
SKILLS, SAFETY, & ENGAGEMENT STATEMENT

Engaging Deaf People in Council Services

On Tuesday (29 September), Council officers visited Cardiff Deaf Centre on Newport Road for the second in a series of quarterly engagement events. Cardiff is seeking to achieve the BSL Charter, and this regular engagement will underpin our progress towards Charter status. Council and Police officers jointly engage members of Cardiff Deaf Club to help provide access to their services, and to identify solutions to any barriers to access they discover.

This week's meeting saw the Independent Living Service describe changes in access to health and social care emerging from the Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014, to enable Deaf people to access Information, Advice and Assistance. Communication and access to information remain the overarching theme to each event, and reflecting this the Council will publish a range of BSL videos on our website to widen access to Council services.

Black History Month Event

On 17 October the Council has agreed to host a combined Black History Month meeting of the Black and Minority Ethnic Employee Networks of several large employers in Wales, including the Council, Welsh Government, Gwent Police, Her Majesty's Passport Office, DVLA and more.

Our Chief Executive Paul Orders will sit on a high profile speaker panel including the Equality and Human rights Commissioner for Wales, the Chief Constable of Gwent, Britain's youngest female District Court judge and other managers, collectively exploring how large organisations can support the recruitment and development of minority ethnic people in their workforces, at a time when the Equality and Human Rights Commission has flagged up this issue as a significant cause for concern.

Good News from the Glamorgan Archives

The Glamorgan Archives has secured a number of successes in recent weeks.

First, the Archives won a prize at the 2016 International Council on Archives Congress in Seoul, Korea, in the category 'Best Film Portraying the Relevance and Importance of Archives'. The film saw members from self-advocacy group Cardiff People First tell their stories about Ely Hospital. Glamorgan Archives played a key role in their research, providing access and interpretation of old documents relating to Ely Hospital and the surrounding area. The jury said of the

film: 'There is so much heart and soul in this film, it's not possible to watch it without being touched'.

Secondly, the Archives have recently received the biggest Wellcome Trust grant ever awarded in Wales, over £200,000 for a project to widen access to the National Coal Board records held in the Archive. Managers are interviewing this week to recruit staff to the project.

Ask Cardiff

Ask Cardiff – our annual consultation with residents – concluded on 11 September. This year we asked our residents questions pertaining to a variety of topics, including satisfaction with services, well-being, and questions around budgetary pressures and priorities designed to help inform the Council's final budget proposals. Over four thousand people responded to the survey, and we saw increases in response rates from some key hard-to-reach groups. We achieved statistical significance in responses from five of the city's six Neighbourhood Partnership Areas, the first time this has happened. Crucially, this includes Cardiff & City South (which has historically-low response rates,) although there is still more work to do in Cardiff East. There was also a significant increase in the percentage of respondents aged under 35, with just over twenty percent of respondents being within the 16-34 age range.

Analysis of the consultation results is ongoing but it is clear that the extent of the financial challenges the Council faces is recognised across all demographic groups.

Councillor Dan De'Ath
Cabinet Member for Skills, Safety & Engagement
28 September 2016