

Brighton & Hove City Council

For general release

Meeting: Equalities Forum
Date: 17 January 2005
Report of: Director of Strategy & Governance
Subject: LGBT History Month

Ward(s) affected: All

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To inform the Equalities Forum about the nationally recognised LGBT History Month which takes place for the first time in February 2005.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Equalities Forum notes that the LGBT History Month will provide an excellent opportunity to raise awareness about the histories of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, national and locally.

3. Background

- 3.1 Schools Out, the organisation working for LGBT equality in education, has launched LGBT History Month to occur annually, beginning in February 2005. This followed discussions with the government Minister, Jacqui Smith. The initiative is being lead by School Out and the NUT nationally. A wide range of organisations including the DTI, DFES and Amnesty International supports the initiative. The impetus for the initiative has come partly from the example of the USA where LGBT History Month has been celebrated since 1994.
- 3.2 The LGBT History Month (modeled on the very successful annual Black History Month) is a vehicle for celebrating all the achievements (nationally and internationally) of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender in the past and currently.

4. Celebrating achievements and tackling prejudice

- 4.1 The events and publicity which will make up the LGBT History Month will be an opportunity to tackle prejudice, stereotypes and discrimination of LGBT people. It is well known that homophobic bullying takes place in schools and in society as a whole and that much of this is due to ignorance. The History Month events can begin to educate children and adults across the country about the achievements of people from the LGBT communities and thereby begin to breakdown some of the stereotypes that feed prejudice and discrimination.

5. LGBT History Month in Brighton & Hove

- 5.1 At the time of writing this report the details of events in the city are still being worked on. Information nearer to the month of February can be obtained from the following website:
www.lgbthistorymonth.org.uk
- 5.2 The council's LGBT workers forum is planning to link up with the 'Our Story' project to produce posters highlighting the last 50 or so years of the LGBT community in Brighton & Hove.

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Financial implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
Finance officer: Nigel Manvel Date: 6 January 2005

Legal implications

The objectives of the LGBT history month are supported by the Council's Inclusive Council policy and existing anti-discrimination legislation in relation to sexual orientation and transgender issues.
Lawyer consulted: Elizabeth Culbert Date: 6 January 2005

Corporate/Citywide implications	Risk assessment
The LGBT History Month will help to build the culture necessary for the council to be an 'Inclusive Council' and achieve its equalities objectives.	None
Sustainability implications	Equalities implications
There are no direct sustainability implications arising from this report.	The LGBT History Month will help to build the culture necessary for the council to be an 'Inclusive Council' and achieve its equalities objectives.
Implications for the prevention of crime and disorder	
The LGBT History Month should make a positive contribution to the work underway to reduce the incidence of homophobic crime and should therefore improve the council's ability to contribute to the prevention of crime and disorder in the city.	

Background papers None.

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