

## **LGBT Steering Group (9.7.04)**

### **Present:**

Steve (Chair)  
PC Andy Hewlett  
Tim  
Tim's friend (apologies did not get his name)  
Jane  
Christopher (minutes)  
Nick

### **Apologies:** Lee, Billie

### Streatham Common incident

Andy reported the details of an incident that occurred at Streatham Common involving the arrest three men for gross indecency. The men had accepted a caution and would now have a criminal record.

Concern was expressed that this would:

- Undo much of the good work that had been carried out to build confidence and trust between the men who use the location and the police
- Was contrary to ACPO guidelines about the policing of public sex environments

This had been deemed a "critical incident" and a Gold Grp convened. Unfortunately it had not been possible to get a representative from the Steering Grp as this had happened at short notice.

A further Gold Grp was to be held and it was hoped that there would be community representation.

**Action:** Andy to advise Steve of next meeting

### Hate Crime Co-ordinator

Christopher reported back that funding (£50k) had been agreed for the above post. It was envisaged that the post would develop work around race and homophobic hate crime. A Domestic Violence Co-ordinator was being recruited to.

The Steering Group expressed concern that a full time dedicated post was needed because of the size of the LGBT Community in the borough and the broad range of issues that affected out communities.

Steve advised that he was due to meet with the Leader of the Council (Peter Truesdale) and also other senior local politicians to press for a dedicated resource.

**Action:** Steve/Christopher to report any progress back to the next meeting

### Update

As you will be aware Steve met with Cllr Truesdale. Christopher also met with him and the following was clarified:

All parties on the Council are supportive of a dedicated LGBT officer and officers in the Community Renewal section have been asked to draw up a job description. Initial thoughts are that the post would

- Work on related crime issues (particularly increasing reporting)
- Look at access to Council services for LGBT communities
- Work on any specific LGBT staffing issues that have been highlighted in the recent Staff Survey
- Work to ensure education about LGBT issues happened in Lambeth schools particularly in terms of celebrating diversity but also in terms of bullying
- Work on housing issues such as access for partners and harassment
- Work on issues for older LGBT communities
- Look at access to health services (through the Primary Care Trust and other health providers)

Funding for the post will need to be agreed as part of the current budget setting process which kicks off in September, 2004. If agreed (which appears to be likely) then funding would be available in the **next financial year (2005-06)**.

This raises the question as to what is to be done with the funding secured for the Hate Crime Co-ordinator post (which was to support work around race and homophobic hate crimes). The Leader acknowledged this and undertook to discuss this issue with the CE and then come back to Christopher.

Clearly the Steering Group might want to have some input into how available resources are used.

#### Gay Walkabout with Borough Commander

Andy reported that this had gone very well and the the Commander had been very impressed with the openness of the businesses visited. He was keen to go on another walkabout.

#### Queen of Clapham

Christopher reported back that there had been a wonderful event organised by the Clapham Society with the support of the Council.

#### Focus Group

There then followed a focus group facilitated by Andy. The focus group was part of the current Drugs and Crime Audit that would assist the development of the next borough Community Safety Strategy 2005-8.

#### Next meeting

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2004 at 2pm at Palace Road Surgery.