

## **LANCASHIRE FRIEND**

Minutes

27<sup>th</sup> September 2005

**Present:** Wendy, Nick, Les, Fiona, Allan, Yvonne, Lizzie  
Pat, Jenny, Ian, Paul, Kathy

**Apologies:** John, Chi, Ian, Marcus

- 1. Introduction of all present**
- 2. Current situation**

Nick gave a brief overview of Lancashire Friend's many roles, developing the social side as well as support services such as the helpline, counselling, befriending and information.

Nick outlined that Jeremy had resigned as Chair and read his resignation letter. This was mainly due to ill health and other personal matters. Lancashire Friend would like to extend their thanks to Jeremy for all his work and hope he'll return in the New Year. Pat seconded this.

### **Nomination of Chair**

Les nominated Nick Brierley

Ian seconded this

Nick accepted the new role.

Wendy will take over as secretary

Paul will take over as treasurer

Les will remain as befriending co-ordinator.

Chris Walton (website) has also resigned due to time commitments. Lancashire Friend would also like to extend their thanks for all his hard work on the website and other areas. Nick has written and asked for a proper handover to Wendy.

- 3. Overview of Lancashire Friend and its role**

Nick gave an overview of Lancashire Friend's history and its current role. He outlined that it was a support and social group that was very much based in the local community. He discussed some of the excellent progress made over the last two years and saw that this was a fresh start to build on the successes of the past and a time to be looking to the future.

It was felt that Lancashire Friend should be a forum for ideas and that everyone ought to feel comfortable about coming along and able to contribute ideas / opinions.

Nick also talked through some of the areas that need development:

- Switchboard – needs more volunteers (see section on training)
- Befriendings
- Face to face counselling – Chi has agreed to take this on
- Website – doing really well
- Social events – some dates were agreed at the last meeting
  - cinema night at UCI, Preston 7pm 07.10.05
  - Bonfire Night, Witton Park, Blackburn 05.11.05
  - Christmas meal, December (Wendy to investigate places)
  - World AIDS Day 01.12.05

#### **4. Training Days**

The previously discussed training days, scheduled for October / November, will be delayed. The funding bid (through Community Network) has not been submitted. Nick is looking at this as funding is needed to cover materials, training and refreshments.

Smaller scale training details will follow which will enable people to get started.

Yvonne suggested asking Helen O'Neill who may give her time for free. She has given training in helpline use to womens' organisations in Preston.

Les also suggested that any volunteer could come in on a switchboard night and observe.

#### **5. Vision Day**

This was discussed at the previous meeting as a brainstorming session on taking the organisation forward. Nick would like this to be an ongoing discussion rather than a formal agenda on a half day session.

Yvonne voiced that a set time could be used for teambuilding to enable people to have the confidence to voice their ideas and opinions. Pat agreed that a teambuilding event would signal a fresh start. This was agreed.

#### **6. AGM**

This will now take place after Christmas, possibly around February. It will be a half day event with guest speakers. It was suggested that we invite some other organisations along, particularly those with funding available.

#### **7. AOB**

Pat gave a brief talk about the work of FLAG (Forum for Lesbians and Gays) in Burnley. This group meets every 6 weeks in the Garden Bar in Burnley. The group was set up by Lancashire Police and is working towards reducing homophobic crime in the Burnley and Pendle area. She outlined many of the guest speakers who had given talks to FLAG.

#### **CVS, Burnley**

##### **70<sup>th</sup> anniversary – Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September**

Lancashire Friend has a stall at this event and this was staffed by Nick and Les. It was a very good networking opportunity as there was a large number of people and groups present. Nick used the opportunity to build links to other organisations.

##### **Hate Crime Conference 17<sup>th</sup> September**

Allan attended this conference where the police were launching their self-reporting forms. All police forces will now have a standard form. The Criminal Justice Board and CPS were also present. Allan reported on the discrimination between homophobic and other hate crimes e.g. the homophobic content is not recognised and the perpetrators are charged with aggravated assault as opposed to racially motivated aggravated assault which carries a stiffer sentence.

#### **Freshers Fayre**

Blackburn College – 28<sup>th</sup> September  
Less will attend for Lancashire Friend  
12.15 – 16.00

Bev Taylor LGBT Liaison Officer for Lancashire Police

She would like to give a talk on 3<sup>rd</sup> party reporting. Nick will write back. Pete Lang (Bev's equivalent in Blackburn) will also be invited along to the meeting

**World AIDS Day**

Allan is organising a vigil this year. Allan and Nick to meet up and sort it out

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December**

Red Ribbon Cabaret

UCLAN, Preston

Wendy suggested combining the Christmas meal with this and will investigate places and prices for the next meeting.

Allan offered his support to the group and is very experienced in fundraising.

Ian voiced his pleasure at the positive nature of the meeting and embraced the fresh new start of Lancashire Friend. He was particularly vocal about the number of new members and welcomed them all.

**The next meeting date is Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2005 at 7.30pm**

The meeting closed at 8.45pm