

RAINBOW PARTNERSHIP

Building a Unified Voice
for the Lesbian, Gay,
Bisexual and
Trans
Sector



RAINBOW PARTNERSHIP

What is the Rainbow Partnership?

The Rainbow Partnership, co-ordinated by The Lesbian & Gay Foundation, offers a way forward to strengthen and empower Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans (LGBT) communities and frontline organisations who support them in the North West of England.

With pump-priming funding from Capacitybuilders, a network of LGBT charities, voluntary and community groups, private businesses, public sector projects, social enterprises, and interested individuals will form the Rainbow Partnership initiative.

The aims of the initiative during the coming year are:

1. To bring LGBT organisations together to work in partnership, build a united voice to access and influence decision makers and policy developers, and ensure the LGBT sector is ready for competitive public service delivery.
2. To ensure LGBT frontline organisations have access to and support from mainstream infrastructure organisations.

In order to achieve those aims we will be establishing a network (both physical and virtual), delivering two joint regional campaigns,

ISSUE ONE APRIL-JULY 07



a quarterly newsletter, an email-policywatch service, a regional LGBT strategy, 5 sub-regional events, web-based factsheets and information, and formal links with mainstream infrastructure organisations.

We want to ensure the NW's LGBT sector is the most informed and supported in the UK. At this early stage of development, the Rainbow Partnership network already has a membership of 52 and we are looking to increase that significantly over the coming months.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Rainbow Partnership please contact Jacqui Cross at jacqui@lgf.org.uk

MESSAGE

A message from Capacitybuilders

ChangeUp strengthens the support and assistance available to voluntary and community organisations.

Through the 'Improving Reach Programme' over 125 projects received funding from Capacitybuilders (who are now managing ChangeUp) contributing to the improved provision of support to frontline organisations; enabling better delivery of public services and engaging communities in improving quality of life.

The benefits of the 'Improving Reach Programme' are targeted directly at the frontline of the third sector, namely organisations working with disadvantaged and marginalised communities. Capacitybuilders are

delighted that the Lesbian & Gay Foundation is one of the recipients of funding during this initial pilot phase of the programme. By building on the existing work of their 'Changing Futures' programme, Capacitybuilders is keen to see the 'Rainbow Partnership' empower LGBT communities and the frontline organisations that support them. With some of the planned work already underway Capacitybuilders looks forward to seeing the outcomes of the project in the year ahead, including the development of a regional LGBT strategy and improved dissemination of information. The Rainbow Partnership will help to encourage partnership working with mainstream organisations, uniting LGBT organisations in the region to influence decision makers and policy developers.

CAPACITYBUILDERS (FUNDING)

Improving Reach is a pilot programme to improve the reach of infrastructure for a range of marginalised groups. It will run until March 2008. We hope to extend the scope of the programme and build on its success in future years following an evaluation of the pilot. The aim of the Improving Reach programme is to improve access to capacity building and support for a range of frontline groups/organisations that may not have been reached in previous Change Up programmes. In particular the programme is aimed at black and minority ethnic groups, refugee and migrant groups, faith groups and isolated rural groups.

For further information please go to www.capacitybuilders.org.uk

NORTH WEST LESBIANS, GAY MEN, BISEXUAL & TRANS PEOPLE

NW TOTAL POPULATION:

6.8 million

NW LGBT POPULATION:

612,000

INSIDE No 1

Around The Region (page 2); Policy Watch (page 3); Infrastructure Organisations (page 4)



AROUND THE R

CUMBRIA

West Cumbria Community Empowerment Network

West Cumbria Community Empowerment Network (a government office) is helping lesbian women in the boroughs of Allerdale and Copeland to setup a support network.

The aim of the group known as West Cumbria BOBS (Babes On Babes) is to provide an environment where women can interact socially. The group is aiming to develop a programme of events throughout the year, which reflect the needs of its members. For example, a monthly walk, annual summer picnic, trips to the theatre, a pub drop-in, and bowling, etc. Having the support of a government agency will also ensure that women who feel a victim (for example) either at work or from neighbours/general public have somewhere to turn to for help. Whilst the majority of women reside within these two boroughs, it is not exclusive.

We already have women from outside the boroughs keen to join us, and invite anyone from the surrounding areas to join us at social events. Although the group is assisted with government funding, we need help to cover running costs, and as

such ask everyone to support the group by an annual membership fee of £5.00. This will fund the newsletter, enable a reduced ticket price to special events and most importantly, ensure the continued survival of the group if funding from government ceases. This only needs to be paid once you are sure that the group has something to offer you, and generally we find that people leave it 2/3 months by which time they can see what the group has to offer.

Most events are organised by the group members, and they are encouraged to arrange events themselves. The newsletter is a way of informing all members of such activities.

