

## **Lambeth LGBT Forum Meeting 23 January 2007**

### **Present**

Min Rodriguez  
Tim Chambers  
Rose Donovan  
Lee Winters  
Danny Fitzgerald  
P.C. Graham Alldus (Met. Police LGBT Liaison Officer)  
Anton Johnson (Lambeth TUC rep)  
Amy Donovan (Lambeth LGBT Anti-hate crime coordinator)

### **Apologies**

Kevin Creed  
Robert Brown  
Simon Taylor  
Jeffrey Doorn  
Gary Whiting (Lambeth Unison rep)

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **Meeting Agenda (8:30-9pm)**

1. Welcome and apologies (as above)
2. Minutes from the last meeting (agreed)
3. Review of the issues
4. Police report
5. Any other business

### **3. Review of the issues**

#### **The forum**

The forum identified the need for independence and believes that working towards charity status for the forum is a desirable goal. However, several issues were identified as requiring addressing before the Forum could become a charity.

The main issues are membership (numbers) and representation (diversity of forum members).

### **Council offer of resources**

It was felt that the offer made by the Council officer John Kerridge (Assistant Director Area Services, Regeneration and Housing Department) was one worth investigating further with the intent of building the forums membership base and representation.

*Action:* AD to request that the designated officer from John's team attends the next forum meeting so that we can negotiate their involvement.

### **LGBT Matters**

The forum agreed that there was a need to ensure that a). The research findings are launched and b). that the action plan, based on the key findings of the research, is made public and delivered with a clear framework for accountability.

The idea of arranging a meeting was raised. Invited to attend would be forum members, the equality Officer who project managed the LGBT Matters research and a range of councilors including Cllr. Steve Reed (Leader of the Council, Cllr. Pav Aktar, Cllr. Jackie Meldrum (Cabinet member for equalities), Cllr. Lorna Campbell (Deputy-Cabinet member for equalities with LGBT responsibilities) and Cllr. Mark Bennett (Cabinet member for community safety).

The aim of this meeting would be to raise awareness of LGBT Matters amongst the new administration councilors. Specifically, to express our highlight that it is very important that the research findings need to be promoted and used to improve service delivery.

*Action:* AD to draft a formal letter requesting a meeting between available forum members, Paula Williams and the above mentioned councilors.

### **Publicity**

The issue of publicising the forum was raised and it was agreed that effort would be made to distribute the forum fliers through out the borough. It was also agreed that the forum would ensure that the meeting details will be included in a range of LGBT publications and websites.

*Action:* AD and GA to distribute fliers around the borough's LGBT venues and council premises.

*Action:* DF and AD to include the Forum's details appear regularly in LGBT publication listings.

## **Membership**

The forum discussed the suitability of the location and time of the forum meetings and it was agreed that it would be useful to establish why people do not attend. It was suggested that an evaluation could be sent to all forum members via the email list to determine whether issues such as meeting location, time and topic play a part and also if people would like to see a social aspect to the forum.

*Action:* AD to develop a draft evaluation questionnaire to be sent to the main members for feedback before making the necessary changes and emailing it to the wider distribution list.

## **Event**

The possibility of organising an event, similar to 'Speak Out' was raised as a way to rejuvenate people's interest in the forum.

This issue needs to be discussed in more detail and I suggest that it is put onto the next forum meetings agenda.

## **Support**

It was suggested the Forum could possibly contact the Greater London Authority to see if they provide any support to LGBT forums.

*Action:* AD to contact the GLA to establish whether support is provided to forums.

## **4. Police report**

Since the last Forum meeting, regular meetings are now being held between the Community Safety Unit (which investigates reports of LGBT hate crime, domestic violence and racially motivated crimes) and the LGBT liaison team to review ongoing LGBT hate crime investigations. These will now include the LGBT anti-hate crime coordinator.

LGBT liaison officers will now also be used to take initial statements in such matters, to ensure that the best evidence possible is recorded, and in the hope that this will encourage more victims to proceed with investigations.

Incidents of domestic violence between intimate same-sex partners is now highlighted on the Police crime reporting system, and as a result these incidents can be more easily spotted and responded to by the LGBT liaison team.

Additionally, a resource is being developed that promotes LGBT and mainstream domestic violence services to LGBT people in the borough. This is being done in

partnership with the LGBT Anti-Hate crime Coordinator, DV coordinator, the community safety unit (Lambeth Police), community safety team (Lambeth Council), Victim Support and the Gaia Centre (Lambeth's one stop shop for female victims of domestic violence).

So far this year there have been 13 reports of same sex DV reported to Lambeth Police, but only 3 homophobic incidents.

One of these involved a fight which occurred at Southern Pride Bar in West Norwood. Two people have been arrested and are expected to be charged with ABH.

The success of investigating LGBT hate crime is measured by the percentage of investigations which result in a 'sanctioned detection' - where someone is cautioned or charged for the offence. The clear-up rate for Lambeth has increased from around 11% last autumn to over 15% at present, and we hope to achieve the centrally set target of 24% by the end of the financial year.

### **Notices**

TUC events at congress house (find attached to the email).

### **Next meeting**

7-9pm, 23 January 2007, room 125 at the Lambeth Town Hall