

Minutes of the meeting of London's Trans organisations

held on Wednesday 10 September 2014, from 6.00-8.00pm,
in Committee Room 2 at City Hall

Present: Rob Downey (RD) (Chair), Mercia McMahon (MMM), Jodi Winters (JW), Ola Ewa Satchell (OES), Laura Fox (LF), Stephenie Robinson (SR), Paula Dooley (PD), Warren Scott (WS), Max Hadermann (MH), Professor David Ormerod (PDO), Patricia Durr (PD), Maddy Gupta-Wright (MGW), Laura Austin-Croft (LAC).

Apologies: Bernard Reed, Terry Reed, Terry Day

1. Welcome and introductions

Welcome and introductions were provided by Rob Downey who chaired the meeting in the absence of Terry Day.

2. Notes from the last meeting and matters arising

RD confirmed that under agenda item 2 of the minutes for the September 2013 trans meeting that the GLA Trans Policy had been circulated in June 2011.

RD recognised that this policy may need to be reviewed and any comments can be submitted to him for further discussion with GLA Human Resources.

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. Chair's Report

3.1 Hate Crime Reduction Strategy (update)

It was reported that an online consultation on the draft MOPAC Hate Crime Reduction Strategy was launched on 27 June 2014, it ran for 10 weeks, and closed on 5 September.

The LGBT Stakeholder Group was the first that MOPAC spoke to about its strategy (at the January 2014 meeting).

The strategy will sit alongside a Metropolitan Police Service operational strategy and a national hate crime strategy being developed by the Crown Prosecution Service, and will be underpinned by a delivery plan developed with partners.

The aim is to launch the MOPAC Hate Crime Reduction Strategy in Hate Crime Awareness Week in October 2014.

3.2 Mayor's equality framework, Equal Life Chances for All (Revision)

The GLA has reviewed and updated its equality framework, Equal Life Chances for All, and it was published online on 27 June 2014. The framework contains the Authority's statutory equality objectives by policy area.

These objectives are reviewed every two years to ensure they remain relevant, and continue to reflect Mayoral priorities. This revision ensures that the actions of the Authority remain compliant with all equality legislation. It is available to view online

3.3 World AID's Day 2014

The GLA are currently exploring the possibility of working with the National AID's Trust (NAT) to co-host a World AID's Day event here at City Hall in December. The theme of the event is 'Stigma'. Trans stakeholders will be invited to this forthcoming event.

Action: Rob to ensure members are placed on the invitation list

3.4 GLA online consultation

RD has been in conversation with the GLA consultation team in an attempt to improve engagement with LGB and trans Londoners beyond those that come to stakeholder meetings.

The GLA operate an online research function for Londoners called Talk London, which could be targeted at LGBT more effectively. RD is hoping to secure a presentation for the LGBT Stakeholder Group meeting in January 2015 to encourage LGBT Londoners to engage and influence change

4. **Hate crime: The case for extending the existing offences**

Professor David Ormerod QC, Law Commissioner, the Law Commission, gave an update presentation, following on from the presentation given by Catherine Heard from the Law Commission in September 2013, about extending the existing hate crime offences contained in the Crime and Disorder Act/Public Order Act/Criminal Justice Act to gender identity.

The presentation updated the group about how the independent research was completed, the number and nature of responses received, and the outcomes and recommendations made by the Law Commission back to the Ministry of Justice on this review process.

PCO gave an overview of the current legal position and the recommendations made in relation to particular types of crime.

PCO also explained the finer, more complex points of law in relation to media reporting and inflammatory articles written about trans people in the mainstream press.

PCO explained how these offences were created to combat and prosecute racial discrimination offences, and that the Law Commission are no longer convinced that the aggravating factors are relevant in relation to crimes committed against people with different protected characteristics. The Law Commission are recommending a wider review of these offences. Alternatively, if a review isn't undertaken, the Law Commission are recommending that hate crime offences are extended to all protected characteristics.

There was a discussion from the floor about the definition and association/non-association of the gender binary labels, and what are 'standard male/female identities.' The PDO felt that the Law Commission had captured this argument and that the phraseology used in their recommendations was broad enough to be relevant outside of the gender binary.

Action: Members to feed any comments on the Law Commission's recommendations back through Rob Downey.