As a formal group, we have a constitution and a committee who oversee the group activities. However, the formal part is all very low key. The group at the moment consists of about 30 members, and they range in age from the mid 20's to late 50's. Everyone is welcome to join us.

For further information please go to www.gaycumbria.com

LANCASHIRE

Project Oscar, Chorley

Project Oscar, Chorley: offers support to gay and bisexual people in the Chorley and South Ribble area in order to promote good mental, physical, sexual and emotional health.

This is done through a telephone helpline and befriending services, a monthly newsletter and social support network, help and advice on relevant health topics and information on other sources of help and support, both local and national. A major part of the project's work involves making contact with key people in various agencies and working towards improving awareness and acceptance of the fact that there are significant numbers of lesbian, gay and bisexual people in the area. As part of the Lancashire Sexuality Training Group, Project Oscar offers training on LGBT issues tailored to the needs of agencies. Project Oscar is also involved in the development of local community strategies and community safety issues in Chorley and South Ribble.

For further details please email project-oscar@chorley-pct.nhs.uk or telephone 01772 644470.

CHESHIRE

Voice in Vale Royal

Voices in Vale Royal: promoting visibility for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community in Northwich, Cheshire.

Voices in Vale Royal was established in 2003 and is supported by a number of organisations including Vale Royal Borough Council and Cheshire Constabulary. Its goal is to act as a consultation mechanism for various service providers who wish to ascertain the views of LGBT users. The Voices has grown and developed from the initial idea to become a fully autonomous group involved in a wide range of activities including training, promoting equality, social events and consultation.

Extending its remit from just a consultative group Voices has achieved several key milestones over the past 18 months, some of these key milestones include:

Successful fund raising bids

Awareness raising campaigns – e.g. World Mental Health Day

Establishment of a regular social night at a local club

Vale Royal presence at Manchester Pride

Involvement in facilitating changes to health service delivery

Feedback to national consultation on Civil Partnerships

Focus group consultation on key issues in Vale Royal
The group meets on the first Tuesday of each month.
For further details contact at voicesinvaleroyal@btpopenworld.com or telephone: 07884 274479.

MERSEYSIDE

gyro

gyro: support for gay lesbian and bisexual young people in and around Liverpool

The longest-running LGB youth group in the northwest has marked its 30th anniversary with a new-look drop-in and new opening times for 2007.

gyro, short for gay youth 'r' out, has provided a social and support group for lesbian, gay and bisexual young people in Liverpool since November 1976. If you are aged 16 – 25, you can expect a warm welcome every Thursday evening between 7.00 pm and 9.30 pm.

From 7.00 pm to 8.15 pm there is a women's group and a men's group, with informal activities to take part in, then from 8.15 pm to 9.30 pm, the mixed drop-in is a chance for the group to relax and get to know each other better. There are computers for free

REGION

GREATER MANCHESTER

Lesbian Community Project

The Lesbian Community Project is based at 49-51 Sidney Street, Manchester, M1 7HB. We work with lesbian and bisexual women from diverse backgrounds primarily from the Greater Manchester area. However, as we are a lesbian and bisexual women specific organisation, service users contact us from further a field. We work to address issues that lesbian and bisexual women face in relation to discrimination and exclusion; by supporting self-organised groups and networks, publishing a lesbian networking newsletter, offering advice, support, information and signposting to women via telephone and email, providing specific services to lesbians with disabilities, BME lesbians, older lesbians and lesbians with caring responsibilities. We also campaign on issues affecting lesbian and bisexual women and provide training to organisations on lesbian issues. We are currently working with a lesbian asylum seeker from Sierra Leone who is facing imminent deportation and are looking for more women to get involved in her campaign. For more details please contact Lisa Buklovskis on 0161 273 7128 or at mail@mnachesterlcp.org.uk

internet access. We occasionally have trips or meals out, and we regularly invite suggestions from the group for other activities. There are also plans to develop a new group to respond to the increasing number of enquiries from under 16s.

gyro is near Lime Street station in Liverpool city centre, at the Young Person's Advisory Service, which offers a range of services for 16 - 25 year olds, so if you are not 'out', there is no need to worry about what people might think if they saw you coming to the building. Everything discussed in the groups is considered confidential.

To find out more, visit gyro.org.uk, call 0151 707 1025 and ask for gyro, or just drop in on Thursday evening at 36 Bolton Street, Liverpool L3 5LX.



PolicyWATCH

THE ALLEN LANE FOUNDATION (FUNDING)

The Foundation wishes to fund work which: will make a lasting difference to people's lives rather than simply alleviating the symptoms or current problems; is aimed at reducing isolation, stigma and discrimination; and encourages or enables unpopular groups to share in the life of the whole community.

