

LEEDS IRISH COMMUNITY FORUM RELAUNCH

1ST MAY 2003

7pm – Arrive

7.20pm – Welcome & Apologies

Introduction from Ant Hanlon, Director, Leeds Irish Health and Homes

Background to previous meetings last year

1. How the Forum came about

- Taskforce consultation in Jan 2002
- Three meetings last year to discuss key issues arising within the Irish community.

Issues that arose included:

- **Older People:** Concerns included lack of social care within the community, isolation & benefits
- **Young People:** issues of identity, fostering & continuation of Irish cultural activities; involvement
- **Returning to Ireland:** lack of information; where to go to get advice
- **Recognition of the contribution of the Irish community to Leeds:** business, politics, Irish festival, St Patrick's Day Parade

2. Why the re-launch?

After initial success, the onus was on LIHH to push ahead when we didn't have the administrative capacity. We knew it was a good idea so applied to Leeds Voice for funding and received £3000 for one year.

People were invited who didn't attend last year in order to ensure wide involvement. Not exhaustive list so pass message on. If you know of anyone interested, please send their contact details to Anna Dunne at Leeds Irish Health and Homes.

Phone: 0113 240 1130

Email: anna@lihh.org

3. LICF is about

- Inclusion
- Representation
- Development
- Expanding on good things
- Re-addressing lack of participation of Irish community

From previous meetings we established that:

- LICF is a forum not a committee
- LIHH administering not running LICF. We hope to see rotating chairs
- That attendees of the Group have a responsibility to make it work

4. Since last meeting we have been

- Talking to interested parties outside the Irish Community e.g. Councillors
- Successful Funding bid £3000
- Photo exhibition by Corinne Nicholson. The exhibition is a Community exhibit and can be used by other groups these are open to use of all members for any event. See Anna
- Older People's Forum- YIEF, Tuesday Club, Irish Centre & LIHH meeting set up with John Battle MP for funding discussion
- Returning to Ireland Seminar: Jerry Cowley's group here at centre. Poor turnout, but people who came found it informative. Stark reality, not a lot of choice if not economically viable- puts more onus on developing support back here
- Joint application for Dion by LIHH & Tuesday club for a club development worker.

7.45pm

5. Proposed Format of meetings and development of ideas See enclosed diagram.

It was suggested at this point that a co-ordinated directory of services/groups should be developed for the Irish Community providing easy access to essential addresses and numbers that they may need for groups/important individuals in the community.

7.50pm

6. Aims & Objectives

Enclosed proposed text for aims and objectives. All attendees invited to bring back comments to next meeting as they are important.

8pm

7. Where do we go from here?

Attendees signed the sheet to show attendance and willingness to be involved

Next Meetings: 8pm at O'Meara Suite

Thursdays 31st July 2003
30th October
29th January 2004
29th April 2004

8.05pm

Questions and Answers

Comments included:

- The co-ordinated directory is a good idea and would be a good source of information for the Irish community in Leeds.
- Highlighted that there should be a section for Carers in the Directory
- To increase attendance it was suggested that we try and advertise the Forum in church bulletins and possibly the Irish Post.
- Highlighted that 7pm was too early for people to get to the meeting. **The next meeting on Thursday 31st July will start at 8pm.**