

RAINBOW PARTNERSHIP

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



RAINBOW PARTNERSHIP

North West LGBT Strategy

The development of a North West LGBT Strategy is an exciting and groundbreaking element of the Rainbow Partnership. Not only is it intended to determine the focus of work within the LGBT sector in the North West for the next five years, it will enable infrastructure organisations and other organisations from outside the sector to realise the issues faced by LGBT people in the North West, how they can improve their services to meet the needs of LGBT communities across the region and how they can prepare for the future.

The strategy will involve consultation across the region, through sub-regional events and interaction with network members through interviews, questionnaires and other means together with engagement with infrastructure organisations on how support can be developed for LGBT organisations and groups across the region.

The strategy will draw on key elements and develop what is felt are the most important issues to be faced by the LGBT sector over the next five years. It is anticipated that Rainbow Partnership network members will work towards implementing the strategy into their work programme and will lead others towards doing the same.

Information and updates on consultation events and developments will be circulated to the network and a strategy group will be brought together from the network membership in order to develop the content of the strategy and more information will be provided to the network over the coming months.

Website Launch

You can now check out the latest news and information on the Rainbow Partnership website, simply go to www.lgf.org.uk and click on the Rainbow Partnership Logo on the front page to be directed to the site.

The website has factsheets available to download, information on other network members organisations, information on infrastructure organisations, copies of E-policywatch and updates about what's happening in the Rainbow Partnership.



ISSUE THREE SEPT-DEC 07



NORTH WEST LESBIANS, GAY MEN, BISEXUAL & TRANS PEOPLE



0.017%

(33 OUT OF 190,477) OF ALL REGISTERED
LGBT CHARITIES IN THE UK ARE BASED IN
THE NORTHWEST OR ARE NATIONAL.

20%

OF OLDER LGB'S INDICATE THAT THEY
HAVE NO ONE TO CALL UPON IN A TIME
OF CRISIS OR DIFFICULTY.

2191

PEOPLE HAVE APPLIED FOR LEGAL
RECOGNITION UNDER THE GRA IN THE UK.

550

ESTIMATION OF THE NUMBER OF
TRANSEXUAL ADULTS IN THE REGION.

*for sources for any of these statistics, email rainbow@lgf.org.uk



Rainbow Partnership

AROUND THE NETWORK

CHORLEY FM AND THE BREAKOUT SHOW

I thought it was just a Peter Kay spoof...?

Chorley FM is a community radio station serving the population of Chorley. Having been awarded a five-year community radio licence by OFCOM, the station went full-time in November 2006.

The station is staffed entirely by volunteers. Even from its earlier days doing Restricted Service Licence broadcasts, the station was keen to work in partnership with local LGBT people, who ran a Sunday show called 'Breakout'.

The show became part of the station's regular permanent schedule earlier this year and occupies the Sunday night slot from 10pm til midnight. The LGBT community is one of the two target communities identified in the station's licence bid, there being no gay venue or dedicated meeting place in Chorley and therefore little LGBT visibility in the town.

Chorley FM recently won the National LGBT Health Summit's Community Service award for innovation in developing new services and approaches to reducing health inequalities for LGBT people.

Issues covered on "Breakout" have included transgender awareness, harassment at work, quitting smoking, gender reassignment, relationship problems, LGBT sport - and the magic of Eurovision! The show also reports on campaigns such as "Save Pegah Emambakhsh" and "Save Manchester Gay Centre."

To the best of the volunteers' knowledge, 'Breakout' is the only regular weekly LGBT radio show in Lancashire. It goes out live every Sunday evening from 10pm til midnight locally on 102.8FM, and can be heard live online anywhere in the UK at www.chorley.fm, with a mixture of music,



CHORLEY FM

chat, community news and topical discussions.

There is also a MySpace page at www.myspace.com/breakoutshow The programme gives its volunteers new skills, as well as informing the public and creating an informal community space on the airwaves where isolated LGBT people can contact the show, hear local helpline numbers, and ask for dedications. "Tune in on Sunday nights via the Internet and join us!"

TAMESIDE



Tameside Third Sector Coalition (T3SC) is the Council for Voluntary Service for the borough of Tameside.

Our role is to support voluntary and community organisations which are either based or deliver services in Tameside. We support the local sector in lots of different ways, including:

- Free bi-monthly newsletter
- Learning opportunities
- Finding funding
- Developing your organisation.

We also support a range of networks, which gives people in Tameside the opportunity to get involved in issues which affect them and to influence

change within the borough. Networks currently supported include: Inter Faith, BME, Older People, Health, Crime & Disorder.

We have recently embarked upon an innovative partnership project with the LGF, which includes developing a programme of activities next year around LGBT History Month and IDAHO.

I would like to see a commitment within the LGBT strategy of strengthening the voice of the LGBT community, not only regionally but also locally.

