

Launch of the London Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Youth Council.

The London LGBT Youth Council, a project funded by Comic Relief and managed by the Consortium of LGBT Voluntary & Community Organisations, is set to open its doors to all young LGBT people, aged 13 to 25 who live, work or study in London this week.

Young LGBT people can now sign up to become members of the Youth Council online at www.freestylelondon.org.uk/youth or by contacting Gary on 0207 064 8383 or gary@lgbtconsortium.org.uk

Over the past six months, Gary Rowland, LGBT Youth Council Coordinator has worked with a steering group of 12 young people to gain support from service providers across the region; from local youth groups to regional bodies like the Greater London Authority and the Metropolitan Police.

On Monday 13th November, the London LGBT Youth Council will officially launch at an event sponsored and hosted by the Metropolitan Police Service. The event will include a conference for young people and community leaders on issues around community safety and participation and how they impact on young LGBT Londoners.

With the Goods and Services Act and the Commission for Equality and Human Rights being established later this year, the Youth Council is in a perfect position to get the voice of LGBT young people across to policy makers. However, there are many other projects that the Youth Council aims to complete including service reviews with local authorities, developing training packages on equality issues and designing educational materials.

Gary Rowland, LGBT Youth Council Co-ordinator, said:

"The London LGBT Youth Council offers a great opportunity for young LGBT people to have their say on issues across the capital. It's a safe space for young people to come and air their views without feeling that they're not being taken seriously. We have already received a lot of support for the Youth Council which shows how seriously it will be taken by decision makers in London."

Dee Caryl, LGBT Strand Lead, Met Police, said:

"The Metropolitan Police Service has long recognised that LGBT people sometimes find it difficult to engage with the police. Whilst we have had some success in reaching LGBT adults the same cannot be said for young LGBT people. We know homophobic bullying in schools is all too common for these young LGBT people and that isolation is a big factor. We are therefore very pleased to be working with Gary and the LGBT Consortium"

to host the launch of the London LGBT Youth Council and to give these young people a voice and the ability to make a real difference.”

ENDS

Notes to Editors

1. For full details on the London LGBT Youth Council please contact:

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2. For full details on Met Police LGBT work please contact:

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