

Lambeth LGBT Forum Steering Group (F.S.G.) Meeting Agenda



3 May 2005

Present

Khi
Nikkita
Ain Bailey
Lee Nigel Winter
Steve Penrose
Katy Shaw
Tim Chambers
Phylis

Rose Donovan
Daniel Fitzgerald
Amy Donovan
Sue Sanders
Chris De Souza
Daisy
Mark

Apologies

Kirsten Trott
Gary Whiting
David Millar
Mark Oakley
Yvonne Stewart-Williams

Ego Ahaiwe
Andrew Linean-Stallard
Michael Di Salvo
Gerald Gohler

Update post Speak Out

The Council's initial response following Speak Out has been an issue to increase the publicity of LGBT issues in all of their public relations material and I have been in contact with the Head of Communications and Consultation. Whilst this is positive, the F.S.G. believes that it is vital that the Council consults with the F.S.G. about what measures they plan to implement rather than simply informing the F.S.G. what they have done.

The meeting was going to be a structured strategic planning session but it was decided that for the first meeting, a more informal discussion would be most suitable. An overview of this discussion is provided below.

Key areas of discussion

At this meeting the forum identified some priority issues that the F.S.G. needs to address. They are outlined below:

A commitment statement between the LGBT Forum and the Council

This statement will outline the expectations that the Forum has of the Council and additionally, it will provide an overview of the key issues for the F.S.G. Below are some of the points that were brainstormed, these will be confirmed over an email discussion so please feed back to me any suggestions.

- The creation of a LGBT Diversity Officer position that sits in a strategic position within the Council and will consider all six of the equalities strands, that the Council must implement, with the LGBT community interests in mind.
- The provision of Council space to hold the Forum meetings and any events that the Forum may have in the future.
- Attendance at the F.S.G. meetings by senior Council representatives, from areas such as housing, education, social services, when invited by the Forum to discuss key issues. The Forum may wish to consider having thematic meetings so issues can be addressed in detail e.g. The Head of Housing may attend and outline what they are doing to meet the needs of the LGBT community and then the F.S.G. can provide feedback.
- The establishment of an LGBT Champion within the Council, who is an elected Councillor (administration) and a senior officer, who would be responsible for lobbying on the LGBT communities behalf. This person would be accountable to the Forum.
- The provision of comprehensive diversity training for frontline staff. The Forum expects that their approval would be sought to ensure that the training is comprehensive.
- The allocation of Council resources to implement the recommendations that will come from the LGBT equalities review.
- Dialogue with the Council on how they can meet the needs of transgender staff, service users and clients, particularly relevant given the new Gender Recognition Act 2004.
- Importantly, the F.S.G. would like the Council to obtain feedback on what they plan to do to support the LGBT community rather than simply informing the F.S.G. what they have done.
- I also thought that we may want to include something along these lines: A brief from every head of department about how they plan to implement some of the strategies identified in the new Local Government Association document for local authorities, 'Sexuality - the New Agenda'.

Format of Meetings

- It was suggested that our meetings are 3 hours long.
- It was proposed that the F.S.G meetings are split into two parts, one for the community and one with statutory agencies. This allows for the necessary discussion and debate within the F.S.G. prior to meeting to Council representatives. Having the first part of the meeting at LCPT also provides for those F.S.G. members who are Council employees who do not wish to be 'outed'.

Next Lambeth LGBT Forum Meeting

Time: 7pm sharp to 9pm

Date: Wednesday 18 May

Location: Lambeth Crime Prevention Trust, 2-6 Atlantic Rd, Brixton (Just before Argos)

Agenda:

- Strategic planning
- Operational issues including, meeting format, location, positions, chair election process, time, duration and who will facilitate the meeting
- Terms of reference for the F.S.G.

PLEASE

- Confirm your attendance at the next meeting
- Report back if I have overlooked anything in these minutes
- Think about the issues that will be raised at the next meeting
- Inform me on whether you think the Forum should have a stall at the Pride rally and what we could potentially do