could be introduced also.</p>	Gordon Mungall
7.	Thistle App	
	<p>LF presented a report. LF thanked SATA for the Award. LF brought to the attention of the Forum that the app is now available for testing and would welcome comments on the development of the app by the end of November. The app will also be sent to Operators for comments. KB advised that this will be put on the NHS Intranet.</p> <p>LF requested assistance with obtaining learning disability symbols.</p>	Karen Brown

8.	Accessible Travel Framework	
	LF presented a paper and highlighted that SEStran and its Forums have an ever increasing relevance to the delivery of the Outcomes. LF also highlighted that the Thistle card is acknowledged within the paper. MH said that the RTPs have a strong part to play in the Framework.	
9.	NTS2 Consultation	
	LF gave a verbal update. LF communicated that Transport Scotland had been in contact stating that Transport Scotland are committed to a collaborative review and this is currently being planned. Stakeholder events are likely to start early 2017. RTPs will be represented in the new NTS Stakeholder Advisory Group.	
10.	Update on RTS	
	LF gave a verbal update. LF highlighted that a Refresh has been done and the scoping exercise is currently being undertaken.	
11.	Emerging Transport Bill (Responsible Parking)	
	GE delivered the paper. A consultation paper is imminent and it was agreed that GE will bring this paper to next Equalities Forum meeting for further discussion.	
12.	RSA Inclusive Growth Commission	
	GE presented the paper. GE pointed out that SEStran will be responding before Christmas and therefore the timescale for comments is mid December.	
13.	Access to Healthcare	
	GE gave a verbal update. GE reported that a discussion had taken place with John Jack to merge the Access to Healthcare and Equalities Forum and GE highlighted that this merger could be beneficial for both Forums. GE also reported that John Jack is willing to chair the future joint Forum. GE also advised that the main action from the last Access to Healthcare Forum, namely the strategic plan, could be taken forward. GE invited comments from the Forum. A general discussion took place.	
14.	AOCB	
	<p><u>Waverley Station – Taxis</u> DW raised a concern regarding taxi accessibility at Waverley Station. GE offered to speak to Network Rail and DFT regarding access and will report back to the Forum.</p> <p><u>Comments forwarded from Forum Members unable to attend the meeting</u></p> <p><u>Tim Steiner, JMP</u> There are some clear synergies between access to healthcare and equalities (notably that people who are more deprived tend to have greater need to access healthcare services and yet fewer modal choices about how to do so). But the access to healthcare agenda should also include a range of environmental considerations (manifesting themselves through travel plans, parking strategies,</p>	George Eckton

	<p>etc), and it would be a shame if the integration meant that this second element became overlooked.</p> <p><u>John Macdonald, CTA</u> I have read through the papers including the Equality Outcomes. My main comment is that as SEStran develop new outcomes that steps are taken to give people who share a protected characteristic the opportunity to contribute to the process. I would be very happy to be involved with this in the coming months and years.</p> <p><u>Lesley Crozier, Mid/East Lothian Council</u> I have looked over the agenda papers and would comment that the Forum should note that all nine existing protected characteristics should be represented – there are times when marriage and civil partnership and pregnancy and maternity are missing from the list/(s). I would also ask the Forum to note that the tenth protected characteristic (not yet enacted) of socio-economic deprivation is likely to be enacted in 2017, and so I will be including an outcome/(s) which will cover this for East and Midlothian Councils for the period 2017 – 2021. I am more than happy to discuss these matters further if this would be useful.</p>	
15.	Next of Meeting	
	The date of the next meeting is to be confirmed.	