



## Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee

**Report title: Lewisham Disabled People's Commission**

**Date:** 4 March 2020

**Key decision:** No.

**Class:** Part 1

**Ward(s) affected:** All

### 1. Summary

- 1.1. Lewisham Council have established an independent Disabled People's Commission to examine the issues and barriers faced in the borough by disabled people and how best to address them.
- 1.2. The Chair of the Commission, Jamie Hale, will attend the meeting to discuss its work and how the two bodies can work together effectively.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That the Committee discuss the work of the Commission and agree how the work programmes of the two bodies can be coordinated to ensure maximum impact for Disabled People.

### 3. Background

- 3.1. Lewisham Council's Corporate Strategy 2018-2022 commits to the establishment of a Disabled People's Commission. The Commission is to be led by disabled people and is intended to identify barriers faced by disabled people in Lewisham and make recommendations to address them. The Commission is also intended to have a coordinating role to ensure that disabled people meaningfully influence the design and delivery of services provided by the Council for disabled people.

The Commission will work to the social, rather than medical model of disability and examine the experiences of people in relation to the following barriers:

- Physical
- Attitudinal
- Socio-economic

Given the consultative structures already in place for disabled children the Commission will focus on Adults. The Commission will also consider the needs of those aged 16-18

and help inform the work of the new Transition and Preparing for Adulthood service within the Council.

## **4. The Commission**

- 4.1. All commissioners are self-identified as disabled, reflect a wide age range and are currently resident in Lewisham. Other people may be co-opted to the Commission during the course of its work where additional knowledge is required. All Commissioners were appointed following a public recruitment exercise.
- 4.2. The Commission is to be chaired by Jamie Hale.
- 4.3. The other Commissioners are:
  - Lorraine Ogundiran
  - Nigel Bowness
  - Carys Kennedy
  - Rev. Tim Goode
  - Nana Marfo
  - Tony Pilkington
  - Ifeoma Orjiekwe
  - Richard Amm
  - Merryn Bishop
  - Barbara Britton
  - Peter Cronin
  - Tihani Yusuf
- 4.4. The Commission will take a Social Model of Disability approach to its work with a commitment to inclusivity & accessibility. The Commission will be guided in its work by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It will seek to make recommendations that will lead to Lewisham becoming the most accessible and inclusive borough in London.
- 4.5. The Commission's work will be broken down into four stages:
  - Review studies on the experience of disabled people in London and elsewhere in the UK, particularly with regard to possible models of co-production;
  - Talk to disabled residents and users of local services about the issues affecting them in Lewisham;
  - Invite disabled people to share their experiences and discuss possible solutions to problems at a series of public events;
  - Produce a report of findings and recommendations for action by Lewisham Council and partners as well as central government, the Greater London Authority, businesses and other organisations.
- 4.6. Stage 1: A review of relevant information

The Commission will examine what currently exists in the way of co-produced services to find out what works elsewhere. It will consider reports on the experience of disabled people in London and elsewhere and analyses of changes that have been introduced to deliver greater accessibility and inclusivity. This stage will also review the current services on offer for disabled people.
- 4.7. Stage 2: Speaking to local people

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Lewisham residents will be invited to share their experiences of living in the borough. The Commission will also seek specific evidence of resident and service user engagement in consultation exercises, decision-making processes and service redesign.

#### 4.8. Stage 3: Wider inclusion and hearings

Both formal meeting of the Commission and public events will give disabled people and other residents and service providers the opportunity to discuss the Commission's initial findings and inform its recommendations for action.

#### 4.9. Stage 4: A final report

The Commission will publish its findings and recommendations for action in a final report to be submitted to the Cabinet Member for the Community Sector and the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and to Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee and/or Mayor and Cabinet/Full Council as required.

## 5. Background papers

### 5.1. Attached as background are:

- Advert for the Chair of the Commission
- Advert for Commissioners
- Draft Terms of reference

## 6. Report author and contact

### 6.1. James Lee, Director of Culture and Community Development, james.lee@lewisham.gov.uk

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