

Lambeth LGBT Forum Meeting 23 August 2006

Present

Rose Donovan
Danny Fitzgerald
Kevin Creed
Anton Johnson
Tim Chambers
Robert Brown
Simon Taylor
Graham Alldus (LGBT Met. Liaison Officer)

Apologies

Amy Donovan
Min Rodriguez (Lambeth LGBT Anti-hate crime coordinator)
Chris D'Souza
Gerald Gohler
Lee Winters
Jeffrey Dorn
Carl Mills

Guest: Peter Keogh, Sigma Research – LGBT Matters review

The executive summary had been circulated prior to the meeting. Peter stated that there would be a short (roughly 45 page) report for external consumption, supplemented by the full (153 page) report which would be for Lambeth's use but which would be available upon request from Equalities.

There will be a range of strategic planning groups to inform Lambeth's response to the report over various areas – including this consultation with the Forum, also HR & personnel, procurement, community safety & youth.

GA asked if there would be a specific Police response. This was not known, so he will pursue this.

There was concern about whether 'detached' services would have to adhere to any findings / outcomes from the review. In particular with regard to Housing Associations, TMOs, City Academies & schools etc.

It was generally agreed that the goal was to have equality across all diversity groups, so that services, resources and attitudes were consistent across the board and not focussed on BME or even just Black issues.

When asked to give three things which could be done within 6 months to make things better:

- Lambeth to meet with LGBT businesses, groups and organisations
- LGBT question on all equal ops forms and service use forms
- LGBT equalities officer to ensure consistency across the borough

Other comments:

- LGBT section on website (maybe coordinated by the LGBT equalities officer)
- Monitoring of homophobic incidents

Obstacles to these developments were that LGBT is not a government priority, faith groups having particular influence, and the lasting impact of Section 28 meaning that homophobia in schools has led to a generation of parents who do not challenge it with their children.

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome & Apologies
2. Minutes from 18th July
3. Police Report
4. Format for next meeting
5. Forum Flyer & LGBT Directory
6. Robert's complaint
7. Stonewall Trustees
8. AOB
9. Next meeting – 19th Sept with Carole Litchmore, Equalities

1. Welcome and apologies as above
2. Minutes agreed as accurate – need updates on Walk For Life / Black Pride
3. GA reported that there had been two violent robberies on Streatham Common's public sex environment (PSE) over the last week. These are still being investigated, appeal boards and press releases made but there are few witnesses

A gay man sustained substantial head injuries while using Spring Gardens in Vauxhall late at night. It was initially unclear how these injuries were sustained, but it is being investigated as a homophobic assault and robbery. Again, appeal boards and press release but few witnesses traced.

In July 2005 there were 10 homophobic incidents & crime reported to Lambeth Police, and 14 this year

A week of plain clothed night patrols has been conducted on Clapham Common PSE in collaboration with Wandsworth Police, Royal Parks Police, Hampstead Constabulary and Terrence Higgins Trust. This has been supported by Lambeth's Community Safety Team and the Safer Lambeth Partnership. Over 200 people were spoken to through the week, with personal safety advice and personal attack alarms distributed.

4. Carole Litchmore, Head of Lambeth Equalities, will be our guest speaker at the next meeting. This is an important opportunity to engage with a key senior officer. Please prepare beforehand any questions comments you would like to raise with Carole, as this will ensure that everyone maintains a professional, dignified and cool-headed manner which will enable our concerns to be addressed fully.
5. A draft copy of the new Forum Flyer was circulated. Concerns were raised that it would not fit into conventional display racks within venues as it is a landscape format, not portrait. GA mentioned that it could be possible to purchase dedicated racks, particularly as existing racks are owned and managed by sexual health organisations.

KC had brought along a copy of the Health First resource for LGBT people in Lambeth. GA said that work was already being done between Health First, LCPT, Police and Lambeth Council to merge this resource with one generated by PC Andy Hewlett as both were several years old and getting outdated. The new LGBT services directory should be ready and distributed widely across the borough by the end of the year.

6. RB detailed the problems he has been having with incidents that had been reported to Police.

The first incident occurred at Kings College Hospital and involved sustained intimidation and homophobic abuse from a member of the public using the drop-in service. Up until last week, when Robert met again with staff, no actions appeared to have been taken to address the issues he had raised with them regarding their discriminatory incidents policy and handling of homophobic incidents.

Robert also reported that he had failed to be updated by Police when the incident was 'no crimed' as not being serious enough. He is progressing a complaint through John Roberts from the Metropolitan Police Authority

GA undertook to find out what had happened to another incident, which had not initially shown up in his review.

7. Stonewall are looking for new Trustees. An email has previously been circulated about this. Please check their website for further details.
8. DF passed round a letter he had received from Ofcom regarding the written complaint about the handling of the Chris Moyles incident. Ofcom has directed him to forward his complaint to BBC Governors, which has already been done.
9. TC stated that he had heard on the grapevine that Amy's job was going to be taken in house within the Council. He had hoped to ask AD & CDS about this but neither were present. Requested that this be an agenda item for next meeting
10. Next meeting – 7-9pm Tuesday 19th September 2006