

Working Party Proposals

CARREY FRIEND

IOMLGBT

PATHFINDER DOCUMENT

CONSULTATION

SUBMISSIONS AND COMMENTS TO BE RECEIVED BY 30APRIL 2011

Electronically to:

friend@gayinfo.org.im

IOM LGBT Facebook page:

https://www.login.facebook.com/home.php?sk=2361831622#!/home.php?sk=group_189521577733626

LGBT Forums: <http://www.gayinfo.org.im/forums/> in pinned topic consultation

By post to: Consultation 16 Willowbrook gardens Douglas IM2 2QQ

Title

Page 2

Index

Page 3

Executive Summary

Page 4

Aims

The aims of the working party.

Objectives

The objectives of the working party.

Goals

What we want to achieve.

Solutions and Implementation

What we are going to suggest that you and we do and how we plan on getting there.

Page 5

Structure

The structure of Carrey Friend and the working party, and their relationship to each other, and to other groups, where we want to be.

Page 6

Projects

The projects we suggest for the future.

Events

The activities, events and things we want to achieve and when by.

Page 7

Publicity

How we plan on promoting the Carrey Friend as an umbrella and the activities of groups acting under that umbrella

Mission Statement

Mission Statement for CF and IOMLGBT working party

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

We prepared this consultation paper to help us and the working party to move forward and to present something to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered communities on the Isle of Man to enable debate and choice. We do not claim any insight or knowledge. The suggestions come from our hearts. We hope that they are received with that in mind. If we have not included you up until now, that is our fault, forgive us. Now is your chance to have your say.

We, and others with whom we have consulted, and those who have turned up to meetings, have these suggestions to offer to the LGBT communities on the Island as to what we think can be achieved by way of better communication, support and activities in years to come.

We know that there is a long way to go and a lot to do and that there may be difficulties and we may not always see eye to eye, but we are looking forward to trying. It's been long time coming, a new and fresh outlook on LGBT issues and lifestyles for the Island and raising of awareness on LGBT matters in the Isle of Man is high on our agenda. In time we hope to establish bonds with and between our communities and for what is created out of this to serve those communities to the highest standards

We hope that by proposing to work with, and under the umbrella of, Carrey Friend, an IOM LGBT charity which for 20+ years has offered a phone line, a web site and the forums as well as activities and newsletters, we can involve everyone. This is not exclusive, but inclusive. Anyone will be able to join.

We are aware that some have thought our attempts to set up have not included them. It is difficult to reach out in the early days, we wanted to focus and this is the result. Now is your time to contribute even if it is just words of advice, suggestions, coming to the AGM, taking on responsibilities to organise and achieve or just attending events that get organised. We need to hear from everyone, and any contribution will be valued and considered. We are clear no one will go unheard (although it would help if it is constructive) and of course we will not tolerate anything that is offensive of any one or any group or community, either as an individual or as LGBT, racial or ethnic, religious or social, gender or sexuality backgrounds, age or ability. This is going to be a welcoming accepting inclusive organisation.

One of our first aims is to ensure that we strengthen the mentoring, befriending and counselling function of Carrey Friend to ensure that members of our LGBT communities from youth to seniors and their families feel there is someone they can talk to about any issues involving sexuality and their lives. We need to train a network of listeners and counsellor volunteers.

We also want to communicate with each other much better to bring us all, and especially people willing to contribute to our communities together and to let us all know what is on and where. Our main means of communicating will be the IOMLGBT web site and forums and the IOM LGBT Facebook page but we will still maintain the e-mail and postal mailing list and communicate in that way as well will utilise to reach out to our communities, communicate and build the bridges we need
To be heard with one voice

In short it is our intention that a reborn, reinvigorated Carrey Friend and its umbrella groups will become a body recognised as taking the lead in LGBT Issues on the Isle of Man. A group that is diverse and ready to meet any problems or needs that our communities may have.