The Foundation is interested in funding work which benefits people in the following groups, or generalist work which includes significant numbers from more than one such group: asylum-seekers and refugees; gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender people; gypsies and travellers; offenders and ex-offenders; older people; people from black and minority ethnic communities and migrant workers; people experiencing mental health problems; people experiencing violence or abuse.

The Foundation will make grants for start-up, core or project costs. The grants are relatively small and are likely therefore to be appropriate for costs such as: Volunteers or participants expenses, Venue hire, Part-time or sessional staffing costs and work aimed at strengthening the organisation such as trustee or staff training.

For further information please go to www.allenlane.org.uk

COMIC RELIEF (FUNDING)

Are you an organisation working with people from lesbian, gay or bisexual communities? Are you coming across people who need help or who are working to improve services? Then Comic Relief wants to hear from you. They currently want applications from organisations working with people from LGB communities who may be having difficulties in their lives or wish to advocate or campaign for better services. They currently have a number of programmes supporting people under the following headings: Young People; Older People; Mental Health; Domestic Violence; and Refugee and Asylum Seekers

You can download further information and application packs from their website at www.comicrelief.com - there is also a self-assessment guide to help you see whether the application would be eligible. Alternatively you can request a copy of the application pack by sending a self addressed stamped (85p) A4 envelope to: UK Grants Team, Comic Relief, 89 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TP

If you have any questions or would like to have a further discussion about this then give them a call on 0207 820 5555.

The next closing date for applications is 8th June 2007.

THE EQUALITIES REVIEW (POLICY)

Government commissioned this independent review into the causes of persistent discrimination and inequality in British society. The aims of the review are to provide an understanding of the long-term and underlying causes of disadvantage that need to be addressed by public policy, make practical recommendations on key policy priorities for the Government and public sector, employers and trade unions, civic society and the voluntary sector.

The Equalities Review will inform the Government's work to bring together the current equality bodies for race, gender and disability into a new Commission for Equality and Human Rights (CEHR). The CEHR is due to open in October 2007, its main office will be based in Manchester, and will be the single equalities body for race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, age and faith.

An interim report is now available from www.communities.gov.uk

GETTING EQUAL - REGULATIONS THAT OUTLAW SEXUAL ORIENTATION DISCRIMINATION BY GOODS AND SERVICES PROVIDERS (POLICY)

Lesbians, gay men and bisexual people can, and do, still face unacceptable prejudice in their everyday lives. Same-sex couples can find themselves turned away from hotels, or getting a raw deal from some other service providers, simply because of their sexual orientation. The Government has been consulting on draft regulations to outlaw such discrimination within both the public and private sectors. The regulations were due to come into force in October 2006, but this has been postponed until April 2007 due to demonstrations and complaints from faith based organisations.

To keep up to date on progress of the new regulations please go to www.communities.gov.uk



MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

Paul Fairweather

Manchester City Council is one of the largest employers in the city and provides a wide range of key services for the people of the city.

The City Council has been a strong supporter of lesbian and gay rights for over 20 years and for the last 3 years has been identified as the best local authority employer by Stonewall and was also voted as the best local authority by readers of the Pink Paper. We have an active LGBT employee group which recently won an award from Stonewall as the best employee group.

There is strong political support for work on LGBT equality and we have two elected members Paul Fairweather and Mary Murphy who represent the authority on gay men's and lesbian issues and who have both been active in the local communities for many years.

Initiatives that the Council are currently involved with include Exceeding Expectations a three year project in conjunction with the voluntary sector to increase awareness of lesbian and gay issues in education and to support staff on work challenging homophobic bullying. Other initiatives are around housing provision for older LGBT people and a specific surgery in the village providing advice on housing need and homelessness.

The Council is also keen to share its experiences with other local authorities and the voluntary sector.

CONTACTS

Cllr Paul Fairweather

Lead Member, Gay Men's issues
email cllr.p.fairweather@manchester.gov.uk

Cllr Mary Murphy

Lead Member, Lesbians issues
email cllr.m.murphy@manchester.gov.uk

Terry Waller Gay Mens Officer (job share)

0161 234 2359 t.waller@manchester.gov.uk

Chris Fox Gay Mens Officer (job share)

0161 234 3259 c.fox@manchester.gov.uk

Nicky Griffiths Lesbians Officer

0161 234 41881 n.griffiths@manchester.gov.uk



YOUR LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE ORGANISATION (LIO)

■ LIO

What is a Local Infrastructure Organisation (LIO)?

In every urban and rural area in the North West, local infrastructure organisations (LIOS) work behind the scenes to ensure that local voluntary organisations and community groups get the support they need.

They provide their members with a range of services and development support, and are the voice of the local voluntary and community sector.

Local infrastructure organisations help the local voluntary and community sector in a variety of ways:

(a) identifying and filling the gaps: by monitoring the services provided by the voluntary and community sector in its local area, an LIO is able to easily identify where the gaps are. It can then work with new groups to address unmet needs and ensure that existing groups are equipped to tailor their services to the changing needs of the community.

