



**Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender
Advisory Group**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2006-2007**

www.lgbtag.org.uk

Message from Deputy Assistant Commissioner Hitchcock

As newly appointed Deputy Assistant Commissioner for the Diversity & Citizen Focus Directorate, it gives me great pleasure to be invited to contribute to the 2006/07 Annual Report of the LGBT Advisory Group to the MPS.

The Advisory Group continue to work in close partnership with the MPS, acting as our critical allies in support of MPS goals, helping to ensure that we continually work toward better policing and service delivery for LGBT communities in London. It is also recognised that much of our operationally deployed 'best practice' for LGBT communities, has been achieved with the supporting guidance of the LGBT Advisory Group. This, no doubt, favourably contributed to the MPS being awarded "Employer of the Year" and "Best Police Force 2007", by the readers of the Pink Paper.

The committed efforts of the Advisory Group are reflected in the day-to-day advice given to the MPS, which ranges from training, through to the management of critical incidents and way the MPS implements policy. All of these are key drivers to eradicate discrimination and build the trust and confidence of London's diverse community groups.

There have been many important areas of work initiated and developed by the Advisory Group over the past 18 months and whilst too numerous to list they provide an ideal opportunity for me to publicly thank all members for the time and commitment they give to the advisory role.

I will look forward to seeing the partnership between the MPS and the LGBT Advisory Group continue in a united effort to make London safe for all LGBT people.

Alfred Hitchcock

*Deputy Assistant Commissioner
Diversity & Citizen Focus Directorate
Metropolitan Police Service*

Co-Chairs' Report

The Metropolitan Police's 'customer satisfaction' surveys show that LGBT people in London are starting to feel that they are getting a better service from the police. This is welcome news but there are still many areas where improvements are needed.

Reporting levels of homophobic incidents remain stubbornly low in some areas of London. The Advisory Group has continued to support and encourage the formation of local LGBT forums. These communicate with their local Police Services to address key issues in their areas and encourage reporting of homophobic and transphobic incidents.

Our Critical Incident Group has assisted the Homicide Command with a number of serious incidents during the year and continues to keep under review a number of unresolved cases. We are pleased that one of the cases we featured in the Advisory Group's Murder Review resulted in the arrest of a suspect for a murder committed 10 years ago.

The LGBT Advisory Group Drugs and Alcohol review was launched during the year in response to an increasing number of incidents in LGBT social venues. The Review aims to stimulate discussion on the use of alcohol and other recreational drugs in pubs and clubs.

We have continued to support the provision of LGBT Liaison Officers in all London Boroughs and are pleased to see some progress. This issue is now coordinated by the MPS LGBT Strategy Group. The Strategy Group is also coordinating policy on the policing of public sex environments – an issue about which the Advisory Group continues to keep under review.

Debbie Gold / Bob Hodgson

Co Chairs

Critical Incidents Group

The Critical Incidents (CI) Group has continued to adapt to the changes within the MPS during 2006/07. We have been busy forging relationships with local LGBT forum contacts, the MPS Serious Crimes Directorate and Territorial Policing. We have also developed a firm working relationship with the MPA.

On 14th October 2006, we held a CI Conference at Friend's Meeting House, Euston. The aims of the Conference were to bring together local CI contacts, provide training around critical incidents, 'de-mystify' police terminology and to introduce people to the workings of a Gold Group.

Nearly fifty people attended the Conference with the addition of about 8 police officers and staff. Feedback was extremely good and the CI Group will be exploring ways to build on the success of the Conference during 2007/8.

The CI Group continued to work and advise on a number of critical incidents during the year. One of the most publicised of these was the murder of Jody Dubrowski in October 2005. Two men were found guilty of Jody's murder and sentenced to life imprisonment in June 2006.

Having established contact with local LGBT forums and a range of relevant Police Officers during the last year, the CI Group have been more alert to new and emerging critical incidents and able to be responsive in 'quick-time'.

Murder Review Project

The Advisory Group has reviewed 10 LGBT-related murders in London from 1990 to 2002. The purpose of our review is to extract lessons to be learnt and to identify best practice from selected investigations of the Metropolitan Police Service. Our primary source is a review of the case files that the LGBT Advisory Group commissioned from the Metropolitan Police focussing on four themes: the gender identity, sexual orientation and lifestyle of the victim, liaison with the victim's family and support networks, community liaison and media relations. We have also identified several other common issues among these cases: public sex environments, reporting, information systems, independent advice and language.

The report was published in May 2007. Our next goal is to make sure that the police adopt our recommendations on LGBT issues. We have started work with the MPS LGBT Strategy Group on a new set of guidelines on policing public sex environments and managing critical incidents. Much work needs to be done to make sure that progress is made.

Since the publication of the report, one of the cases highlighted in the report, the murder of Robyn Browne in 1997, has been re-opened and solved. The trial will take place in late 2007.

The full text of the report is available at our website: www.lgbtag.org.uk.

Linking London Project

Introduction

Up to the end of March 2007 Linking London has been functioning for 2 years. In that time the project has established itself as a progressive and vibrant initiative that has made significant progress in raising awareness in relation to the needs and issues that affect lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) communities in London.

Linking London has ensured that all LGBT forums it has helped establish aim to take a holistic approach to tackling the needs of LGBT people by encouraging statutory agencies to work in partnership not only with local voluntary and community sector agencies but also with individuals from grassroots LGBT communities. This holistic approach has been reflected by Linking London's encouragement that LGBT forums established by this project do not focus on hate crime alone but look at any issues which affect LGBT people in London.

Background

Linking London began when the LGBT Advisory Group of the Metropolitan Police successfully gained funding to employ a full-time support worker.

Over the past year funding has been provided from:

- Diversity Directorate of Metropolitan Police Service (MPS)
- Home Office Director's fund, Government Office London (GOL)

The project has a full time worker who is based at Galop¹ (www.galop.org.uk). The worker was based at Galop because the Advisory Group does not have any permanent office space and Galop was deemed to be an appropriate agency because of its long and successful history of working with the LGBT hate crime community sector in London.

Summary of Achievements

Linking London has worked with Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships in 16 boroughs this year. The project has met with representatives from the partnership and/or provided information about:

- LGBT forums
- Homophobic and Transphobic hate crime and harassment
- Third-party or assisted reporting

Over the past year, Linking London has successfully launched three new forums in Bromley, Tower Hamlets and Redbridge. The project has been fundamental in the establishment of a further six forums by providing extensive advice to empower them to launch their own groups.

Linking London has engaged with all local LGBT forums through a variety of methods including face to face meetings, telephone conversations, networking at events and e-mails. All local LGBT forums in the city are part of the linking London electronic network and regular information and updates have been sent to these groups.

¹ Galop is London's leading LGBT community safety charity

All LGBT forums were invited to attend a one-day critical incidents training event in 2006. (See the report of Critical Incidents Group.)

The project has produced the following guides which are available on request:

- Setting up your LGBT forum/ Network
- Developing your LGBT forum/ network

Forum members are also encouraged to visit the Galop offices and use the resources library during office hours.

Over the coming year the project aims to offer a series of workshops to LGBT forums and networks across the London boroughs. These will be on basic capacity building issues but will also give groups the opportunity to link up with each other, make new contacts and share knowledge and expertise.

If you would like to find out more about your local LGBT forum or the Linking London project, please contact Ben Gooch on 0207 704 6767 or email bengooch@lgbtag.org.uk.