

## **Northampton Borough Council**

### **Northampton LGBT and Q People's Forum**

Tuesday 12 March 2013 6:30pm

#### **1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

Everyone introduced themselves, including the Co-Chairs of the Forum Anna King and Barry Hansford.

Joe Biskupski from Northampton Borough Council was in attendance, and prepared the notes of this meeting.

#### **2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Stephen Bennett (Northampton Pride)

#### **3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes of the previous meeting of the LGBTQ Forum held on 29 January 2013 were agreed as correct.

The Forum also had sight of the minutes of the NBC Forums Budget Consultation Meeting of 22 January 2013.

Barry Hansford said that he liked the question/answer format of the Forum's minutes. This showed that the LGBTQ Forum was active in posing questions to organisations such as the Borough Council.

#### **4. NORTHAMPTON PRIDE**

Matthew Toresen reported that he met with Stephen Bennett a few weeks ago. Steven said he said that it would be better to organise a smaller event outside All Saints Church. Discussion also focused on the governance of the Pride group. Matthew advised him that there were benefits from becoming an incorporated group

#### **5. PLANNING THE WORK OF LGBTQ FORUM FOR 2013**

The Forum agreed that there should be a focus on the following areas in 2013: hate crime, housing & welfare, education and events.

Volunteers from the Forum / other LGBTQ organisation in Northampton are needed to lead on these topics. These issues should be discussed within LGBTQ organisations.

A discussion took place about topics that should be covered in more detail over the year. The flipchart notes of the discussion are contained in an annex to these minutes.

Hate Crimes

- Existence of LAGLOs in some police forces;
- Not all organisations are known to Hate Crime Units in all police forces.

Question: If someone is attacked, who decides whether it is a hate crime?

Answer: If someone (witness or is a victim) considers it a hate crime or the police officer considers it a hate crime.

Question: What is a hate crime?

Answer: It is about perception. It should cover one of the five characteristics of hate crime.

- The Hate Crimes Unit would be happy to have their e-mail addresses sent out.
- Matthew Toresen said that a point of contact is needed, with trained officers who understand the issues facing LGBTQ people. A “portal” for LGBTQ people.
- Barry Hansford said that he is interested to see where LAGLOs are more effective. In an ideal world we should have all police officers familiar with LGBTQ issues.

### **Data**

- Lots of data, sometimes it is difficult to make sense of the volume.

Question: what are the biggest hate crime issues?

Answer: racism is the most significant issue in terms of the statistics.

- Reporting of homophobic incidents is consistent
- Figures are meaningless without knowing the proportion of people who are gay, disabled etc.
- It is difficult to get data on faith and sexual orientation.
- Can data be sent out electronically to members of the Forum for further consideration?

Question: Does the Police or the Council map statistics?

Answer: Will Finn at the Borough Council is interested in this work. Sometimes the Police are asked by the Borough Council to map the figures

- The Police are doing some work on police engaging with deaf people, and would like to speak with Lee about this.
- Will Finn said that there is a gap in equalities and diversity training at NBC. Currently, he is working with the council’s human resources team to develop training on diversity and hate crimes.
- Barry Hansford said that he thinks it would be useful for Will to speak with other Forums about this.

## **Education**

- The Hate Crime Unit works with Jo Wood at NCC. The County Council has had difficulty in encouraging some schools to report hate crime.
- Among some young people, there is a problem with the use of 'gay'. It is sometimes used in a negative context.
- Need to work with schools to challenge stereotypes and behaviour.

## **6. COMMUNITY INFORMATION EXCHANGE**

**Lee:** Waiting for Community Foundation decision on funding for an LGBT group for blind people.

Matthew said that it was important to provide evidence of need when applying for funding. Matthew added that he is happy to work with Lee to help his group produce a DVD.

Lee said that this group meets every two months and is looking for money to develop this.

**Lesbian Line:** the weekly Wednesday meetings at Women's Aid Building continue. They are hoping to do something at Christmas and are building up funds to pay rent.

**Matthew:** FAN have been nominated for National Diversity Award. In order to be shortlisted, they need the community to nominate them.

A Bookfest event is planned for 14 to 16 September 2014. It is planned that this will become an independent group.

**Barry:** The Northampton College LGBTQ group is steadily developing. Students have been requested the "Some people are gay – get over it" sticker.

Barry thanked Northampton College for putting on the recent LGBTQ event.

## **7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the LGBTQ Forum will take place at 6.30pm on Tuesday 21 May 2013 in the Holding Room, Northampton Guildhall.

## Flipchart notes – Planning the work of LGBTQ Forum for 2013

### HATE CRIME

- What does Forum want to know?
- Hate Crimes Unit:
  - Regular reporting / updates
  - Opening up channels of communication
- How do we make the Hate Crimes Unit more accessible?
- Lesbian & Gay Liaison “LAGLO” Officers:
  - Point of contact
  - Is LAGLO more appropriate than “Hate Crime Officers”?
  - Can FAN website be used as a means of reporting – e.g. for “low level incidents”?
  - Low level incidents are important.

### EDUCATION

- Better engagement with schools
- Reluctance by some schools to recognise hate crime
- Some schools not sure how to challenge homophobic and racist behaviour
- WHAT CAN WE DO?
- Beyond just hate crime – it is about values, awareness and equality
- Outreach talking to young people and schools. Perhaps someone from the forum?
- Speaking with schools
- Working with Youth Forum and Lowdown
- Liaison with Northampton County Council (Jo Wood) – useful link
- Barrier – clash between faith and sexuality
- Themed meetings: Education could be covered in the July 2013 meeting

### HOUSING/WELFARE ISSUES

- LGBT – disproportionately affected in homelessness
- Priority for victims of hate crime for rehousing
- Update in July 2013
- Awareness of guidelines

### EVENTS

- International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia, World Aids Day, Umbrella Fair, Carnival
- Raising the profile of the Forum
- Branding?
- Hosting an event to raise the profile of the Forum?
- “Coming out Day” in October 11th 2013 (BOOK GUILDHALL)
- Logo Launch
- Logo?
- Banner? – COST
- Competition - Northampton College? – prizes and beyond
- Logo Competition – get NBC Comms Team involved

#### MAKING CONTACT WITH OTHER LGBT NETWORKS?

- Increase awareness of our existence
- Invite - Barclaycard, Spectrum, Police
- Feed details of other networks to Joe Biskupski