

Forum for Older Lesbians and Gay Men

Minutes of the Steering Group Meeting on 13th June, 2002.

Present: Jenny W, Jenny S, Maria, Margaret.

Apologies received from Nakhat, Cheryl. Nigel, Gill Flannagan, Jane and Kevin.

Matters Arising from the Minutes.

Nigel, Jenny and Maria haven't yet been able to set up a brainstorming session. They have agreed to do this via email. Maria will start it off. It was agreed that the Steering Group wouldn't look at applying for money until we were ready with some concrete, well thought-out ideas

Maria

Name

We agreed that whatever the name of the group, the word "older" was preferable to "elderly". We further agreed that it was important at this stage to have a name that "did exactly what is said on the tin". Once the group was established the name could be changed at a later date.

We agreed that the group's name would be the "Berkshire Older Lesbian and Gay forum or BOLGaF for short.

Publicity

3 people attended the Open Evening at the Dove which was pleasing given the short notice. At the very least, Jackie is aware of us! We thus have the names of 3 people who, are interested in being part of the Forum although not of the Steering Group. Jenny W has produced a draft leaflet which could be used to send or give out to interested people and organisations. She will ask Nigel if she can put his name on the leaflet as a contact because it would be useful to have a male contact as well as a female one.

Jenny W

We agreed to purchase a domain name. This would be useful both for emails addresses and for a web site.

Rebecca

Opening Doors Report

Everybody had received a copy of Jenny W's email of June 6th, although Margaret is not able to print off any attachments that are sent to her email address.

Saga

Margaret has written to Saga Holidays to ask what provision they make for Lesbians and Gay Men. No reply received yet.

Letter head

Margaret will design a letter head for the Steering Group. She and Jenny W will put something together.

Jenny W
Margaret

Planning a programme

Social evening

Jenny will investigate dates for a social in September at the Dove and will ask Jackie about providing food.

Jenny

Contacts

Berkshire Age Conan

Jenny W has had contact with their advocacy person. It was a positive contact, although she had not heard from her in a while. She will follow up this contact.

Jenny W

Social Services

Sarah G has offered to give the Forum an introduction to Social services.

Policy for Contact

We agreed that we should not start any visiting or direct contact with older people until we had drawn up some policies to work by. Also we would not start too much publicity until we were able to fulfil a service. However we could and would organise social events.

We need to do some research into the needs of older lesbians and gay men in Berkshire so that we can arrange what they want and need.

Future work for the Steering Group

Priorities for the Steering Group are

- Draw up a Code of Practice.
- Carry out research into the needs and wants of older lesbians and gay men in Berkshire.

Once we have drawn up a code of practice, we can start contacting service providers.

In the future we can look at contacting enterprises.

We can all do networking with the people we have contact with.

Opening Up the group

We agreed that the Steering Group would function better as a small group. However anyone interested would be more than welcome to join the Forum itself, and be kept up to date with developments. We will need a mechanism for this in the future

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Steering Group will be on Thursday, 1st August at 8.00pm either in the Global Café or in the beYOU office.