



LGBTQ People and Allies Forum

Minutes of a meeting of the LGBTQ People and Allies Forum held at on Tuesday 17 January 2023 at 7.00 pm.

1. Welcomes, Introductions and Apologies

Matthew welcomed everyone to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves.

Present: Matt (Chair), Aimee (WNC), Joanna (Girlguiding), Aaron (North LGBTQ forum), Ellen, Ryan (NCF), Rachel (sunflower/voice), Nikki Brown (NDAS), Richard, Antony (NHFT)

Apologies: Jane Simons, Jane Borland, Will Beckett, Cllr Anna King, Zach and Will (QSpace)

2. Code of Conduct

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

- No further development with Rainbow African Family but Say it Loud are hoping to make our May meeting virtually and are interested in getting involved in events such as Pride. **Action: Add Say It Loud to May agenda.**
- Matt; Police Hate Crime Guidance – **Action: invite Nick Stephens, Police Hate crime coordinator to next meeting.**

4. Maternal and Perinatal Mental Health

Antony provided a short presentation about the two services:

Services previously covered the timeframe of conception to 1st year following birth, now extended to child's second birthday.

The service is currently looking to establish a fathers/partners support group.

Being LGBTQ does not automatically mean you will have mental health issues but often have complex fertility needs. However, LGBTQ+ people are 1.5 more likely to develop depression and anxiety compared to the rest of the population.

Matt asked how welcomed same-sex couple/lgbtq people are into the service. Can they feel confident not to be discriminated against?

Ellen recommended the 'Queer Parenting Partnership'; their ethos is to support parents through parenthood. Suggested working with groups like this to reassure LGBTQ community and help to feel more confident accessing service working with a group like this.

Action: Aimee to share the presentation with forum members.

If anyone needs support, the mental health number, operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week is 0800 448 0828.

5. **GirlGuiding Research project**

Joanna is working on a research project as part of her Queens Guide Award. Over the years Girlguiding has become more accessible, promoting “We guide with Pride”. The research project is focussing on LGBTQ rights, laws and history. Currently in the early stages of the research but interested in speaking to anyone from the forum that would be interested.

Forum are excited to be involved and offer testimony from those who have seen big changes. The forum can offer lived experiences across different ages; different experiences of legislative changes. Joanna welcomed these.

Suggested the forum set a meet up in town to discuss experiences with Joanna.

Aimee to share details with minutes – suggested date Monday 13 February.

Action: Aimee to share Joanna email for anyone wanting to feed in written experiences instead.

Matt suggested the project could become a really useful and powerful resource for the community. There are some timelines out there already, especially local perspective. Age of consent debate – personal experience within group and was really awful to deal with. **Action: Matt to share timelines with Joanna.** Stonewall website and Peter Tatchell suggested for history and campaigns – raised recent Qatar related campaign over the world cup.

Asked if legislative fails are also being included, such as the blocked Scottish Gender Recognition Reform? Answer, yes. So many landmark events outside of legislative changes including in goods and services such as the refused cake and refused B&B room.

6. **LGBTQ History month**

Display in One Stop Shop (Guildhall) arranged for the month – request made to forum for information/posters etc to include from local groups/services. Please contact Aimee directly with any information to include or leave at Guildhall addressed to ‘Aimee Luck’.

Libraries will be showcasing LGBTQ literature across the month across Northamptonshire.

Pride will be announced officially on 1st Feb with links to apply to be a performer, have a stall, sponsor. Save the date press release in progress and will be shared soon.

- Mind; small event end of Feb around LGBTQ history centred around the theme ‘behind the lens’ (LGBTQ+ people in the film industry) short films and discussion event
- Request to local providers to share their information.
- Coffee and cake mornings across the county during history month, encouraging partners/residents to get involved.
- ICB speaker event on 27 Feb, featuring Belinda Cotton.

Q Space will be showcasing Northants' known LGBT history at various venues across the county. The exhibition highlights former local Gay venues in Northampton town centre, personal stories, and national timeline dates of importance to the LGBT community.

Request from Q Space for members of the community to help to continue growing records and fill in the gaps.

Further information to be shared with minutes.

7. Community Information Exchange

Aaron shared Care provider awareness training pilot taking place on 26 Jan.

Regarding the care of older LGBTQ people, Northamptonshire carers have been in touch after viewing our action plan. They have recently been looking at unpaid Carers and older LGBTQ support services, including joint working with North Northants LGBTQ Forum around GP inclusivity and training for Health and Care providers.

Aimee meeting with Jane from Northamptonshire Carers to discuss further.

Ryan shared updates on Northampton Community Foundations current funding opportunities:

- Cecil Pettit Legacy Fund - This fund is managed and facilitated by Northamptonshire Community Foundation, with the aim to fund projects supporting people living with disabilities. The maximum funding award is £3,000. In order to apply please complete an expression of interest form by Friday 24th February 2023 and email to Ryan Griffiths: ryan@ncf.uk.com - <https://www.ncf.uk.com/grants/grant-finder/cecil-pettit-legacy-fund>
- Northamptonshire Federation of Disability Sport Fund - The fund has been set up by the Northamptonshire Federation of Disability Sport with the aim to increase the number of disabled people involved in all aspects of sport, recreation and physical activity within Northamptonshire. The maximum amount to be applied for is £1000 and projects can run for up to a year. Next application deadline – 10th March - <https://www.ncf.uk.com/grants/grant-finder/nfdsfund>
- Poverty Hurts Fund - Poverty Hurts Fund aims to help tackle increasing poverty and the impact of the current cost of living crisis for some of our most vulnerable local residents and those already experiencing financial distress. It aims to ensure that people who have been impacted by poverty can access support from local organisations. Rolling programme, maximum grant award £3,000 - <https://www.ncf.uk.com/grants/grant-finder/poverty-hurts>
- The Margaret Giffen Community Fund - supports projects up to £3000 tackling disadvantage and poverty across Corby, Kettering and North Northamptonshire. Next application deadline – 10th March - <https://www.ncf.uk.com/grants/grant-finder/margaret-giffen-community-fund>
- The Northampton Queen's Institute Relief Fund - grants up to £5000 for projects based in Northampton that are all about improving health and wellbeing. Next deadline – 10th March - <https://www.ncf.uk.com/grants/grant-finder/queens-institute>
- The Compton Fund - support arts, culture and heritage projects across Northamptonshire. The fund will offer awards between £500 and £5000. Next

application deadline – 10th March - <https://www.ncf.uk.com/grants/grant-finder/compton-fund>

- Constance Travis Endowment Fund for Northamptonshire - the fund will focus on the following goals which aim to address: no poverty, zero hunger, good health & wellbeing, quality education, gender equality, decent work and economic growth, reduced inequalities, sustainable cities and communities, climate action and peace, justice and strong institutions. Rolling programme - <https://www.ncf.uk.com/grants/grant-finder/constance-travis-endowment-fund-for-northamptonshire>
- KHL Big Local Community Chest Fund - grants of £250 to £5000 for projects that are all about improving the wellbeing of residents based in Kingswood and Hazel Leys in Corby. Rolling programme - <https://www.ncf.uk.com/grants/grant-finder/khl-big-local>

8. **Items for Future Meetings**

Diversity and Inclusion:

Add Say It Loud to May's agenda

Add Hate Crime to May agenda – Nick Stephens (Hate crime coordinator)

Ellen recommended “A positive place for LGBTQ+ South Asians”

theopenmindsproject.org

9. **Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 14 March, social meeting

Tuesday 8 May, 7pm – formal meeting

The meeting closed at 20:15

Chair: Matthew Toresen

Date: 17/1/23