

Northampton Borough Council - Northampton LGBT and Q People's Forum

Tuesday, 7 July 2015

Present: Cllr Anna King (Chair, NBC), Daniel (Booqfest), John (NHFT), Ian (Umbrella Fair), Liz (Beaumont Society), Sam (Northants Police Spectrum), Luisa (Northants Police), Alice (NBC)*

*Took minutes

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Matthew (Community Co-Chair/ FAN/ VIN).

2. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

Minutes agreed as a true record.

3. LUISA JEPSON - NORTHANTS POLICE - HATE CRIME UPDATE

Luisa shared data sheets which show the figures of hate crimes and incidents around the County, to provide a picture of what is happening.

Luisa discussed with the forum that the Force are looking to develop a 'hub' for hate crime and ASB, to provide a more coordinated and join up approach. This is still at the drawing board; taking into account best practice from around the country, some ideas on how this will work are being drawn up. Luisa has asked to return to the forums from September to ask for feedback.

Liz commented that in North East Northants there are very few police stations, and there has been an added difficulty in the hate crime unit going.

The forum attendees continued to discuss possible avenues of reporting, including:

- Difficulty of on-line reporting; over reporting etc.
- Telephone; Liz commented that through experiences at Beaumont, a telephone help line has worked well.

Sam, Chair of Police Spectrum group asked other forum attendees what the communities experience has been since the closure of the Hate Crime Unit (HCU); has reporting gone down, and has confidence to report gone down?

Ian commented that it is not just about reporting, but instead about the quality of service that is available, which is something figures cannot show. Community members were confident that with the HCU, that quality of service and understanding of issues was there.

Forum agreed the way forward is to design a survey to find out about peoples experiences of hate crime. The results can then be used to evidence the impact of the HCU closure.

ACTION: Alice to work with Luisa to create a survey – draft to be circulated to

forum for comments, and paper copy to be launched at Umbrella Fair. Survey Monkey survey also to be created.

4. ACTION PLAN REFRESH

UMBRELLA FAIR 2015

Matthew leading on Straight Allies tent this year. More artists required to perform. Straight Allies bunting and badges will be at tent again this year. Any volunteers, please come along and help us – Saturday 15th / Sunday 16th. Details for Umbrella Fair can be found here: <http://www.umbrellafair.org.uk/umbrella-fair-festival/>

INTERNATIONAL COMING OUT DAY 2015

Daniel would like to have another BooQfest event for ICOD 2015 – it was agreed to combine with ICOD event again this year.

ACTION: Alice and Matt to speak to Dergate regarding venue again.

HATE CRIME PROJECT

See Agenda item 3 for details – hate crime survey.

5. COMMUNITY INFORMATION EXCHANGE

- Remembering Srebrenica ceremony:
<http://www.northampton.gov.uk/news/article/2090/northampton-remembers-srebrenica>
- Ben – Meeting to discuss establishment of a Trans Support Group – 15th July, Low Down
- Lesbian Line are still providing support services, and have drop in every Wednesday. Details here: <http://www.lesbianline.co.uk/index.php>
- Ian - Umbrella Fair Café open Saturdays and Sundays. Possibly hosting the Low Down Out There youth group Prom at the Pavilion.

6. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

ICOD

Hate Crime Survey

WAD

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Next meetings:

Tuesday 15th September

Tuesday 10th November

All meeting held from 6:30pm in the Holding Room, The Guildhall.

The meeting concluded at 7:44 pm