

# LGBT Network News

July 2016



DCC attended Chesterfield Pride on Sunday and joined police and fire service colleagues at the Derbyshire Fire and Rescue stand (i.e. took over one end of the table). We distributed information from the community safety unit about domestic abuse and hate crime along with information from DFRS and rainbow wristbands from the Police encouraging people to recognise and report hate crime. We were able to talk to loads of people, the lure of adding a policeman's helmet (so to speak) to drag for a selfie seemed to have great pulling power. Good to say hello to those of you we saw and catch up with people who have left the authority.

Round the corner from the DFRS Stand, Adoption and Fostering attending a pride event for the first time, were pleased that people helped themselves to information and then often came back for more in depth chat about the service, and the potential for fostering and adoption.

We were also able to network with the other organisations there, Lukasz Gazda recently appointed inclusion officer for DFRS is hoping to set up an LGBT employee network, and it will be good to work with both them and the police network in future. Conversations with LGBT+ (formerly Derbyshire Friends) suggests they have loads of plans for work out in the County, they have already set up a youth group in Chesterfield and are looking to develop support for isolated older LGBT people.

The rain held off (mostly), the entertainment was (almost) uninterrupted by glitches in the technology and towards the end of the day; in solidarity with the victims of Orlando and the nations where an event like pride or even living freely and openly is an impossibility, a minutes silence was held followed by as much noise as possible, Chesterfield thinking of them and celebrating pride because they can't.

See [www.facebook.com/chesterfieldpride](http://www.facebook.com/chesterfieldpride) for photos of the event.

## Network Meeting Discussions –

At the meeting on 18 July we discussed the Terms of Reference, amending it to take into account what had already been sent to us, the document was sent out for final comments from the group and will soon appear on the website, thanks for contributions those who sent them.

The authority has recently sent out a series of all user emails notifying staff about the minutes silences held in remembrance for example for Jo Cox, events in Nice etc. We were asked what the reasoning was behind the decision to mark some events and not others. In fact the rainbow flag was flown at half-mast at County Hall and the labour group held a minutes silence to mark events in Orlando, unfortunately this was not promoted to staff or the public. The decision was made to refer this to the Diversity and Inclusion Board for comment as it seems symptomatic of some things being promoted and not others.

### Stonewall

The Stonewall Education Index has been submitted and Derbyshire came 12<sup>th</sup> which is really great, congratulations to Claire Austin and the team of people worked so hard to put this together, this reflects that there is some really good practice out in Derbyshire, raising awareness and supporting young LGBT people.

The Stonewall Employment index application is being prepared, thanks to anybody who has contributed to it, please send anything else to [Amanda.Elkin@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:Amanda.Elkin@derbyshire.gov.uk) who is working hard to prepare it for submission in September.

### Events of Interest



Trans Active is an initiative set up to help the Trans community socialise, improve their fitness and mental well-being through sport in a safe and relaxed environment. Based around Sheffield, activities include swimming sessions at Heeley baths in Sheffield, dinghy sailing and badminton. Contact [TransActive2014@gmail.com](mailto:TransActive2014@gmail.com) for more information.

## Keep in touch on...?

Yammer doesn't really seem to be working for people, but those who attended said how important it was we continue to keep in touch via email and the various messages that are sent out.

One suggestion was whether we should investigate the potential of Twitter.

The group is divided among the internet savvy and the self-confessed technophobes – so as a way of explanation and example please look at the Gay Police Association Twitter account:

<https://twitter.com/DerbyPoliceLGBT>

As you will see you do not have to be on Twitter to read the tweets – but you do need to join if you wanted to respond.

Could this be a way forward for the group?

Obviously Twitter is in the public domain so people need to be aware of any comments they might make and to consider the fact if you are on Twitter people may be able to find your profile if you follow a particular account.

### **DATES OF THE NEXT MEETINGS**

All at County Hall – if anyone has a burning desire to host a meeting at their place of work, let me know, all 2.00-4.00pm although the room is booked for an hour beforehand if anybody is travelling and needs somewhere to eat.

- Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2016 Committee Room 2
- Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2016 Committee Room 1
- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017 Committee Room 1