

Minutes of Bristol Women's Commission

May 11th 2018, 9.00-11.00am, City Hall

Present

Penny Gane (Chair), Jackie Beavington (Women's Health Task Group), Helen Mott (Fawcett Society), Sue Arrowsmith (Business Task Group and First Group), Keziah Featherstone (Education Task Group), Meera Pandya (VOSCUR), Councillor Harriet Bradley, Sue Durbin (UWE), Councillor Helen Godwin, Alison Comley BCC

1. Apologies

Diane Bunyan (Bristol Women's Voice), , Zoe Chegwin (Police), Councilor Jude English, Sarah Pullen (SW Media, Trinity Mirror), Teresa Sullivan (UH Bristol), Donna Whitehead (UWE), Sandra Meadows (VOSCUR), Councillor Marg Hickman (BCC Labour Group), Kalpna Woolf, Judith Squires, Jana Smidkova CoBC

2. Minutes, Matters Arising

Corrections

3. Should read:

'Helen talked about her work advising Westminster about sexual harassment, If anyone needs more information please contact her.'

Matters Arising

4. Inclusive Growth Strategy is being reviewed by the Economy task group. They hope to have a meeting with Inclusive Growth Strategy Group.

Harriet still needs to liaise with Deepak or disability forum.

ACTION Harriet

Penny to check to see if list of stakeholders sent to Debra. As a result of the discussion Bristol Women's Commission will be consulted properly in future.

Women in Business event highly successful. More than 80 businesses attended.

ACTION Penny

All other items included in the agenda

3. Report to Full Council

BWC now has a responsibility to report to full council annually. This will increase the profile of the Commission. Harriet offered to help with the writing of the report.

A discussion followed about the support to the Commission provided by the council. Alison will ensure that there is a minute taker for future meetings. There is still a need for clerical assistance.

Helen, Harriet and Alison will discuss what is needed with Marg and take to the Mayor's office. In addition, there is an equalities review and following this there will be more clarity about support in the future.

Jackie will send calendar invites out to members for the future meetings.

The report needs to acknowledge the support that is unpaid that is going into the commission.

Key points from Task Groups for Full Council presentation

Penny has drafted the report and it is now being put into the BCC format.

Penny will have 10m mins to introduce, parties respond and Helen will sum up. All agreed that there is a tremendous amount of work documented and were happy with what Penny has written.

4. Discussions with suggestions for improving profile

Profile of Women's Commission

Agreed that BWC members could do more in an ambassadorial role.

Helen has offered to represent BWC on podcast organised by Esme Ashcroft at Bristol Post if commission representation required.. **ACTION Penny to pass B.Post's requests to Helen**

ACTION Penny

BWV has strong links with community organisations rather than business. CBI invited to attend the Commission and member to link with business task group.

Sue offered to do some work with businesses on behalf of women in business group.

ACTION Sue A

Discussion about UWE who are doing a huge amount around women's issues. The work between the two universities has been a direct result of the Zero Tolerance Campaign. (spear headed by Universities)

Suggestion that BWC could analyse all the equality data for their own organisations, not just the pay gap.

BWV works with BWC to take forward and underpin a lot of the work. The commission does not have staff, BWV has three part time staff and run major projects. All women in Bristol can join BWV to feed into the Commission.

There is a lack of clarity between the two organisations. Penny has been invited to attend many large businesses and organisations explaining the difference between

them and promoting both. It is recognised that Bristol is leading the way. It was suggested to Penny to write up what we are doing as a model of good practice for other Cities. **Action Penny**

Membership

There was a wide ranging discussion about membership in general and the lack of business representation.

Agreed that Penny should invite the following:

- Stephanie Marshall, Head of BBC in the West to join the Commission
- Sumita Hutchison, Chair of the Race Equality Council to join the Commission.
- Katherine Finn, LEP to join Commission
- Alison Pallett, Bank for Ireland to be invited to join the Business Task Group.
- Marina Traversari, Oracle to be invited to join Business Task Group

ACTION Penny

- Check with Patrica Greer, West of England Combined Authority to see if Hannah Sturman can attend in her new role with WECA

ACTION Penny

Agreed that if necessary the commitment to the Commission should be in two year cycles.

5. **Reach of Women's Commission** eg What are we doing about gender pay gap in our own organisations? (Follow up on audit of member organisations?)

This will be on agenda for next meeting

6. AOB

- Men as Change Agents – a new campaign from Women's Business Council that is part of the government's Equality office.
- Keziah wants volunteers to take part in the Human Library, 27 June, Cabot Institute at City Academy for event with Year 6 and 9 girls.
- Contact Keziah if you are able to do this or recommend other women to do it.
- Consultation on SEVs closes soon. Concern expressed about the survey and what will happen as a result. All encouraged to respond.

ACTION ALL

7. Next Steps- Alison Comley

Penny thanked Alison on behalf of the Commission for all the work and support that she has given to the Commission in the past. Alison will ensure that there will be a representative of BCC that attends future meetings.

8. Date of Next Meetings

6th July Writing Room 9-11am
7th September Library 9-11am
9th November Library