



Information for potential members of the Pan-Disability Panel

People with a disability or carers of people with a disability are the best persons to understand disability needs and how to meet them. Therefore, the Council would like you to get involved in the planning of local services and policy making. With this aim in mind, we are setting up a Tower Hamlets Pan-Disability Panel (THPDP) to achieve this.

The Panel will improve the Council's involvement and engagement with disabled people in the borough. It will give us the opportunity to work closely with a range of disability groups, increase the numbers of individuals we talk to and capture the full diversity of this borough's disabled population. The Panel will enrich the methods in which the Council involves people, by strengthening working links into the Tower Hamlets Partnership structure. The outcome will contribute to shaping and achieving equality of services available to all people in Tower Hamlets.

The Pan-Disability Panel will have themed 'active sub' groups and will structure its work programme around the following broad themes:

A Great Place to Live -Looking at the provision of affordable housing and strong neighbourhoods, strengthening and connecting communities. Supporting vibrant town centres and a cleaner safer public realm, improving the environment and tackling climate change. Some examples would include increasing the supply of decent energy efficient housing, plan new neighbourhoods with supporting services, better street lighting, promoting more recycling and improving public transport networks.

A Safe and Supportive Community – Empowering older and vulnerable people and supporting families, tackling and preventing crime and focussing on early intervention. Some examples of this include providing appropriate services that promote independence, choice, and security, interventions that help reduce re-offending, improving support for children and young people with disabilities and their families, and using joint up approaches in tackling the causes of crime.

A Healthy Community -Improving health and reducing differences in people's health by promoting healthy lifestyles, supporting mental health services, improving access to local health services. Some examples would include slowing down the increase in obesity, combating discrimination against individuals and groups with mental health problems, improving access to GPs, developing out-of-hospital services, and improving access to high quality maternity care.

A Prosperous Community -Supporting excellent learning opportunities for all, reducing worklessness and fostering enterprise. Some examples of this would include the provision of high quality schools, so that young people acquire the knowledge and skills they need to fulfil their full potential, identifying and removing barriers to employment for target groups, providing incentives that encourage businesses and social enterprise.

Transport – Members of the transport panel would be expected to take part in the planning and development of accessible transport throughout the borough, at both strategic and local levels. This will mean working with council officers, transport providers such as Transport for London and Docklands Light Railway and others to enable people with mobility difficulties to make full use of transport for both their work and leisure pursuits.

Pan-Disability Panel members can choose to be involved in any of the themes of interest to them.

The Council has organised an enrolment day event for local people with a disability and/or their carers to find out more about the Panel and to decide if they would like to get involved as a member and in what part of the structure. Either 'armchair' involvement, as a participant in a themed 'active sub' group, or as an 'elected representative' which involves speaking on behalf of members of the relevant themed sub groups.

The pre-book event is taking place on the **12th November 2009, at the Brady Arts & Community Centre, 192-196 Hanbury Street, E1 5HU, 10am to 4pm.**

We welcome your contribution.

Tower Hamlets Partnership



2009-2010
Positive engagement of older people
2009-2010
Preventing and tackling child poverty
2003-2009
Winner of 7 previous
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