

LANCASHIRE FRIEND

Minutes

28th March 2006

Present: Wendy, Nick, Ian H, Cathy, Les, John, Pat

Apologies: Ian P, Fiona, Chi, Allan, Paul, Kathryn, Jo, Peter

- **Welcome**

Nick welcomed people to the meeting and apologised for the AGM minutes not being circulated yet. This was due to illness and work commitments.

- **Minutes of last meeting**

Agreed

- **Matters Arising**

CRB check

A written response is on the way but Cathy, Ian H and Wendy all have up to date CRB checks and that should suffice at the moment.

LGF Manchester

This visit is on hold at the moment due to illness but will hopefully happen in the next few months.

February AGM

Thanks to all who attended and supported this event. All feedback has been extremely positive and Nick has had enquiries from those who were unable to attend. A big thank you should also go to Paul and Jackie at The Moorings.

- **Executive Reports**
Chair

AGM

Nick was very pleased with the AGM. It was disappointing in terms of attendance and number of apologies received but hopefully we can overcome this in the future with better planning in advance.

The Office

The alarm in the Jarman Centre has been going off and LF is being blamed. Nick has spoken to Angela and Sandra about this but keyholders are reminded to check all lights are out and doors closed. Ian H commented on this as he was present on one occasion when the alarm went off. The engineer was promised within 15 minutes but didn't attend. The service provided was appalling and was not dealt with until nearly midnight. A new sensor has been fitted to detect body heat only and a draught should not activate it. The invoice for the evening call out and the sensor is in the rack. Nick will be speaking to Rebecca about this.

Tea/Coffee

Nick has topped up the contribution jar with donations. This will be raised with the Jarman Centre again.

Website

The website has been updated but not as regularly as it should have been. With the Easter holidays coming up, Wendy will be able to devote some major time to it.

Befriending

Les and Ian P have several ongoing befriending with new and current service users. There is also a buddying follow-up to a previous service user. Les has also had an enquiry which he will follow up in the next week or so.

Les has updated the Befriending guidelines. Any feedback to Les would be gratefully received as soon as possible. Copies are available in the office.

September 26th (Tu)
October 26th (Th)
November 28th (Tu)

Work to be done

The board will be updated regularly and volunteers will check it for tasks. The switchboard rota will sort itself out when the training takes place. Volunteers can also check magazines, news or internet for stuff that can go on the website. We are also looking for volunteers to help with the website.

We are looking to develop new service leaflets for each of the services we provide. Ian H will get started on these A5 short, snappy leaflets.

Lists of local venues, clinics, schools and colleges need updating. Contact also has to be made with local groups and events to see if it is anything LF can get involved with. A communications book will be put in the office. Please use it and update it. Wendy to give Les a copy of the current mailing list for ringrounds.

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.

AOB

Nick wrote a letter to The Pink Paper stating that there was still a need for switchboards and the services they provide. The letter won Prize Letter in The Pink Paper and Gay Times.

Allan / Les have started their research observations in Billinge Wood.

Age Concern – a consultant psychologist working with their Open Doors project would like lgbt volunteers aged 40+ to discuss their opinions / needs. This survey is specific to Blackburn with Darwen. The contact details are on the website.

Ian H expressed a concern about the use by dates on condoms packed for Blush Packs. He also advocated the use of extra-strong condoms instead of the flavoured variety currently provided. Nick will speak to Allan about this.

Ian H also asked if we could ask the new management of the Stage Door, Blackburn if we could do a fundraiser? Nick knows the new managers and will talk to them. However, a concern was raised about preaching to the converted.

Ian H will work with Wendy on producing an A5 version of the minutes which could be used as a newsletter. Nick had thought of doing a quarterly newsletter which could be e-mailed to the database. Nick asked for further ideas for a volunteer campaign/poster on volunteer recruitment. Volunteers have been sought from all sources – CVS etc.

A discussion was then held about involving volunteers after the initial expression of interest. This went on for some time.

Happy Birthday, John A! 21 again!

Meeting ended 9.00pm

Date of next meeting - April 27th 2006 7.30pm
Any queries or issues, please contact Nick on 07753 209770