

Lambeth LGBT Forum Meeting 19 September 2006

Present

Rose Donovan
Danny Fitzgerald
Kevin Creed
Anton Johnson (Lambeth TUC representative)
Robert Brown
Simon Taylor
Amy Donovan (Lambeth LGBT Anti-hate crime coordinator)
Min Rodriguez
Graham Alldus (LGBT Met. Liaison Officer)
Jeffrey Doorn

Apologies

Chris D'Souza
Gerald Gohler
Carl Mills (UK Coalition)
Billie Ferrie
Tim Chambers
Ben Gooch (Galop, LGBT Forum's coordinator).

Guest: Carole Litchmore, Head of equality

The discussion highlighted some key issues:

- The need for council engagement with the businesses in Vauxhall to discuss their shared corporate responsibility and how they can improve community safety and environmental issues.
- The need for the council to support and foster LGBT BME businesses and LGBT female businesses as the majority in the borough are predominantly gay male owned and operated.
- LGBT monitoring: internally with recruitment and staff and externally with service providers
- Action-planning of the LGBT Matters recommendations is currently being undertaken. A community meeting is planned once the council has decided the key priorities it can address; this is aimed for .
- The feasibility of an LGBT equalities scheme given that the council is currently developing a disability equality scheme.
- Training for staff to provide inclusive service delivery.
- Communication strategy to promote the Council's position on LGBT equality.

- The need for the council to take a firm position that using the word 'gay' in a derogatory manner is unacceptable, whether it be young people using it on the sports field or officers using it in the workplace.
- How LGBT issues can reach the level of cabinet for discussion via equalities.
- Carole Litchmore suggested that it would be useful to meet with the forum again once the actions from LGBT Matters have been prioritized for the council

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome & Apologies
2. September minutes
3. Police Report
4. AOB
5. Next meeting – 19th Sept with Carole Litchmore, Equalities

1. Welcome and apologies as above

2. Minutes agreed as accurate

3. Police Report

GA highlighted that Spring Garden's is an ongoing issue. Many crimes may be recorded as a street crime but are motivated by homophobia. These comments led to a wider discussion about the need for the council to work with the police and the businesses in the area to address issues of concern in the area. GA expressed that there needs to be more effective partnership working if the issues are to be adequately addressed. The forum identified that it would be interested in pursuing a meeting with key council officers, the police and LGBT businesses to discuss these issues further.

Action: AD to arrange a forum meeting with representatives to discuss the issues at Spring Gardens.

AOB

Homophobic complaint

RB provided an update on his homophobic complaint and he has a meeting arranged with an inspector to discuss the issue further.

BBC

DF spoke about the letter that he, MR and AD wrote expressing their concern at the decision made by BBC Complaints which upheld the complaint against Chris Moyle's use of the word 'gay', in a derogatory sense.

The forum supported the letter and AD highlighted that the forum was an opportunity to raise issues of a similar nature and seek action from other members.

Social meeting

DF mentioned that he would like to have a social aspect to the forum, this was well supported by the other forum members and seen as an opportunity to socialise and attract more people to the forum.

It was suggested that the social event takes place on a Thursday in between the forum meeting. The Farside on Stockwell Rd was seen as a suitable venue.

Can people please advise, what time they would like to meet on a Thursday, e.g. after work or later.

Forum flier

The forum flier has now been printed, can people please email if they would like copies to distribute. It would be excellent if people could assist in distributing them by taking them to different venues.

Hate crime strategy

AD asked if the forum would be interested in being consulted over the development of the borough's hate crime strategy that she and the borough's race and faith hate coordinator are developing. The forum agreed that this would be suitable for next month's discussion.

Jobs

AD highlighted that several jobs of possible interest to forum members are currently being advertised. They are:

- Stonewall Senior Education Advisor (fulltime)
- Stonewall Housing Advice worker
- Victim Support LGBT Hate crime caseworker

The details for these jobs are all available on the organisations websites or you can contact AD for more information.

Bullying Inquiry

AD mentioned an inquiry into bullying which is currently being undertaken by the Education and Skills Committee. The inquiry will investigate the extent and nature of the problem of bullying in schools and how it can best be tackled. AD requested that people consider the terms of reference and make comments which she can then compile into a formal submission on behalf of the forum. The deadline is noon Wednesday 4th October so

please get any comments to AD by Thursday 28 September 2006. She will then compile the submission and distribute it for feedback.

Next meeting

7-9pm 18 October 2006 at the Lambeth Town Hall