(b) raising standards: LIOs are key to a fully-functioning, high quality local sector. By providing access to information on anything from funding and legal advice to training and quality assurance standards, they ensure that local groups and organisations have the knowledge, skills and

resources they need to support the local community.

(c) enabling communication and collaboration: encouraging local groups to share resources and to work collaboratively creates a more efficient way of working and helps to build a stronger local sector. LIOs provide local groups and organisations with a forum for networking, enabling them to share good practice and expertise to form partnerships which can bid for public service contracts.

(d) providing a voice: LIOs act as a conduit, representing the diverse views of local groups and organisations to agencies such as the local authority and other public bodies. They also promote two-way communication, so that the local sector is consulted on policy developments and can contribute to discussions and decision-making at a local level. They often take the lead in establishing a local Compact - an agreement between the sector, councils and other local public bodies.

(e) promoting strategic involvement: the local voluntary and community sector has a vital role to play in local policy-making and planning. LIOs make sure that the sector is represented and involved in local strategic partnerships, local area agreements and other influential planning groups, and actively work with representatives to ensure they keep on top of key local issues.

■ ROYAL COLLEGE OF NURSING: LGBT MEMBER NETWORK

The North West region of the RCN are launching an LGBT member network with access for members who are working in health, or who have an interest in working and influencing the formation of RCN policy and activity across the region.

As part of RCN's work around diversity, the network will support members to promote LGBT issues within their own organisation and look at ways of tackling discrimination at work and in care environments. The network will also be a mechanism of support for LGBT nurses and workers in all care environments. There will also be opportunities to discuss the need for RCN and other organisations to create publications and influence policy. The network will be supported by the regional LGBT staff lead Matthew Harris, who will report to the North West Regional Board's Regional Director Steve Flanagan. The network will meet ten times a year with a break in January and November. Meetings will be held in the evening and will involve social and peer support. The RCN extends a warm invitation to all members. Anyone wishing to join in this important part of our work should contact matthew.harris@rcn.org.uk, or call 01204 552 428

CHECK OUT YOUR LOCAL LIO

Barrow & District Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) www.barrowcvs.org.uk
Bebington Centre for Voluntary Service www.merseyworld.com/bebington
Blackburn & Darwen CVS www.bwdcvs.org
Blackpool, Wyre & Fylde CVS www.blackpoolcvs.co.uk
Bolton District CVS www.boltoncvs.org.uk
Burnley, Pendle & Rossendale CVS www.bprcvs.co.uk
Bury CVS www.burycvs.org.uk
Carlisle CVS www.carliscvs.org.uk
Chester Voluntary Action www.chesterva.org.uk
Chorley & South Ribble CVS (01257 263254)
Congleton District CVS www.congcvs.org.uk
CVS Rochdale www.cvsr.org.uk
Crewe & Nantwich CVS www.crewecvs.org.uk
Eden CVS www.edencvs.co.uk
Ellesmere Port & Neston Association of Voluntary & Community Organisations www.epnvco.org.uk
Halton Voluntary Action www.haltonva.org.uk
Heswall & District CVS www.heswallcvs.org.uk
Hoyle & District CVS www.voluntaryaction.org.uk
Hyndburn & Ribbles Valley CVS (01254 879966)
Knowsley CVS www.knowsleycvs.org.uk
Lancaster District CVS www.lancastercvs.org.uk
Liverpool Black & Racial Minority Community & Voluntary Sector Forum (0151 735 0321)
Liverpool Charity & Voluntary Services www.lcvs.org.uk
Macclesfield District CVS www.maccvol.btinternet.co.uk
Pendle Community Network www.pendlecommunitynetwork.org.uk
Preston CVS (01772 251108)
Salford CVS www.salfordcvs.co.uk
Sefton CVS www.seftoncvs.org.uk
South Lakeland CVS (01539 742627)
St Helens District CVS www.sthelenscvs.org.uk
Stockport CVS www.stockportcvs.co.uk
Tameside Third Sector Coalition www.t3sc.org
Trafford CVS (0161 976 2448)
Voluntary Action Cumbria www.ruralcumbria.org.uk
Voluntary Action Manchester www.vamanchester.org.uk
Voluntary Action Oldham www.vaoldham.org.uk
Voluntary Action Vale Royal www.valeroyalcvs.org.uk
Warrington CVS (01925 246880)
West Cumbria CVS www.westcumbriacvs.org.uk
West Lancashire CVS www.wlcvs.org
Wigan & Leigh CVS www.cvswl.org
Wirral CVS www.wirralcvs.org.uk

Source: www.nacvs.org.uk



This newsletter was produced by The Lesbian & Gay Foundation