

## **LANCASHIRE FRIEND**

Minutes

2<sup>nd</sup> May 2006

**Present:** Wendy, Nick, Les, Ian H, Joanne, Kathryn, Cathy, Lizzy, John, Paul, Nish

**Apologies:** Chi, Ian P, Fiona, Pat, Paul F

- **Welcome**

Nick welcomed people to the meeting and apologised for the cancellation of the actual meeting which was scheduled for Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April. This had been due to the number of people not able to attend. Apologies were given to those who DID attend including Bev Taylor who was scheduled to be the speaker that night. Bev has rescheduled this for May or June. Her topic will be recording homophobic hate crime and how LF can operate as a 3<sup>rd</sup> party reporting centre. It was asked that if people aren't able to attend the meeting, could they please let Nick or Wendy know with as much notice as possible?

- **Minutes of last meeting**

Agreed

- **Matters Arising**

**The Office**

Nick has spoken to the Jarman centre and they have updated their procedure. Nick will pass this on to keyholders.

**Blush packs**

Nick has scheduled a meeting with Allan re: use by dates and condom strength.

- **Executive Reports**

**Chair**

Meeting dates

Meeting dates for the rest of the year have been established. These were in the last minutes and are now published on the website. It was reiterated that if anyone is unable to attend, please contact Nick or Wendy with as much notice as possible.

Age Concern research

The forms were sent out with last month's minutes and through other agencies. Any completed questionnaires should be returned to Nick and he will pass them on

Men's Health Week

This year, this will be focussing on male sexual health awareness and it takes place in June. Allan has asked if LF would be willing to help. Let Nick know if you have any ideas about supporting this event – sooner rather than later, as it gives people time to get things sorted out.

Volunteer involvement

It was again reiterated that there are jobs that need doing within the organisation and we still need volunteers to do them. It was recognised that we are a voluntary organisation but we'd urge people to be honest about the level of commitment they can offer. If anyone needs to talk to Nick about this, then please do so.

**Website**

Mailing List

It was asked in the last mailing to members that if you did not want to continue receiving minutes every month and just wanted to subscribe to the new quarterly update, please let Wendy know.

### Website update

Good feedback has been received about the website. People are saying that they feel comfortable with its layout and approach. It has been updated and will also have more information on the Home page soon.

### Request for Photos

The social event at Belle Vue Stadium in Manchester went very well. Wendy asked for photos of the event to be e-mailed to her and she will upload them to the site.

## **Befriending**

### Accrington

John A and Les undertook a befriending in Accrington. Les would like to thank John A for his work on this session as it was felt he had added a lot to the befriending.

### Women

Les asked if more of the women involved with LF would like to be part of the befriending service. It was felt this would open up the service to women who called the helpline and wanted to use the befriending service but felt uncomfortable meeting male volunteers, even ones as sweet as Les!

### Befriending guidelines

These have been updated and are available in the office for all to peruse at their leisure. Any comments to Les asap please but keep them clean, positive and constructive.

## **Treasurer**

### Awards for All

They are claiming they have not received our first bid. Nick has sent it and it was on time. This bid is for new computer equipment.

### Treasurer

Nick has had some response to the ads he placed in local and gay press. However, if someone knows of anyone who might be interested, please pass on details to Nick.

### PCT funding

This has been cut again. Only 2 PCTs have paid up. Nick will be chasing the third this month.

### Sources of funding

LF is constantly looking for sources of funding so if anyone wants the task of surfing the web for funding or bids, please let Nick or Wendy know.

## **Events**

### Apologies

Cathy apologised for events last month. However, this was due to illness so we forgave her.

### Dogs' Night

This was a huge success. Only Ian H walked away with any money and we won't say how he earned that! Good atmosphere, lots of shouting and buckets of KFC. Thanks to Nick for stepping in and getting us all there.

### Blackpool Pride

20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> May

Names please to Cathy for people wishing to take part in the parade or to man a stall. LF can help with transport if it's a problem

### Birmingham Pride

27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> May, Cannon Hill Park

This is £10 per ticket and £5 for transport. Again, names to Cathy for those wishing to take part.

### Other Events

- The Ladyboys of Bangkok are at The Lowry from 23<sup>rd</sup> June – 22<sup>nd</sup> July so we need to formalise a date and find out costings.
- The Rocky Horror Picture Show, Opera House, Manchester 12<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> June. Ian H and Cathy are going so names to Cathy if you want to go too. It's just a jump to the left...
- Manchester Mardi Gras – August bank holiday. Names are needed for those manning the stall and taking part in the parade. If you take part and help us out, you could get in for free as we are given 5 free passes per day. That's £15 a pass so BIG savings. Cathy asked people to think of a theme for the stall this year – ideas for 30<sup>th</sup> May meeting please.

### **Training**

Training will be done by Manchester LGF. It will take 2 days of 4 hour sessions each. In addition, there will be in-house training on the Turing system. There will be 10 – 12 places available and will focus on listening skills, techniques and counselling skills. Dates to be confirmed are Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June and Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June. Please sign up in the office. If you do the training, it is not compulsory to man the switchboard. Further training sessions are planned in befriending.

### **AOB**

Quarterly newsletter – any help or stories, please send to Wendy or Ian H.

Keyholders – your inner door key is to be returned. Also, if you are working in the office during the day, leave the door open so Jarman centre people know that there is someone in there.

Ideas for Mardi Gras in Manchester – on the stall, it was suggested we could have a lucky dip, raffle or giveaways like pens, stickers, bags etc. Kathryn also suggested contacting UNISON, major banks etc for funding for this and new display boards.

If anyone has any free time, talk to Nick about coming in. 10 or 12 people giving time one a month makes LF more proactive and able to offer more services.

Meeting ended 8.45pm

Date of next meeting – Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May 7.30pm

Any queries or issues, please contact Nick on 07753 209770