

LANCASHIRE FRIEND

Minutes

25th July 2006

Present: June, Pat, Joanne, Kathryn, Nick, John, Les, Ian P, Wendy

Apologies: Cathy, Allan, Chi, Ian H, Paul K

- **Welcome**

Nick welcomed people to the meeting, particularly any new members but expressed his disappointment at the low attendance, particularly as it was clearly stated we would be discussing the arrangements for Manchester Pride / Mardi Gras.

- **Minutes of last meeting**

A letter was sent out due to the low attendance at June's meeting but contents were agreed.

- **Matters Arising**

No matters arising

- **Executive Reports**

Chair

*From September '06, the Jarman Centre have a new training programme which is open and free to LF volunteers. Nick is also awaiting details about training from Pendle Training and Bootstrap. Nick also stated he was pleased with the response to the latest internal training and is keen to follow up that work with more training.

*Lancashire Sexuality Equality Forum have invited suggestions for LGBT History Month in February 2007. Nick will pass on any ideas to Allan.

*There will be a short season of LGBT films at a new cinema opened at UCLAN in Preston.

*Preston LGBT are developing their own group so there is a possibility of linking with them and sharing resources.

*The Red Ribbon Ball have secured funding for this year and so will be repeating their outstanding performance in December to support World AIDS day. This was a fantastic event last year and LF should support it fully.

*For information, since legislation became law, there have been 6,000 civil partnerships in the UK with gay men outnumbering lesbians by 2:1. John has started a list of venues in Lancashire where civil ceremonies can take place or offer gay-friendly associated services. Wendy asked if we could explore charging these venues for advertising on the website.

*Nick went on to stress the importance of all the roles within LF. The switchboard, although a key part of our services, is not the be-all and end-all.

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.

A4 quarterly update – Wendy showed a draft design for this newsletter for people to comment. There was no feedback so Wendy will just carry on and present draft first edition for the August meeting.

Allan Clinch – condom distribution

One of the larger venues in Blackburn is closing down so we need to look at other forms of distribution and Nick is exploring the possibility of a postal service. This could include sending packs with the newsletter but funding could be a problem.

Befriending

Nick and Cathy did a befriending for a female service user in Darwen. This received positive feedback and will be repeated.

Joanne and Kathryn did a befriending for a female service user in Bury. They have kept in touch with her and will be sending her information on Manchester LGF. They will attend the Lesbian Lunch in Manchester with her in September. The service user may attend LF socials.

Treasurer

We are still on the lookout for someone to fill the Treasurer's role. Nick has contacted press to advertise the vacancy. Joanne said that the CVS have always been very helpful supplying people for specific roles in organisations and Nick reassured the team that we were already on all those lists.

Nick is still waiting to hear about funding from Burnley and Pendle PCT.

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.

Events

Arts in the Park / Mela

- Very disappointed that we did not take part due to poor organisation on their part and lack of bodies on our part. Nick emphasised that we should be taking part in these kind of community events.

Manchester Mardi Gras

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

The stall will be in the Lifestyle section and needs to be staffed from 12 – 7pm. There will be leaflets, posters, giveaways and possibly prizes. There are only 3 passes available – first come, first committed, people! 2 people need to be on the stall at all times.

Nick asked for people to sign up for staffing the stall and a rota will be set up this week. Those who do not get one of the 3 free passes per day will have to pay the ticket price of £15. Nick agreed that paying would be up for negotiation but could not fund everybody for the full ticket price. Any questions to Nick, please. ASAP!

Training de-brief

The June training with Alistair from Manchester LGF received very positive feedback. Nick has received a training report from Alistair which includes the evaluation. Alistair said it was a pleasure to work with us. Ways to move forward were suggested such as:

- Whatever contribution to LF is made is of equal value and merit – all are important. Nick asked again that people do not over-commit. Only say you can do it if you know you can do it.
- Agreeing protocols for certain types of calls e.g. suicidal. A separate meeting for those who work the switchboard should be set up and if successful, extend to those who work on befriending.
- Breakout meetings for World AIDS day. Our August or September meeting will dedicate time to this so we are fully prepared. Les is attending the Steering Group on this and will feedback ideas to Wendy about what is happening. Wendy will organise the workshop sessions.

AOB

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

An executive meeting will be held on Tuesday 15th August to review the progress, strengths, weaknesses and future of LF.

A reminder about the social event on Sunday 30th July 11.30am start at Chipping. It will be 4 or 5 miles and directions are available.

August 10th – Gay Short films 6.30pm Roper Hall, Friargate, Preston. £5 for the DVD

Meeting ended 9.00pm

Date of next meeting – Thursday 31st August 7.30pm
Any queries or issues, please contact Nick on 07753 209770