

## GREATER MANCHESTER COALITION OF DISABLED PEOPLE

Brief notes of the Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People Steering Group Meeting held on Friday 6 July at 7.30 pm in The St Thomas Centre, Ardwick Green North, Manchester.

(1984)

Present                      Ken Lumb (in the chair)  
                                 Sharon Hughes  
                                 Bernard Leach  
                                 Paul Mittler  
                                 David Goddard  
                                 Neville Strourger  
                                 Lorraine Gradwell  
                                 Anne Miller  
                                 Edna Hughes  
                                 Annette Taylor  
                                 Kevin Hyett  
                                 Linda Carroll

In Attendance              Valerie Suffolk  
                                 Dorothy Whitaker

Apologies                  Leon Rogers  
                                 Saeed Ahmed  
                                 Joan Willis  
                                 Jeremy White

### 1. Minutes of the Last Meeting

David Goddard wished his name to be added to the list of apologies.

Pg 2 (D) should read "The Cooption of representatives from other Coalitions...

Pg 2 . Second paragraph under Finance should read- "Also a draft letter would be prepared requesting financial help from individuals and groups.

With these ammendments the minutes were accepted as a correct record.

### 2. Matters Arising from the Minutes (not on agenda)

- a ) Bernard Leach had made contact with various people involved with the Adult Training Centre in Wythenshawe and was planning to visit them.
- b ) Neville Strowger had found inadequate parking facilities had impeded his visit to the Centre for the Deaf in Manchester. Linda Carroll therefore agreed to follow this up.
- c ) It was still not clear quite who the emotionally disturbed are or how they could be represented. Kevin said the Constitution Sub Group had a long discussion about the definition of disability as it related to the Coalition. Ken agreed to circulate some ideas and definitions of disability.
- d ) John Wells and Joan Willis were thanked for their broadcast about the Coalition on Radio Manchester on Friday 22 June - Anne Miller has a tape of the broadcast.
- e ) The press release had been circulated to all local press in Greater Manchester and had been used in at least six local papers. It was decided to delay a National Press Release until the Coalitions Aims and Objectives were clarified and publicity on pertinent issues was required.

- f) The Notepaper should be available by the end of July.
- g) It was noted that Anne Miller wanted to share the role of Coalition Secretary. Sub Committees agreed to service themselves and Valerie Suffolk agreed to share the job of taking minutes at future meetings with Dorothy Whitaker.
- h) GM CVS had agreed to allocate £200 to the Coalition.  
  
Anne Miller and Ken Lumb had completed an application to the Piccadilly Community Trust.
- i) Anne and Ken had also composed a letter which could be considered for circulation to groups asking for a donation to Coalition Funds. Any connection and/or additions to the letter and suggestions for the circulation list would be welcome at the next meeting - A further copy of the letter is attached.
- j) Annette Taylor had attended the GM Spastics Society event at County Hall (see previous minutes) and had enjoyed the show.

### 3. Long Term Funding

- A) Edna Hughes, Lorraine Gradwell, Neville Strowger and Dorothy Whitaker had met with Henry West (GEN. Sec GM CVS) to discuss long term funding prospects. Long term funding priorities were:
  - 1. An Urban Aid application via GMC.
  - 2. A letter to various large Regional Trusts and Industries to supplement Capital claims.
  - 3. A Premises hunt.

The sub committee had agreed to meet again and fill in a specimen Urban Aid form and discuss this with relevant GMC and DOE officials but needed guidance on the Aims and objectives of the Project. It was agreed Aims and objectives would be finished at the next meeting and in the meantime the Sub-Committee should complete the form as best they could and talk to the relevant officials. The final application would reflect the comments these officials and the Aims and Objectives discussion.

- B) It was suggested that all members of the Coalition should join in the Premises hunt - and follow up any vacant, accessible available space within central GMC area and report any possibilities either to the Secretary direct and to the next meeting. Paul Mittler agreed to write a letter about Premises to the City Estates Department.

### 4. Constitution

This Constitution sub-group had considered three main aspects of the Constitution.

- a) Aims
- b) Membership
- c) Legal Structure

#### Membership

This ought to be the same as stated at the Coalition Meeting on the 16 June

Disabled individuals \_\_\_\_\_ Voting  
Groups controlled by disabled people

Non individuals ——— Non Voting  
Groups not controlled by disabled people

the sub group were giving consideration to a form of junior membership.

The voting rights of Group Membership was a potentially complicated issue - the options included :

- a) One or two representatives to vote for the group.
- b) Votes cast in ratio to numbers in Group.
- c) One vote for each Group Member.

The general consensus of opinion seemed to be that it should be maximum of two votes per group.

Geographical location of membership should be left vague eg Greater Manchester and Surrounding districts.

