

Equality & Diversity Update

January 08



Welcome

Welcome to the Equality and Diversity Update, the newsletter of the Regional Strategic Partnership for Equality and Diversity, which provides a brief update on current developments and details of forthcoming events.

Partnership Activity Update

The Equality and Diversity Partnership met on 24th January 08. Notes from the meeting will be available shortly at www.wmra.gov.uk/equalities. More information on the work of the partnership is also available at www.wmra.gov.uk/equalities

TRANS-Connect Event, 23 February, Wolverhampton

Trans-Connect are holding a major event at the Lighthouse, Wolverhampton on Saturday 23rd February 08 - 12 noon - 5pm focusing on "Health & Wellbeing"

This event is organised by the L.G.B. and Trans group and is open to all.

If your Group, Service or Organisation would like a stall for FREE at this Event, please do contact Gender Matters on 0844 870 0178. The only criteria is that the service you provide must be LGBT Friendly. For further information see <http://www.gender-matters.org.uk/transconnect>

Regional Play Partnership

Play England are organising a meeting on 14th March, BVSC, Birmingham to look at the formation of the West Midland Regional Play Partnership. In light of the Big Lottery Fund's awards for play secured in the region and the government's recent Children's Plan announcement, Play England would like to discuss the future of play in the West Midlands. For more information about the meeting, please contact Jenny Daly at jdaly@ncb.org.uk or on 0121 245 0159.

PSA Delivery Agreement 15

PSA Delivery Agreement 15: To address the disadvantage that individuals experience because of their gender, race, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief. This document – revised in November 2007 is available to download at http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/C/E/pbr_csr07_psa15.pdf

Women's Interfaith Media

Literacy Workshop: 21 February, Coventry

Organised by Women's Interfaith Media Literacy (WIML) in conjunction with West Midlands Faiths Forum and BBC Coventry and Warwickshire, this event will enable participants to share concerns with other women of faith, interact effectively with all the media and make your voices heard by broadcasters and the press. This workshop will help you:

- become more knowledgeable about how the media work,
 - learn some basic skills for dealing with the media and journalists;
 - network with other women of faith with similar concerns
- The Programme will include a mixture of talks and presentations from local journalists and broadcasters, group discussions and practical exercises. For more information, please see www.wmfaithsforum.org.uk or contact Angelina Dawson on 02476 521326.

Vacancy: WMRA/WMLGA

West Midlands Local Government Association are currently advertising for an Interim Director of Policy.

Arising from the secondment of the existing postholder to manage the transition arrangements leading up the implementation of the Sub National Review, a high calibre individual is sought to join our Senior Management Team, providing leadership and direction across the WMRA / WMLGA as well as ensuring the delivery of key objectives in relation to the Regional Spatial Strategy, Regional Sustainable Development Framework and Regional Housing Strategy.

An application pack which includes a job description, relevant information and an application form can be downloaded from www.wmlga.gov.uk/vacancy.

Vacancies: Regional Action West Midlands

Two new and exciting opportunities for a Policy Officer and an Information Officer, both funded by the Big Lottery, have arisen to join RAWM to support the delivery of an effective Voluntary and Community Sector voice, increase participation in decision-making structures and influence the shape and delivery of services in and across the West Midlands. For more information see http://www.rawm.org.uk/page/our_work/category/latest_info

LGBT History Month Activities

February 08



The official LGBT History Month website, which includes a full calendar or events and downloadable resources can be found at <http://www.lgbthistorymonth.org.uk/> This page gives some highlights of events taking place around the West Midlands.

Gay Birmingham Remembered

The **Gay Birmingham Remembered** project has been collecting memories and memorabilia recording the history and social, political and cultural heritage of lesbians, bisexuals and gay men in Birmingham. The material will be collated on a website, with an exhibition in Symphony Hall throughout May.

To launch the site and provide a taster of what it contains, there will be a free **“Gay Birmingham Remembered launch event” at the Library Theatre**, Central Library, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham B3 3HQ on **Thursday 21st February at 7:00 p.m.** with refreshments. Some of the contributors will be recounting anecdotes and experiences exploring a range of themes. Audience members will be invited to share their own memories and tales. Gay Birmingham Remembered is a Birmingham Pride Community Trust project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. For more details, please contact Lesley at lesley@gaybirminghamremembered.org.uk or on 07913 787475

Proud History, Birmingham

In support of Gay History month, Birmingham Libraries will be displaying their Proud History display, first seen in 2006, throughout February in Birmingham Central Library - at the top of the first escalator.

Age Concern LGBT Events

Age Concern Shropshire Telford & Wrekin, in partnership with Shropshire County Council and the Borough of Telford & Wrekin will be showing two screenings of ‘Gateway to Heaven’, a short DVD play about the lives and experiences of older lesbians and gay men, as part of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender History month in February 2008. The DVD was produced by Age Concern England as part of its Opening Doors programme for older lesbians, gay men and bisexuals. Screening will take place on 20th February All members of the LGBT community are welcome whatever age. Light refreshments will be provided for both events. Admission is free but must be booked in advance, if you would like to attend either event please contact Age Concern Shropshire Telford & Wrekin on 01743 233123 to book your place.

Out in the Sticks: Herefordshire’s first Lesbian, Gay, Bi and Trans Festival

This festival is the first of its kind in Herefordshire, celebrating the lives, achievements and culture of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans communities. Herefordshire Equality Partnership have been working with the local community to plan a whole programme of events. Highlights include shows by Paul Burston and Stella Duffy, a week long film festival at the Courtyard, a civil partnership fair and a one-day conference (details below). For more information and to download a full programme of activities, see www.herefordshire.gov.uk/outinthesticks

Not the only gay in the village: 27 February, Hereford

Herefordshire Council are holding a one-day conference as part of the Out in the Sticks festival to address issues for young people who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Trans or who have friends or family who are, and who are living in rural places. The aims of the day are:

- To explore and raise awareness of the differences between rural and urban areas for LGBT people
- To provide an opportunity to hear first hand how young people feel about being LGBT in a rural county
- To identify and share best practice and solutions to help us all move forward

Author and actor Stella Duffy will be facilitating the day. Speakers include members of Stonewall and West Mercia Constabulary along with young people sharing their experiences. The day is an excellent networking opportunity. A draft programme and booking information is available at

http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/docs/SocialIssues/Conference_full_info.doc .

Contact

If you would like further information about the issues raised or to disseminate information through this newsletter, please contact Cassie Manly at c.manly@wmra.gov.uk or on 0121 678 1077.