



City and County of Swansea

Notes of the **Scrutiny Inquiry Panel - Equalities**

Committee Room 5 - Guildhall, Swansea

Monday, 11 March 2019 at 9.30 am

Present: Councillor L S Gibbard (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)

T J Hennegan
S Pritchard

Councillor(s)

Y V Jardine

Councillor(s)

L R Jones

Other Attendees

3 Parent-carers from Joining the Dots Team
Ruth Coombs, Head in Wales, Equality and Human Rights Commission

Officer(s)

Michelle Roberts Scrutiny Officer

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): S M Jones and E T Kirchner

1 Declaration of Personal or Prejudicial Interest

None

2 9.30am Joining the Dots Team - Consultation

Three people from the Joining the Dots Team attended the Panel to discuss equalities issues.

Joining the Dots are a large group of parent-carers who support children/young people with additional learning needs (ALN).

The panel and the Joining the Dots Team discussed a number of issues (see issues covered are shown below (the full notes will form as part of the Inquiry Findings report)).

- Accessing council services including digital inclusion issues i.e. council's website.
- Unfair barriers to accessing council services
- Treating people with equal dignity and respect.
- Improving commitment to equality and diversity.
- How services could be improved to promote and lead to a more inclusive environment.

3 10.30am Equality and Human Rights Commission

Ruth Coombs, Head of Wales, Equality and Human Rights Commission attended the panel meeting to discuss the current and future role of the Commission. She covered the following issues (more detailed notes will form part of the Inquiry finding report):

- Role of the Equality and Human Rights Commission in Wales
- What they do in safeguarding and enforcing the laws that protect people's rights to fairness, dignity and respect
- How they use their unique powers to challenge discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and protect human rights.
- How you assess how well (or not) local authorities are doing? Do you feedback to them so that can improve?
- What enforcement powers you have and how do you use them?
- Can you give an example of a when a clear breach has happened and how it was resolved?
- What is the process for a member of the public who might want you to look at an equalities issues, for example, a complaint or breach?
- How do you see the role of the commission moving forward?

4 Work Programme

Received

The meeting ended at 11.40 am

Chair