

LANCASHIRE FRIEND

Minutes

31st August 2006

Present: Lizzy, Rachel, Fiona, Les, John, Wendy, Nick, Carl

Apologies: Cathy, Pat, Fr John, June, Ian P.

- **Welcome**
Wendy and Les welcomed people to the meeting, particularly any new members and gave a brief outline of the history and role of Lancashire Friend.
- **Minutes of last meeting**
Agreed
- **Matters Arising**
No matters arising
- **Executive Reports**
Chair
Age Concern
We have received a Thank You letter from Age Concern for our help with their research on access to services for self-defined older LGBT individuals. The research has been collated to determine the needs of older LGBT people.

CVS meetings

LF have been invited to attend these and they have proved to be very positive networking opportunities. If anyone can attend on the following dates, please let Nick know. The events take place during the day.

Blackburn with Darwen CVS – 21st September. Fiona agreed to do this
Burnley with Pendle CVS – 26th September

Manchester Pride

Nick received an e-mail from Jeremy, former Chair of LF, which was very positive about LF's presence at this event.

New LGBT group

A new LGBT group is being set up for the Fylde coast (Blackpool / Fylde / Lytham) which will include representation from the Council, Body Positive, PCT and the police. It looks like a positive new group and we will endeavour to support their meetings and put details on the website.

Blackburn College

This college has identified a lack of policy on LGBT students / issues so has invited Nick along to talk to tutors and pastoral staff to raise awareness and offer information.

Mental Health Awareness Day

Tuesday 10th October – LF needs volunteers to staff a stall for the day at Blackburn College – please let Nick know if you can help out.

Students Fayre – 27th September at King George's Hall. Again volunteers are needed to staff the stall.

Website / Secretary

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.

ITV1 are looking for young people to be part of a major documentary series on youth – particularly if they are facing a big issue e.g. coming out. Details are on the website and if anyone is interested or knows of someone this would be applicable to, please let Wendy know.

I have introduced a new section to the website called Volunteer Voice. This is open to any volunteer who wants to write an article. It can be on anything but LF reserves the right to edit and asks for a word limit of 500 words. This way, we can then transfer any article easily to the newsletter.

Befriending

Nothing to report

Treasurer

We are still on the lookout for someone to fill the Treasurer's role. Nick has contacted press to advertise the vacancy.

Nick has sent off a funding application to Crown Paints who fund community projects across the UK. Wendy researched a list of funding organisations and Nick has started contacting those for further information. It only took an hour on the internet and we are always looking for sources of funding.

LF is currently looking for funding for three key areas – A5 leaflets for each of the services; replacing the computers in the office and to extend training for volunteers.

FLAG

This organisation based in Burnley was recently awarded funding from Awards for All of £4,500 for promotional materials to re-launch at the AGM in January 2007. Nick will put in another bid for LF on the strength of this as our application was denied and there was no feedback as to why.

Manchester Mardi Gras

Saturday 26th / Sunday 27th / Monday 28th – August Bank Holiday

This was a very good event all round. The parade was excellent and the organisation was a lot more professional. In terms of LF's participation, there were some issues raised and discussed:

- didn't take part in the Parade which was very disappointing
- better location for the stall than last year
- stall looked hugely better
- big thank you to volunteers who staffed the stall
- had good feedback / responses regarding information about services and volunteering.

Newsletter

Wendy led a session on the newsletter. The group was split into pairs and worked on four sections – design, layout, content and names. Thank you to all who took part with such enthusiasm. The chosen name for the quarterly newsletter will be Queer Talk.

Social Events

Friday 15th September – Bowling

Friday 20th October – Bingo

Friday 17th November - Cinema

AOB

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

Meeting ended 9.05pm

Date of next meeting – Tuesday 26th September 7.30pm

Any queries or issues, please contact Nick on 07753 209770