

Area North Committee – 29 January 2014

8. Presentation by South Somerset Disability Forum (SSDF)

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A representative of South Somerset Disability Forum (SSDF) will attend the committee to provide members with a brief presentation that raises awareness of the services they provide and to inform of future projects. The SSDC Equalities Officer will also be in attendance and available to answer questions.

Background

There are no accurate figures that provide the total number of disabled people in South Somerset. However, according to the Department of Work and Pensions, along with the Census (2011) and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (2012), approximately 20% of the local population have a long-term health problem or disability which limits their day-to-day activity. 15.1% of those are of working age. Generally, over half of people aged 65 or over in Somerset have a long-term health problem or disability, rising to 83% of those aged 85 or over.

Service Level Agreement (SLA)

South Somerset District Council (SSDC) supports the work of SSDF through an annual Service Level Agreement (SLA). SSDF provide specific services and expertise that SSDC are unable to deliver ourselves. This work helps ensure compliance with our Public Sector Equality Duties under the Equality Act 2010

SSDF aims:

South Somerset Disability Forum works actively to improve access for all and increase the social inclusion of disabled people with limited mobility and other impairments to enjoy equality of opportunity. Achieving the aims of the Charity and the needs of the community includes:

- Improving Access to public buildings, public services, education, shops, leisure facilities and the countryside
- Working for accessible public transport, dropped kerbs, improved road crossings, appropriate parking spaces and ShopMobility
- Checking planning applications to ensure buildings are designed for inclusive living
- Providing Disability Equality and Awareness
- Consultation by District and Town councils, NHS, Police, shops, businesses and other publicly funded charities for its recommendations