

**Minutes of a meeting of London's LGBT stakeholder organisations,  
held on Wednesday 22 January 2014, 6.00pm-8.00pm**

**1. Welcome and introductions**

Terry Day (TD - Chair) welcomed both attendees and speakers

**2. Notes from the last meeting and matters arising**

Minutes were agreed as accurate. There were no additional matters arising that were not covered elsewhere.

In response to an action from the minutes, 'GLA officers to meet with Justin Varney (JV) to discuss next steps', TD confirmed that Helen Walters (HW), GLA Head of Health, is very happy to meet Justin Varney to discuss LGBT health issues and possible next steps. Rob Downey (RD) will to be involved in the meeting.

**Action:** RD to inform JV to contact Helen Walters directly to arrange a meeting

**3. Chair's Report**

**3.1 London Health Commission call for evidence**

The London Health Commission is an independent inquiry established in September 2013 by the Mayor of London. The Commission is examining how London's health and healthcare can be improved for the benefit of the population. The healthy lives and health inequalities work stream is chaired by Dr Yvonne Doyle, London Regional Director at Public Health England who is also the Mayor's Advisor on Health.

A Call for Evidence is underway, closing on 10 February. This Call for Evidence will play a crucial role in helping to shape the early proposals that the Commission will make and we want to make is as easy as possible for people to take part.

**3.2 Report back from Trans meeting**

A successful and lively annual meeting of trans agencies took place in September 2013. There were a range of excellent presentations:

- NHS transgender healthcare updates were presented by Bernard Reed from GIRES.
- A presentation by Catherine Heard, Criminal Law Team, from the Law Commission, on Hate crime: The case for extending the existing offences cover trans crime. The GLA has agreed to meet with Catherine later in the year to hear the preliminary results of their work. This will be shared with all members when available.
- A presentation by Helen Belcher from Trans Media Watch, about how trans people are represented in the media

The chair apologised for the length of time it has taken to prepare these meeting minutes. They are about to be circulated and copies of all presentations will appear on the GLA equalities pages of the GLA's website. The chair encouraged all of London's trans agencies to attend the next trans meeting later this year.

**Action:** Trans meeting minutes to be circulated

**4. Pre-consultation presentation on MOPAC's Hate Crime Strategy**

A presentation by James Tate, Public Engagement Manager, MOPAC

Following the presentation a number of issues were raised from the floor:

- It was reported that the Police and Crime Plan (PCP) feedback already received, and existing information and intelligence relating to hate crime, will all feed into the production of the draft strategy.
- The MPS draft strategy is currently with the Met Police Independent Advisory Groups (IAG's) for comment/amendment. IAG's will hold community consultation events to explain the relationship between the MOPAC and MPS strategies.
- There is a lack of institutional memory within the police service was raised. The LGBT community have been working on this for 20 years and very little has changed. Also, in terms of prosecutions, the forms sent to victims need to be revised and put into plain English.
- A more consistent approach to reducing crime and better handovers are essential. Great deal of work completed in Westminster which reduced crime and increased reporting.
- The representation of the VCS is missing right through the entire criminal justice system/process.
- There was a lack of communication by the MPS in relation to the Dos Santos case
- The strategy needs to be consistent and clear about who it is aimed at, written in clear English, and the diversity of LGBT people present. The community must be informed via community events. Also when writing the strategy MOPAC must be clear that it is not targeted at vulnerable people, but people that are vulnerable to crime

MOPAC understands the frustration at the lack of corporate memory. The MPS struggles with this issue. The point regarding inconsistency of handover was acknowledged. It was confirmed that the MPS have done work to improve the quality of data provided by the police.

Safer Neighbourhood Boards have worked to improve the consistency of their measures, data, and delivery. It was confirmed that somebody from the VCS will be invited to speak at the MOPAC Community Challenge.

**Action** - JT to inform members (via RD) when these community events are scheduled to take place

**Note:** A copy of James Tate's (JT) presentation is now available on the LGBT section of the GLA website.

**Note:** Derek Lee, Co-Chair, LGBT Advisory Group to the MPS, has provided a detailed update which is attached to these meeting notes

## 5. Consultation on the Mayor's revised London Housing Strategy

Dominic Curran (DC) gave a short introductory presentation to the revised Housing Strategy consultation.

The structure of the document, the consultation process, how to engage, and next steps were all outlined. The presentation covered some of the housing challenges that London faces, and the expectations of an ever growing population.

It was confirmed that the GLA had paid due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, and that an equality assessment has been completed and will be circulated

The following points were raised by members:

- LGBT people do have specific housing needs and require safe accommodation. Local Authorities are not addressing the needs of LGBT people.
- The London Plan is based on Census categories and also fails to adequately address these issues. Affordable rent remains unaffordable based on market value.
- The GLA Housing Strategy needs to address the needs of the LGBT communities. The Housing Planning Forum that currently exists does not address the needs of protected characteristics.
- Members of the LGBT community have offered to assist the GLA with the development and monitoring of the strategy, both in the past, and again with this revised version.
- The strategy needs to be a strategy about people and not about houses. It is difficult for the GLA to build in housing effective solutions when the proposed solutions are built on previous assumptions.

**Action:** RD to circulate copy of the equality assessment of the Mayor's Housing Strategy

**Note:** *The Integrated Impact Assessment of the strategy, which includes an assessment on the equalities impact, is on the GLA website, on the same page as the strategy, and can be found here:*

[http://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Integrated%20Impact%20Assessment%20-%20draft%20London%20Housing%20Strategy\\_0.pdf](http://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Integrated%20Impact%20Assessment%20-%20draft%20London%20Housing%20Strategy_0.pdf)

## **6. The LGBT community and social isolation**

A presentation by Del Campbell, Community Engagement Manager, and Justin Dickson, Group Work Manager, Terrence Higgins Trust

The presentation provided an overview of services offered by Terrence Higgins Trust, and the proposed long term outcomes of these services. These services include advice about safety and sexual violence, third party police reporting, and drugs information.

It was reported that welfare benefit reductions have seen an increase in people working in the sex industry. Twenty per cent of workers identify as trans. The main issue facing sex workers is the stigma associated with being in the industry.

Liverpool is the only city that records crimes perpetrated against sex workers. The Met Police have yet to formally identify this issue.

THT also offer services for those that are coming out, and for those people that are HIV+. Social isolation is a cross cutting theme of the work of THT. Funding is a major issue to the Trust as it is for many charities in the current economic climate.

## **7. Information items**

An update on London Community Pride by Stephen Ward, Director of Communications, and Patrick Lyster-Todd, Director Secretariat & Community Engagement, London Community Pride

The presentation provided an overview of what has been happening since London Community Pride (LCP) took over organisation of the Pride London event, and the plans for the 2014 event. It outlined where the majority of the funding is spent (i.e. on infrastructure costs).

Feedback from the public has been very positive about the production and staging of last year's event, and that Pride relies mainly on its army of volunteers to ensure the event is a success.

The role of Pride Advisory Board was explained, how it is structured, and how appointments are made. The theme for the 2014 event is, 'Freedom to.....' and subject to approval there will be a high profile advertising campaign on London Underground

It was reported that people of faith sit on the board, and that it is demographically diverse. While there are many white middle aged men presently, this is being actively addressed. Board are keen to address diversity.

An access working group has been established and anyone can join. LCP are very keen to work regionally and will make links across London. LCP are also working towards making a profit and sharing this with LGBT community agencies. LCP happy to promote other events using their communication channels and to share experiences (and possibly share services to reduce costs) across regional and national Pride events

LCP is very open and transparent and attendees were invited to sit on many of the sub-groups that have been established to ensure the future of the event.

The following points were raised by members:

- Pride needs to remain based in the community, remain democratically accountable, the board needs to be diverse, and questioned how appointments were made.
- Thanks for Pride 2013, disability remains an issue, make sure the advertising for 2014 is clearly promoting LGBT communities
- Great job done in 2013, link up to East London and other community Pride events, work cooperatively

**Note:** A copy of the London Community Pride presentation is now available on the LGBT section of the GLA website.

## **8. Any other business**

Date of next meeting is 6.00-8.00pm, Wednesday 23 July 2014, at City Hall