Equality and Diversity is at the heart of T3SC's service, and we look forward to developing strong links with Rainbow Partnership colleagues. For more information please contact Rob Cookson on **0161 3394985** or rob.cookson@t3sc.org or www.t3sc.org

MANCHESTER

The Metropolitan Community Church

The Metropolitan Community Church was founded in the late 1960's to offer a church home to LGBT people, together with our friends and allies.

The congregation in Manchester was founded in 1992 and we are based in the Victoria Park part of Manchester (between Rushholme and Longsight) in the Anglican Parish Church of St John Chrysostom on the junction of Upper Brook Street and Anson Road.

We draw people from all over the North West and see approximately 60 people each month. People come to us from Southport and Northwich, Wrexham and Bradford and most points in-between!

We offer lively worship every Sunday at 4pm and a range of social and other activities. More information can be found on our website or by contacting our pastor, the Rev Andy Braunston on **0161 249 0649**. Alternatively you can e-mail revandy@mccmanchester.co.uk

Other groups in the network may be interested to know that we are an umbrella organisation for the Criminal Records Bureau and can help you get CRB checks completed for your staff and volunteers. For more information, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Andy Braunston
www.mccmanchester.co.uk



CUMBRIA

Gaycumbria.com

Gaycumbria.com has been created to give the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community in Cumbria a voice and also to provide help and support to those who are unable or choose not to socialise on the gay scene. We hope we have provided a much needed resource which until now has been lacking in Cumbria. Our website and services are not only for the LGBT community in Cumbria, we extend a warm welcome to any family or friends of gay Cumbrians who wish to use our service, likewise to any friends who are not resident in our county. For further information, check out the website www.gaycumbria.com

MANCHESTER

Proud to be Parents LGBT Parents Group

Proud to be Parents is an LGBT parents group held every fourth Saturday of the month from 2.15 to 4.15 at Alexandra Park Play Centre, Alexandra Park, Moss Side, Manchester. It is a place where LGBT Parents can come along to have some fun and meet other families and share experiences and make new friends.

Please contact Matt Roberts on **0161 636 7507** or **07970 298 559** for further information.

NATIONAL

Press for Change

It's nearly thirty months since the Gender Recognition Act came into force. In that time over 2200 people have applied for legal recognition of their true gender – more than 97% of them successfully. The legislation which we in Press for Change campaigned so long to achieve could still be improved so as not to require people to end existing marriages; nevertheless, the regular stream of around 30 applications every month testify that otherwise the Act is a success. Our principal national focus is now on protections for Goods and Services provision, future equality legislation and a thorough improvement in healthcare provision.

The Government is compelled to implement the gender directive by 21st December this year, outlawing discrimination in provision of goods and services. The main debate concerns which kinds of trans people are protected, and the exemptions. Similar inclusivity issues dominate responses to the Discrimination Law Review, leading to next year's Single Equality Bill. Nowadays our focus is much more on quality of life issues. We are working hard to improve healthcare for all trans people –not just through transition, but for life. It's those kinds of wellbeing and social inclusion issues which should underpin the North West LGBT strategy too – so we can all expect a long and healthy life, rewarding employment, and good quality support from community services when we need them. **Christine Burns, Campaigner www.pfc.org.uk**

SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

Social enterprises are dynamic businesses with a social purpose working all around the UK and internationally to deliver lasting social and environmental change.

Well known social enterprises include Cafedirect, The Big Issue, The Co-operative Group, Welsh Water (Glas Cymru), the Eden Project and Jamie Oliver's Fifteen, but there are many other social enterprises operating in a wide range of industries from farmers markets and recycling companies to transport providers and childcare.

The social enterprise sector is incredibly diverse, encompassing co-operatives, development trusts, community enterprises, housing associations, football supporter's trusts, social firms and leisure trusts, among others. As a result social enterprises use a wide variety of legal forms; some incorporate as companies while others take the form of industrial and provident societies. From July 2005 social enterprises have also been able to register as Community Interest Companies (please see below for more details).

According to figures from the Government's Annual Small Business Survey 2005 and existing data for the social enterprise sector, there are at least 55,000 social enterprises in the UK with a combined turnover of £27 billion per year. Social enterprises account for 5% of all businesses with employees and contribute £8.4 billion per year to the UK economy - almost 1% of annual GDP.

COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANIES

The Government has created a new form of limited liability company specifically for social enterprises: the Community Interest Company (CIC). There are now over 1000 organisations registered as CIC's. The CIC complements existing legal forms for social enterprise, such as the Company Limited by Guarantee or Shares and the Industrial & Provident Society.

City Healthcare Partnership, one of the Government's pathfinder projects for social enterprise in the healthcare sector became the 1,000th registered CIC on the 14th June 2007. CICs are easy to set up, with all the flexibility and certainty of the company form, but with some special features to ensure they are working for the benefit of the community. Key features include: a statutory "lock" on the assets and profits of CICs;

- A "community interest test" which companies must pass in order to be registered;
- An annual report explaining how their activities have benefited the community and how they are involving their stakeholders;
- A CIC regulator responsible for ensuring that CICs comply with their legal requirements.

