

Berkshire Older Lesbian and Gay Forum

Steering Committee Minutes

Thursday 5th December
Rupert Square Information Centre

Action

1. Attendees

Derek Rogers, Jenny Stroud, Jenny Ward, John , John Wood, Lois Williams, Nigel Tooke, Pat Herriott, Rebecca Ballard.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Jane Kightley, Maria Ottway, Margaret Milan.

3. Notes of Last Meeting

The Notes were agreed with the following amendments:

Rebecca

a. **Attendees**

Jane for Jan

Bullion for Bullon.

b. **Meeting with Local Age Concern Representatives**

The 3rd paragraph to read "this is unusual" and note that financial assistance "stopped when home life came in".

7th Paragraph to read "West Berkshire Older People's Forum hosted by Newbury Age Concern"

4. Matters Arising

a. **Age Concern Gloucester Opening Doors Project**

Nigel and Jenny attended the conference on 6th November Gloucester. For details see AOB.

b. **Berkshire Age Concern Conference**

This conference is due to be held on 2nd May, at the Renaissance Hotel. Its title is "Be Sure Be Safe". Jenny is going to attend. She hopes that there will be a Berkshire Anti-Homophobia Group stand and have Forum leaflets available.

Jenny W

c. **Letterhead**

Tony has now prepared a letterhead.

d. **Coronation Hall**

We noted that the Coronation Hall has a sprung floor.

5. Treasurer's Report

Nigel has now received a cheque book and cards with the other paperwork. Once all cheques have been banked the account will have £214.

Nigel has been on course about charity status. If we move in this direction, we will need to make sure that we have a constitution which will allow for everything we would want to do as an organisation. He has some examples to look at. There is an issue about incorporated status which would mean that each of us would have our liability limited to £1 each.

Nigel will take this forward. He will prepare a paper for discussion at the next meeting.

Nigel

John will give Nigel copies of the No.5 and ReachOut constitutions as examples.

John

Nigel raised the issue of insurance - e.g. at the tea dance the building would have had its own cover, but what if something had happened? Would we have been liable? Jenny will check with the hall for next tea dance.

Jenny

6. Web Site and Yahoo Group

Rebecca showed the current web site to members present and asked for members comments. She will upload it and let all members of the mailing group know it was available.

Rebecca

We discussed the problems that had arisen with membership of the Yahoo email group. Rebecca has removed those members causing offence and has now changed the membership from being public (i.e. that anyone may enrol themselves) to by request. This means that only Rebecca and anyone else designated as a moderator may sign up members.

Rebecca will send a message to those people who have asked to be removed from the list and ask them if they would like to receive only "special" messages, i.e. only about social events.

Rebecca

7. Meeting with Age Concern

Jenny and Maria have had a further meeting with Geoff Chivers and Liz Woodhouse on 25th November about moving things forward since last steering group. (Notes previously circulated by Jenny).

We agreed that the January 16th meeting would have an earlier start to allow Liz to talk to as many people as interested about Berkshire Age Concern's (AC) advocacy service. Advocates have maximum of 2 clients and promise to make at least 1 visit a week to that client. All clients are in residential care. The purpose is to ensure that older people who cannot manage their own affairs can speak up on their behalf, and have someone to think of their needs. Berkshire AC also want us to help train their advocates in terms of issues around sexuality. A tentative date of 27th February had been agreed Margaret (Collins) and Rebecca should be available to do training. It would be helpful to have a male perspective at that time too.

Berkshire AC also have a "Home from Hospital" service. Volunteers give support for the first three days after someone comes home, to make sure

they have food/heat etc and support from GP and family. They are looking for volunteers for this service too so Liz will outline this on 16th January too.

Berks AC have offered St Andrews House, Wilton Road as venue for meetings – social and business meetings. We all agree that it would be a great idea to organise a monthly social drop-in. We will each talk about this outside meeting the meeting and take forward.

AC are very keen to have a conference to raise awareness. We agreed to take forward.

8. Events Planning: February Tea Dance

Jenny had made enquiries about the new hall in Woodley for 9th February - £18/hour + £15 for kitchen which worked out £35 more than Coronation Hall. This was agreed. We agreed to keep the charge as £5 but charge a small amount for drinks and cakes. It will be important to make sure that people aware of this charge

Jenny will chase up the dance teacher and music.

Jenny

Jenny will ask Tony to design poster, on Valentine theme - inclusive.

Jenny

Jenny has printed tickets. Rebecca, John , Jenny, Nigel and Pat took 10 tickets each. We will need £10 cheque for a deposit.

all

9. Requests for other organisations to attend Steering Group meetings

We agreed that Berkshire Age Concern would come to the January meeting of the steering group (see above).

Thames Valley Positive Response – a local HIV/AIDS charity who make donations to people living with HIV and AIDS. They have asked if they could come and talk to the Steering Group. We agreed that we would invite a representative to the February meeting. Jenny will contact them.

Jenny

We agreed to invite Sally Middleton from the Gloucestershire Forum to ask her to tell the group about SAGE in New York to a later meeting.

10. Any other business

a. Gloucester Conference

Nigel and Jenny reported back on the conference:

It had been interesting being a non-provider/potential user amongst providers of services. The Head of Social Services had attended. Many of the attendees were also gay or lesbian. Having a gay or lesbian person in a strategic position had been really helpful in Gloucester.

In Berkshire we are dealing with 6 authorities. This might create difficulties but a local conference will help kick start things. Gill Flannagan (Community Development Office in Wokingham) will be able to give us structure in how to go about the processes to get involved in the political processes, for funding etcetera.

We now have information demonstrating the need for the forum from Brian

Heaphy's research in Nottingham Trent University, as well as knowledge from Age Concern locally, so we are now close to putting work together on asking for funding.

It had been refreshing to see that heterosexual people who said that they "didn't know about this as an issue", had been glad they came.

b. ReachOut

John W let everyone know that the ReachOut Annual Ball is to be held on the 2nd Saturday in April (12th), held in the Town Hall, with extension to 2.00am. Tickets will probably be in the range of £35.

11. Dates of Future Meetings

The next meeting is to be held on Thursday, 16th January, 2003, at Rupert Street Information Centre. The meeting will start at 7.30pm - hour with Liz Woodhouse from Berkshire Age Concern then normal business,.

Dates for further meetings were agreed for:

27th February, 2003 - Positive Response will be invited;

10th April and

15th May.