Note: A copy of Professor Ormerod's presentation is available to view here:

<http://www.london.gov.uk/priorities/equalities/lesbian-gay-bisexual-and-transgender-communities/supporting-the-lgbt-community>

5. Youth Chances: trans findings from an action research project by the METRO Charity

Patricia Durr (PD), Director of External Affairs, METRO Charity, gave a presentation on the findings of their recent Youth Chances action research project. The presentation outlined the remit of METRO, an overview of the project, summary of the findings, outlined trans young people's experiences, and Patricia went on to take some quick questions.

Youth Chances is an action research project working to improve the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) young people across England. Every Tuesday in May 2014 Metro consulted with stakeholders looking at one of the 4 key concerns their research had identified for LGBTQ youth: schools, mental health, safety and risk and transgender experience.

PD explained that this was a ground breaking piece of research consisting of four final reports, one of which focuses on the experiences of trans youth aged 16-25. The participants were randomly selected and not self-selected. The participants were fairly representative of the UK population in most regions, right across the country. Data is presented on a regional basis, broken down further to local where available.

In January 2014 Youth Chances published a summary report: 'Youth Chances First Findings: the experiences of LGBTQ young people in England' and three further reference reports based on their survey of 16-25 year olds, their survey of providers and their survey of commissioners.

Their evidence highlighted four topics of acute concern:

- Mental health: Over half (52% of LGBTQ young people report self-harming now or in the past, compared to a third (35%) of heterosexual non-trans young people.
- Safety and risk: Nearly 1 in 10 (8%) of LGBTQ young people have had to leave home for reasons connected to their sexuality or gender identity.
- Transgender experience: 90% of survey respondents agreed that discrimination against transgender young people is still common.
- Schools: Nearly two thirds (65%) of LGBTQ young people thought their school supported its pupils badly in respect of sexuality and gender identity

Note: A copy of Patricia Durr's presentation is available to view here:

<http://www.london.gov.uk/priorities/equalities/lesbian-gay-bisexual-and-transgender-communities/supporting-the-lgbt-community>

6. The Mayor's Health Inequalities Strategy Delivery Plan

Laura Austin-Croft and Maddy Gupta-Wright from the GLA Health Team gave a presentation on the refresh of the Delivery Plan of the Mayor's Health Inequality Strategy.

This is not a statutory consultation but the GLA Health Team are keen to get wide stakeholder input, particularly by equality groups. The Health Team is keen to find out:

- (a) What could the Mayor's role be in reducing health inequalities?
- (b) Has the approach taken by the Mayor been correct?

To ensure the Health Inequalities Strategy delivers on its aims, the GLA is producing a rolling series of delivery plans. Plans will contain a mixture of campaigns and initiatives to tackle the causes of health inequalities, alongside specific initiatives on key health challenges, such as obesity and mental health.

The key components of the new delivery plan will be:

- A description of the new health and social care landscape (as informed by the 2012 Health and Social Care Act) and levers within this for reducing health inequalities
- A set of metrics to support understanding and action on health inequalities going forward
- A summary of achievements to date, noting particular strengths to inform the delivery plan going forward

Several points were raised from the floor regarding:

- The impact of homelessness on the health and well-being of trans people.
- The impact of TfL surface transport changes has on disabled people
- The difficulties experienced by trans people securing suitable/safe rental accommodation
- The vulnerability of trans people on housing benefits and the lack of action by politicians
- Under reporting of trans discrimination
- Trans discrimination in the health service more generally

Action: Members to feed any comments on the Delivery Plan back through Rob Downey

Note: A copy of Laura Austin-Croft and Maddy Gupta-Wright's presentation, a link to the Health Inequality Strategy, and a link to the Health engagement paper are available to view here:

<http://www.london.gov.uk/priorities/equalities/lesbian-gay-bisexual-and-transgender-communities/supporting-the-lgbt-community>

7. Information items

National Trans Manifesto

A National Trans Manifesto, which has been produced as a collaborative document between 15 trans organisations across the UK, was launched in April 2014.

This is the first time the trans sector has collaborated on this scale and will now be used to encourage all political parties to include trans issues within their own developing manifestos in the run up to the General Election next year. Copies were available.

City Hall World Mental Health Day Event

Takes place on 10 October 2014. This event is open to the public but you must register to attend. RD invited all members to attend. Copies of the invitation were available.

8. Any other business

Date of next LGBT Stakeholder Group Meeting

Next meeting of the LGBT Stakeholder Group takes place 6.00-8.00pm on Thursday 22 January 2015, in committee room 5, here at City Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm