

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

NORTHAMPTON LGBTQ PEOPLE AND ALLIES FORUM

Tuesday, 12 January 2021

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

Apologies: Jane (Rathgar Care), Martin (NLive), Ben (Unison), Sgt Steve Bedford (Northants Police), Will (Lowdown)

Attended: Cllr Anna King (co-chair), Matthew Toresen (co-chair), Aimee Luck (NBC), Dean, Simon (Outlaws), Phil (Qword), Jenny (NREC), Abayomi, Paul (NLive/Bard of Northampton), Jen (NHFT), Matthew (NSport), Helen (Lowdown), Catrin (Qstory), Belle.

2. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

- Sophie (Fire Service) to liaise with Aimee for Forum visit – on hold due to tougher Covid restrictions.
- Cat has been in touch with chair of Diversity forum and is attending meetings.
- LGBTQ swimming club – still in pipeline but facility hire was unavailable at the time. Not available under current restrictions.

3. HATE CRIME AND HATE INCIDENTS

Jenny is attending the forum on behalf of Northamptonshire Rights and Equality Council (NREC) where her role is to support people to report Hate Crime and Incidents – these can be made anonymously. Jenny would like to hear from members of the LGBTQ and Allies Forum about their experiences of Hate Crime and support/encourage more people to report. Members reminded that if anyone would prefer to contact Jenny directly outside of the meeting to discuss their experiences that is perfectly fine.

Jenny asked the forum; How do reporting services work for you? What doesn't work?

Q: Has never reported. Does it count as a hate crime if its in relation to religion or a religious organisation (particularly in relation to LGBTQ)? Is perpetrator protected under religious status?

Jenny: Not your job to determine if it is a crime – only to report the experience. To identify a hate crime they have to investigate what the reason was and if it is deliberate.

Members commented that Hate crime often feels more tolerated more in smaller towns.

MT: in terms of goods and service you cannot discriminate (ie. A hotel that doesn't allow same sex couples is breaking the law). Its blurrier when people are expressing faith and lgbtq people not always welcome in religious environments. Difference between Hate crime and hate incident – the latter will not be prosecuted. There needs to be more emotional support available for people after being a victim of hate incident.

Q: How does someone report to NREC?

Jenny shared email address jlabbon@northamptonshirerec.org.uk – you can also report online via NREC website www.northantsrec.org .

Q: Out There Lowdown group want to get into schools to offer support to students – is this something NREC could help with to empower the young people.

Jenny: Happy to support.

Cllr King mentioned our previous work to deliver the I'm Still Me schools project and hopes we can get another organised this year.

Jenny has a history in oral stories and is interested in the work that QStory do. Cat invited Jenny to get involved in some of the projects in future.

Matt suggested another LGBTQ oral history project would be really interesting. Paul informed that it is national story telling week 30 Jan to 6 Feb. NLive have a community notice board that groups can use for free via NLive -contact

paul.giffney@northampton.ac.uk

<https://nliveradio.com/community-noticeboard/>

4. NORTHANTS POLICE INDEPENDENT ADVISORY GROUP

Unfortunately, Steve has been unable to join the meeting due to technical difficulties and will forward some details to share with the Forum.

Aimee to arrange agenda item to be rescheduled for February meeting.

5. COMMUNITY INFORMATION EXCHANGE

- Matthew (NSport) – Looking at ways to tackle bad practice and help groups be more open minded to users. Looking for experiences or good practice members can share; how these are marketed, and to highlight opportunities to people who may not usually take up activities.

25th Jan – training course for LA's and sports providers around trans inclusion by Gendered Intelligence. Another trans inclusion course will be available in April for other physical activity providers. NSport are exploring recognition for this so trans people know a group/organisation have done the training. If there is recognition already out there please share with Matt. Also looking for any active trans people who might want to be involved with NSport active campaigns.

- Qstory – Running regular (monthly writing group), next Monday evening – details are on Facebook group. No experience required. First session will be talking about goals for the year. Anthology project is in final stages – would love to link up with any groups with plans for LGBTQ history month for launching this. Offer from Paul to record on NLive to talk about the project.
- NLive- would like to be involved in anything for LGBTQ History month – please get in touch!
- LGBTQ history month - NBC happy to host something for the event.
Forum members to submit ideas to Aimee.
Cat will speak to Qspace and get in touch with Aimee and liaise with Paul.
Aimee to update the forum action plan.
- Jen (NHFT) staff network are organising a history month event 22 Feb – all welcome.
Jen to send link to Aimee who can share to forum. Paul and Jen to liaise.
- Qword is currently on hold – hoping to restart when things are better.

6. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- Action 4 Happiness request to join our next meeting. Anna suggested people check out their website in the meantime ☺ <https://www.actionforhappiness.org/>
- QStory – training 'messages of hope' focused on how we speak and frame campaigns around hate crime. Lots of practical techniques given – Cat suggested an

overview of that training and offered to discuss and share at next meeting.

- Bard Picnic (would normally take place in Summer)

Paul offered free poem commission for organisations (helping keep creative) – contact paul directly.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Anna checked 7pm still convenient, everyone agreed.

Tuesday 23 February, 7pm

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The meeting concluded at 20:15

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