

Bristol Women's Forum News bulletin December 2008

The independent Bristol Women's Forum promotes women's equality by lobbying Bristol City Council on women's issues. It is a unique and powerful channel through which women's concerns can be heard by the Council.

This news bulletin summarises the Forum's work, highlights current issues important to women in Bristol and sign-posts to consultations, campaigns and events. Please get in touch if you would like to find out more about any of the points raised or input into upcoming topics. More details can also be found on www.bristolwomensforum.org.

The Women's Forum is also seeking new 'Advisors': women who would like to be actively involved in campaigns.

Comments and feedback are very welcome. This bulletin can be posted or mailed to you.

Current Bristol Women's Forum work and feedback

- **Women in Prison: update and information sharing 8/12/08 NOMS:**
- **Gender on the Agenda**
- **Young female care leavers:** There was an Open Forum in November with the Council's After Care Team and the Princes Trust on the theme of services for young female care leavers. Three identified priorities for action were housing options (a social housing quota), arranging work placements with Bristol City Council for care leavers and mentoring / practical support for young mothers. The Forum is currently scoping these action points and is keen to hear of anyone with experience, ideas or comments! *ONLine?*
- **Lapdancing:** Following WF lobbying, Destination Bristol edited out an offensive lap dancing clip from a video promoting Bristol on UTube.
- **Accredited volunteering:** You can now gain a nationally accredited and FREE Level 2 qualification in volunteering through working with the Women's Forum. This is a joint initiative with Filton College.
- The Women's Forum has taken part in **Home Choice Bristol Review** Equality impact assessment, the Stakeholder Group on the Council's Gender Equality Scheme, *Val / Margaret eq workshop?*

Announcements & signposting

- **Women who make a difference award:**

You can now nominate a woman who made a difference for this award! For nomination forms and background information please contact Fiona Watson, 0117 9222329 or equalities.team@bristol.gov.uk or fill in online via www.bristolwomensforum.org (by 16th January 2009). The Award Ceremony will be on 4th March 2009. 12-2pm, Council House.

- **Women-only swimming sessions in Bristol:**

Easton leisure centre - sunday from 4.30-5.30pm

Bishopsworth - wednesday 6.30-8pm

Bristol South - thursday 6.45-7.30pm

Jubilee - tuesday 8.30-9.30pm

Henbury - monday 7.30-8.30pm

- RCC event – check with Elaine
- **Gender Equality and violence against women.** Links between trafficking, domestic abuse and forced marriage. Workshop with speakers from NAWO, University of Bristol and UWE, Sat Jan 17th 2009. For more information contact: Christien Van den Anker 07779 418233 or Margaret Page on 0117 3285338

Diary dates

* 6/1/09 10am, Council House, Care and Safer Communities Scrutiny commission monitoring the Council's **Gender Equality Scheme**

* 17/1/09 Gender equality and violence against women workshop, Pierian Centre

* 20/1/09 **Women's Forum Advisors' Meeting**, 7pm, Council House (interested women welcome – update, feedback and strategic meeting on a range of subjects)

* 24/1/09 **Disability Equality Forum's AGM**, venue to be announced. 5-7pm meeting & celebration, 7.30-10pm Entertainment - The Nasty Girls, 'probably the best troupe of female, Disabled comedians ever to perform in Bristol'. Tel: 922 2352

* 23/2/09 **Women's Open Forum** – time / venue to be announced

Forthcoming work

The Forum always welcomes comments and input in preparation of forthcoming work.

- **Bristol's Street Sex Market Strategy: 2008-11 Consultation** (closes 23rd Jan 2009). The Women's Forum will respond to this so please let us know if you'd like your views to feed into the response. Info: Safer Bristol Partnership, 0117 9142222, safer@bristol.gov.uk
- **Scrutiny Commissions:** the commissions critically look at some programmes and decisions made by the Council. The Forum has an 'official' voice on the Quality of Life, Sustainable Development and Care and Safer Communities Commissions and makes public statements to the other two. We welcome comments on upcoming issues ahead of the meetings so we can feed these in! You can also go along to Scrutiny meetings independently. Further info: Scrutiny Office, 0117 9222742 or scrutiny@bristol.gov.uk
- **Bristol City Council Consultation finder:** <http://www.bristol.gov.uk/ccm/content/Council-Democracy/Consultations/consultation-finder.en> including proposed closure of care homes,

Children's Services Scrutiny

5th January 09

- Children and young people services budget update
- Children in care
- Children and young people partnership: supplementary preventative fund

9th February

- Young carers update
- Exception reporting
- Performance and budget monitoring
- 10th Feb meeting: admissions to secondary schools on transfer from primary schools

Health Scrutiny

4th February 09

- Update on Alcohol Report
- Childhood Malnourishment
- Breast Services Review
- Gynaecological cancer services

18th March

- Annual Health Check
- Progress on health priorities
- Performance indicators
- Teenage pregnancy
- Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership Trust - consultation

Quality of Life Scrutiny

12th January

- Parks and green spaces strategy
- Bristol Housing partnership review
- Affordable housing delivery programme

16th February

- Exec Member report on homes and street scenes
- 'Studentification' and houses in multiple occupancy
- Waste collection changes
- Local environmental quality
- Home adaptations

23rd March

- Exec Member for sport and healthy communities report
- Sports facilities
- Tenant satisfaction
- Home choice Bristol review
- The Compass Centre

Care and Safer Communities Scrutiny

6th January

- Community Development Grants and Investment
- Partnership Support Programme
- Gender and Disability Equality Schemes monitoring
- Adult Community Care star rating

17th February

- Exec Member report Care, tackling deprivation and crime
- Offender management unit
- Preventing violent extremism

24th March

- Exec Member report, cohesion and raising achievement
- Progress report
- Personalisation and social care update

Sustainable Development and Transport Scrutiny

15th January

- Budget
- West of England Waste Strategy
- BRT progress report

19th February

- Bus Network Review
- Air Quality
- Climate Change committee report

19th March

- Exec Member and performance reports
- Commission Review
- Bottled water policy

Contact

Angela Hartmann, Women's Forum Development Worker, 6 York Court, Wilder Street, Bristol BS2 8QH. Angela.Hartmann@bristol.gov.uk, 0117 9224562 or 9222217.

www.bristolwomensforum.org

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