

**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

14th July 2015

**PROVISION OF SUPPORT NETWORKS FOR THE LGBT COMMUNITY TASK
GROUP – COVERING REPORT**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Bill Hartnett, Portfolio Holder for Community Leadership and Partnership (including Voluntary Sector and Health Services)
Portfolio Holder Consulted	No
Relevant Head of Service	Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Equalities, and Democratic Services
Ward(s) Affected	No specific ward relevance.
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

This report provides the Executive Committee with further information about the recommendations proposed by the Provision of Support Networks for the LGBT Community Task Group and the proposed role of Redditch Borough Council in relation to these recommendations.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to

RESOLVE that

- 1) Redditch Borough Council should participate in the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index every year. (*Recommendation 1*);**
- 2) in the long-term Redditch Borough Council should commit to introducing a budget to support LGBT History Month (*Recommendation 3a*);**
- 3) Redditch Borough Council should support any groups that produces a leaflet advertising the support networks available to the LGBT Community by allowing such leaflets to be made available for residents to collect in public venues, such as Redditch Town Hall, and making this information available to view on relevant web pages of the Council's website (*Recommendation 4a*);**
- 4) the specific mental health needs of the LGBT community should be addressed in equalities training provided to frontline Council staff. This should be covered in one of the equalities briefing sessions that the policy team is due to deliver in forthcoming months (*Recommendation 5*);**

and to RESOLVE to note the following recommendations to partner organisations:

- 1) **Worcestershire County Council should take part in the Stonewall Education Equality Index. Worcestershire County Council should also encourage schools to take part in the Stonewall School Champions Programme and / or to use the Birmingham LGBT Schools Toolkit. (*Recommendation 2 – recommendation to Worcestershire County Council*);**
- 2) **there should be a greater celebration of the positive history of the LGBT community during the annual LGBT History Month celebrations with a focus on the specific theme in each given year. This should include holding events at the Palace Theatre (*Recommendation 3 – recommendation to Worcestershire LGBT Hate Crime Forum and LGBT Support Services Redditch*);**
- 3) **a leaflet advertising the support networks available for the LGBT community in Redditch, should be produced; (*Recommendation 4 to LGBT Support Services Redditch*); and**
- 4) **Local partners should help to promote the following to members of the LGBT community, including on the Redditch and Bromsgrove Wellbeing website:
 - a) **Gay and bisexual men are eligible for free Hepatitis B vaccinations available at the Arrowside Sexual Health clinic.**
 - b) **Lesbian and bisexual women are entitled and should be encouraged to attend cervical screening tests.**(*Recommendation 6 to the Redditch Community Wellbeing Trust*).**

3. KEY ISSUES

Background

- 3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee decided to establish a review of the support networks that are available to the LGBT Community in 2014. The review was launched in December that year. Four Members were appointed to the review including Councillors Joe Baker, (Chair) Natalie Brookes, Gay Hopkins and David Thain.
- 3.2 The group gathered evidence between January and May 2015. Based on the evidence gathered the Task Group has proposed six recommendations. Whilst some of these recommendations need to be endorsed by the Executive Committee other recommendations may have been referred by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to relevant external partner organisations.

Financial Implications

- 3.3 The main financial implication for the Council relates to recommendation 3a. The group is proposing that in the long-term the Council should introduce a budget to support the LGBT History Month. The group's justification for this proposal is provide in Chapter 2 of the report.
- 3.4 All additional financial implications for the Council are detailed within the main report and mainly relate to the costs of officer time involved in delivering the group's proposals.

Legal Implications

- 3.5 There are very few legal implications. Any legal implications arising from the group's proposals are detailed in the main report.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.6 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is the parent Committee for all scrutiny Task Groups. The Committee is due to consider the group's recommendations at a meeting on 7th July, a day after the agenda for the Executive committee meeting on 14th July is due to be published. Members are therefore asked to note that there is the possibility that the wording of the report and of the recommendations could be changed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Executive Committee will be advised of any substantive changes.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.7 A number of residents from the LGBT community were consulted during the review, either directly by the group or indirectly through liaising with individual elected Members. As there is a risk that members of the community could become vulnerable to abuse from people who hold prejudicial views the identities of members of the community who engaged with the review have been treated as confidential and are not revealed in this report.
- 3.8 A number of equalities and diversity issues have been addressed by the Task Group. These are outlined in more detail in the group's main report attached at Appendix 1.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 There is a risk that if the Council and relevant partner organisations do not act on the group's proposals this could have a detrimental impact on the health and wellbeing of the LGBT community living in Redditch.

- 4.2 The group is also suggesting that rejection of Members' proposals by the Executive Committee would have a negative impact on the Council's reputation, particularly within the LGBT community.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Provision of Support Networks for the LGBT Community Task Group final report.

AUTHOR OF REPORT

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