It is now possible to send applications to Companies House to form, or to convert to, a CIC.

The Regulator's office is open and the website has information for potential applicants (soon to include model application forms): www.cicregulator.gov.uk For more details and a guide to social enterprises please visit www.socialenterprise.org.uk

DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT



Government Ministers take a strategic role across government on:

- Equal opportunities and social justice.
- Better homes and neighbourhoods.
- Strong and accountable local government and leadership.
- Better local services and environment.
- Regeneration and investment in our towns, cities and regions.
- Safe, tolerant and inclusive communities.

Current Ministers include.....

HAZEL BLEARS

Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

Hazel came to Communities and Local Government from the Cabinet Office where, since May 2006, she has been Minister without Portfolio and Party Chair. Previously Hazel was Minister of State for Policing, Security and Community Safety.

Hazel came to the Home Office in 2003 from the Department of Health, where she was Parliamentary Secretary and then Minister of State for Public Health. Hazel was elected as a Member of Parliament for Salford in May 1997.

Before being elected as an MP, Hazel was Principal Solicitor for Manchester City Council.

YVETTE COOPER

Minister for Housing

Yvette was Minister of State for Housing and Planning in the Department for Communities and Local Government, previously the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM), from 2005. Before this, she was Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the ODPM.

From May 2002 to June 2003 she was Parliamentary Secretary at the Lord Chancellor's Department and from October 1999 she was Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health.

Yvette has been Member of Parliament (MP) for Pontefract and Castleford since 1 May 1997.

JOHN HEALEY

Minister for Local Government

Since 2002 John has worked at the Treasury, first as Economic Secretary and then later as Financial Secretary. From 2001-2002 he served as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Adults Skills at the Department for Education and Skills.

John has previously served as a member of the Education and Employment Select Committee and Parliamentary Private Secretary to Chancellor of the Exchequer. He has been Member of Parliament for Wentworth in South Yorkshire since 1997.



Rainbow
Partnership

INFRASTRUCTURE

ChangeUp

INFRASTRUCTURE

Your North West Regional Infrastructure Support Services

In the first two newsletters, we informed you of the infrastructure support services available to you at a local level and sub-regional level. In this issue we are highlighting the role of infrastructure support services working on our behalf at a regional level, which were set up because the voluntary and community sector recognised the need for a strong and coherent voice to ensure our contribution was recognised and valued.

These organisations provide:

- Vital connections, linking together the work of voluntary and community groups and public sector partners.

- A democratic, member-led and accountable regional voice for our sector.
- Mechanisms for effective representation Regional leadership.
- Opportunities for collaboration and partnership.
- Services which require regional economies of scale to be effective and viable.
- Support and advocacy for improving the effectiveness of our sector.
- Research, intelligence and signposting for and about our sector.
- A leadership role in infrastructure support development.

In the North West of England the two Government funded infrastructure support organisations who champion the engagement of the voluntary and community sector in regional policy and strategy are Voluntary Sector North West (a generalist support organisation), and One North West (a specialist Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) support organisation).

ONE NORTH WEST (1NW)

1NW was established to provide an accountable and accessible vehicle through which dialogue, influence and activity can be generated, in order for active engagement across BME communities to be supported and encouraged.

1NW is guided by values that promote equality of opportunity, participation, co-operation, democratic involvement, social justice and learning.

Core activities include:

- Newsletters
- Information packs
- www.onenorthwest.org.uk
- Events
- Advice & training
- Research
- Democratic representation
- Networking & partnerships

For more details visit www.onenorthwest.org.uk, email 1nw@nwnetwork.org.uk, or telephone 0161 236 6493

VOLUNTARY SECTOR NORTH WEST

VSNW is the strategic organisation for the voluntary and community sector with a membership of over 130 organisations, and works across the 5 counties in the region – Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside.

The overall goal of VSNW is to ensure that the North West's voluntary and community sector, in all its diversity, takes its place in shaping the future of the region.

VSNW is a strong advocate and lobbyist for the sector with all the key regional agencies, and supports focused networks within the sector (which enables sharing of good practice and development of shared strategic objectives).

Core activities include:

- Networks (population groups, geographical areas, topic areas)
- Consultations
- Events
- Policy development, interpretation and dissemination
- www.vsnw.org.uk
- Newsletters
- Training
- Benchmarking
- Strategy development and dissemination
- Research
- Process Evaluation
- Representation at strategic meetings

For more details visit www.vsnw.org.uk, email info@vsnw.org.uk, or telephone 0161 276 9300.



This newsletter was produced by The Lesbian & Gay Foundation

Registered Charity No. 1070904