### **Legal Structure**

The sub Group suggested the Coalition should not have charitable status but should consider other options ie Industrial provident Society, Company Limited by Guarantee.

The Sub Group agreed to consider the views of those present at the next meeting.

The Sub Groups were thanked for their work to date and additions to their ranks invited - Linda Carroll agreed to join the Constitution Sub Group.

### **Aims**

It was agreed to set up an Aims and Objectives Sub Group who would report to the next meeting with suggested Aims and possibly objectives.

Guidelines discussed for the Sub Group included

- a) Control by disabled people
- b) Integration of disabled people into for Society
- c) Unity of purpose of all groups/individuals involved regardless of disability
- d) Anti Discrimination
- e) Economic and Political integration
- f) Grass Roots Support
- g) Campaigning

There was also discussion about the current role of non-disabled who wished to support the Coalition - some had felt redundant after the 16 June meeting. It was decided that Coalition work on the important internal issues of Constitution Aims and Objectives, Fund Raising should run parallel with a series of public meetings on important topical Community issues related to disability, to which such would be very welcome. Also all those present in the 16 June meeting would receive a report of that meeting which Dorothy was compiling and had already received the details of the Light Rapid Transit Paper asking for support. A list of priority issues would be considered at the next meeting.

NB Attached is a note from the aforesaid Sub Group for your consideration in advance of the next meeting.

**6. Any other Business**

- a) Bernard Leach and Kevin Hyett had agreed to speak about Disabled People and unemployment at Salford Employment Conference Meeting on Wed July 18, 7.30 pm at Broadwalk Library - they had been billed as Union Physically Impaired Against Segregation representatives and it was agreed they could be seen to represent the Coalition as well.
- b) Dorothy outlined the programme of a Conference on Nottingham on Sept 8, entitled Independent/Integrated Living. She had attended one planning meeting as a representative of the GM Housing and Disability Group initially but had included the Coalition when it had been formed and Neville Strowger had attended the last planning meeting as the Coalitions representative. Ken Lumb had also been asked to give the opening address at this talk and asked the Coalitions views on this - it was unanimously agreed Ken should do this. It is hoped to have at least one form of Community Transport available from Manchester to Nottingham on 8 September if Coalition members wish to go and have not got suitable transport - please contact Dorothy if you wish to use this.
- c) There was a two day meeting of SPICE (Special Provision in Continuing Education) arranged for 10 and 11 July at which "Consumer participation" was being encouraged - Bernard and Sharon agreed to represent the Coalition.

**7. Date , Time Next Meeting**

Friday 3 August, 7.30 pm at the St Thomas Centre, Ardwick Green North, Manchester.

PS. Since the last meeting we have had notification that the Building Centre in conjunction with RADAR have an exhibition of Aids and Design for disabled people at the Building Centre, Manchester, 113 115 Portland Street, Manchester. 9.00 am - 5.00 pm . Open untill August 3, admission free.

Dear

GREATER MANCHESTER COALITION OF DISABLED PEOPLE

You may have heard about the Greater Manchester Disability Action Group meeting over the past year to discuss ways of strengthening the cause of disabled people in the County. On the 16th June over 90 disabled people attended a conference and took part in discussion groups on Access to Transport - Personal and Public; Phasing out Segregated Institutions; Local Authority and Health Services - Consumer Viewpoint; Government Policy/Anti-Discrimination Bill; Disabled People and the Media, and Politics of Disability.

Having aired their views and pooled their ideas, those present decided that it would be useful to form a Coalition of Disabled People in this county similar to those in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. A steering group was set up to draw together some fundamental ideas, with a view to making proposals at a second conference scheduled for the autumn.

The coalition will be controlled by disabled people. Our guidelines are to promote and support maximum independence of disabled people and their integration into society. Moreover we plan to develop a more unified approach to disability issues by bringing together individual disabled people and organisations.

We hope that you agree about the setting up of this coalition being an important development for disabled people in Greater Manchester.

As yet we have no funds, so ~~that~~ I am writing to ask if your organisation would make a small donation, to help us get the coalition off the ground.

Yours sincerely,

**Aims -suggested by Ken Lumb, Sharon Hughes,Linda Carroll and Paul Mittler.**

**The Coalitions aims to promote -:**

- a) The full participation of disabled people in ensuring they have the necessary facilities and support to live independently and have control of their own lives.**
- b) Support all measures that seek to ensure that disabled people are integrated into society.**

**Ammendments to the above will be disussed at the August 3 meeting. However if anyone wishes to suggest anything COMPLETELY different please could you submit the alternative to Linda Carroll at GM CVS St Thomas Centre, Ardwick Green North, Manchester M12 6FZ Tel 061 273 7451, by July 30 it can be circulated prior to the next meeting.**