

## **Lambeth LGBT Forum Meeting Tuesday 26 April**

### **Present**

Rose Donovan  
Paul Darbyshire  
Noel Warr  
Robert Brown  
Min Rodriguez  
Anton Johnson (Trade Union Council rep)  
Chris D'Souza (Lambeth Council Community Safety Team Manager)  
Jo Enright (Lambeth Domestic violence Centre 'Gaia' Coordinator)  
Catriona Barclay (Met. Police LGBT Liaison Officer)  
Amy Donovan (Lambeth LGBT Anti-Hate Crime Coordinator)

### **Apologies**

Daniel Fitzgerald  
Katy Shaw  
Lee Winter  
Paula Williams (Lambeth Council Equalities Department Officer)  
Graham Aldus (Lambeth Met. LGBT Liaison Officer)

## **LGBT Matters findings**

This meeting provided Sigma Research with the opportunity to report back on the initial findings from the LGBT Matters Research. This piece of work included a needs assessment of the LGBT population as well as an internal overview of council policies in relation to LGBT equalities and LGBT staff.

The research provides us with evidence of the needs that the LGBT population have. Departments will now have statistics of gaps in service delivery and provision to LGBT people. This should provide impetus for the various departments to address these issues. The research will also provide the Forum with a lever to direct our planning, lobbying and work.

### **Key issues identified**

- Peter provided an overview of the research report which is broken into 6 sections:
  1. Introduction, legislation and context
  2. Literature review
  3. Quantitative survey results
  4. Results of focus groups with Lambeth residents

5. Results of interviews with those who work for Lambeth Council
6. Procedures and policies in relation to LGB equalities

### **Quantitative research**

- 463 valid questionnaires were completed with 2/3 living to 1/3 working, studying or socialising in the borough.
- 70% were male, 29% female and 1% intersex
- 5% of the surveyed identified as Trans
- The average age was 35
- 90% were white
- 22% were not born UK
- 15% live with a disability
- 4% had responsibility for a child, 2% for an adult and 1% for both

Issues for which sexuality was relevant: Working conditions, employment rights. Schools, immigration and residency.

Issues for which sexuality was very relevant: Mental and emotional health, alcohol and drug misuse.

80% of LGBT people had experienced some form of discrimination in the last year. The majority was from strangers in public (46%). Discrimination primarily occurred when using public transport, at work and in bars and restaurants. Secondly, it was from trades people, professionals and whilst shopping.

*Discrimination* also occurred within the LGBT people and a number reported that it was based on ageism, bisexual, gender, faith and racism.

12% of respondents have been verbally abused and 7% physically attacked. Just over ½ reported it to the Police and most were happy with the response. 3.5% of respondents had experienced domestic violence (DV). Within the male sample 3% and females 6%.

66% avoided same sex affection in public, 15% avoided going out at certain times, 8% avoided public transport and 5% avoided leaving home.

#### *Community involvement*

19% had attended an LGBT community meeting, 16% had spoken to a councilor, 7% had attended a town scrutiny meeting and 7% had attended a housing forum.

39% felt that Lambeth Council was making the borough a better place to live. 16% felt that Lambeth Council was making the borough a better place to live for LGBT people.

26% felt that Lambeth Council was good at engaging and involving residents

12% felt that Lambeth Council was good at engaging and involving LGBT residents.

### **Qualitative research**

Focus groups were held with elder people, young people, BME people, males, female and mixed.

Main comments:

- Council inefficient, struggling to make ends meet and provide adequate services.
- More engagement/funding for the voluntary sector.
- Council has poor ideas of multiculturalism and diversity.
- Little acknowledgment of the tensions between different equalities groups
- Community development for LGBT people not understood.
- Not actively homophobic
- High visible support such as the Rainbow flag at Pride and articles in the Lambeth Life appreciated.
- Trans people were highly critical and didn't feel supported by the Council.
- No community building interventions.
- No services to meet LGBT peoples needs.
- A considerable amount of events for ethnic groups but few for LGBT.
- Lack of LGBT championing.
- Lack of monitoring.
- Lack of social spaces, support groups and networks.
- Developing Vauxhall village is about generating money and it's not necessarily about developing sustainable LGBT businesses.
- Low confidence by trans people in the Police
- Critical that the Council focuses on education.
- Improvements to the monitoring of LGBT hate crime.
- Growth of autonomous faith schools of concern.
- There are critical times in LGBT development which particularly affects young people, people undergoing gender reassignment (transitioning) and the elderly.

## **April Forum business**

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Minutes from the last meeting
3. Introductions
  - PC. Catriona Barclay (Lambeth LGBT Liaison Officer)
  - Josephine Enright (Gaia Domestic Violence Women's Centre Coordinator)
4. Planning the year ahead for the Forum
  - Potential topics
  - Funding application
5. Any other business

PC Catriona Barclay introduced herself as the new LGBT Liaison Officer for North Lambeth.

Josephine Enright introduced her as the new Domestic Violence Coordinator for the new DV centre, Gaia.

AD mentioned that she had been approached by Cllr Charles Anglin regarding some material that was distributed which questions his suitability to be a councilor given that he is also a gay man. The material also featured an article that South London Press printed which drew attention to the fact that the Cllr had a Gaydar profile which included several semi-nude images.

GA informed the meeting that the Police were investigating the distribution of the fliers but had little information as to where the fliers originated. AJ commented that the Trade Union Council would be interested in following up Cllr Charles Anglin's views that the Labour party sent the information to South London Press in the first instance.

## Getting Equal: Consultation on the Proposal to Outlaw Sexual Orientation Discrimination in the Provision of Goods & services (Due to take effect October 2006)

**Lambeth LGBT forum Discussion evening  
Room 8, Town Hall, 7-9pm, Tuesday 23 May**

Facilitator: Min Rodriguez

Please join us to discuss a piece of legislation which has key implications for the LGBT people in regards to the provision of goods, facilities, and services, in education and in the exercise of public functions.

The new protections are intended to capture direct discrimination, indirect discrimination and victimisation. For instance, it would be unlawful to:

- Refuse a same-sex couple a double room in a hotel because this might cause offence to other customers;
- Refuse to provide a gift registration service for couples planning a civil partnership where such a service was offered to couples planning a wedding;
- Refuse admission to a bar because they are not gay.

### **Questions to be discussed:**

- **Do you agree that schools should be covered by the proposed legislation?**
- **Do you agree that an exception should be provided for charities that provide services specifically to people because of/according to their sexual orientation?**
- **Do you consider that an exemption from the proposed legislation should be provided for some of the activities of religious organisations?**

This is an important piece of legislation, come and have your say!

To make the most from this discussion, it would be appreciated if people could come prepared for this meeting by reading either the summary of the consultation paper (find attached) or the full consultation paper ([www.dti.gov.uk/publications](http://www.dti.gov.uk/publications)). Specific access needs for these documents are provided by the DTI and hard copies are available from Amy on request.