We want to thank you for reading this and in anticipation for participating, responding and taking part

Lee, John, David, Jamie, Nathan, Gareth, Philip

Aims

Our aim in producing this consultation is to clarify objectives relating to Carrey Friend, IOM LGBT, Team Queer, the walking group and any others. Originally we started to try and organise a one off social event, the black tie ball, as a way of raising money for the LGBT causes on the Island, but it soon became clear that our communities were in need of much more. After Lee, David and Gareth had met a few times we felt we had hit a brick wall. Some critics were saying it would be a flash in the pan, it would never come off. We then invited John to one of our meetings and he told us about LGBT history on the Island over the last 35 years. Hearing of what had happened and listening to a history that was new to us we all felt that something more had to be done. This working party was born. This is the fruit of our work. It is now ready to receive your input

Objectives

Our objectives are clear, to facilitate, mentor, befriend and counsel, and help in anyway, the Island's LGBT communities, to create safe spaces and environments for this and other events to take place so that we can all socialise without hostility or abuse based on gender or sexuality or any other form of discrimination, to bring together our communities and create social and other events that can be enjoyed by all, to educate and campaign for tolerance, acceptance, integration and equality.

Goals

To have in place before end 2013 a sustainable organisation with achievable and measurable targets. These are to include:

- A mentoring, befriending and counselling group to facilitate a welcoming atmosphere for any LGBT member at any event and to deal with contacts who present with problems by letter, electronically or by chat or face to face.
- Events and activities running throughout the year.
- A promotional pack outlining our goals and aspirations for the future. To be used in promotion, fundraising, awareness raising and campaigning
- A sexual health and awareness training group doing outreach
- A revised CF constitution
- An AGM and elections

- A research questionnaire on what our communities want
- Feed back and analysis of this consultation
- Chat room
- Updated web site and information and regular reviews and updates
- 4 newsletters per year
- A list of LGBT friendly contacts, including the LGBT IoM police representative, guidance counsellors, youth workers and sexual Health workers

The website we hope will be our main contact point and will connect our communities throughout the island. We plan in the future to promote the website within publications in the IOM, the UK and Europe and hope to attract a diverse group of people to our beautiful island.

Solutions and Implementation

Structure

We accept that our present structure may not be as diverse as it should be. These are early days, but please bear with us. We need to bring a 20 year old charity and a new working party into the second decade of the 21st century. To do that we are having a CF AGM on 18 may at 19.00 at The Sefton Hotel Douglas. At that meeting we will elect a new committee to CF and a number of other committees and working parties to report back in 6 months on a new constitution that is open transparent and democratic, to organise events, to train mentors and befrienders. To develop our IT, to fundraise and publicise

Our current members are

Coordinator - Lee

Deputy Coordinator - David

Legal and CF Convenor - John

Minute takers - Jamie and Phil

Events and Design Co-ordinator - Gareth

Youth Co-ordinators - Terrance and Adam

IT Website Co-ordinator - Nathan

Members -

Ami, Stephen, Sam, Jamie, Dan, Ryan, George

We want people to volunteer for the various activities set out above, please come along on 18 May and have your say.

We envisage the structure looking like this until report back time and an EGM to approve and adopt

			CF Umbrella (needs new constitution)				
Befriending Mentoring and Counselling Group Advocacy	Police Diversity Scrutiny Group and Advocacy	Web site, forums, Facebook, Communications and Newsletters Publicity	Events Social or Local Walking Film BBQ Dining Camping Theatre	Events National World Aids Day International Day Against Homophobia Mardi Gras Pride	Oral History	Sexual health info training and outreach	Fundraising and sponsorship

Projects and possible timescales

1. Receive feed-back from consultation and analyse, 30 April to 13 May 2011
2. Walking group activities, on-going. Social group activities, on-going
3. 17 May International Day Against Homophobia, nothing planned as yet
4. AGM, elections of committees and working parties, 18 May 2011
5. April/May 2011 review, update and relaunch Website and forums, chat room
6. Evening with Chris de Bray at G&D's
7. Rainbow Ball 23 July, on-going organisation, fundraising etc.
8. Summer training in sexual health counselling and training, road shows and outreach
9. Circulate questionnaire June, receive replies July, analyse August 2011
10. Publish questionnaire analysis and findings Sept 2011
11. Report back for Carrey Friend constitution etc. November 2011
12. Publish and circulate recommendations November/December 2011
13. 1st December World Aids day, nothing planned yet
14. Extraordinary General Meeting December 2011
15. January 2012 training for mentoring, befriending, counselling group
16. January 2012 review large scale activities for 2012/13, pride, World Aids Day, IDAHO,
17. Feb/March 2012 prepare accounts
18. February 2012 Advocacy training
19. February/March 2012 Trip to Sitges Carneval
20. April 2012 AGM report backs, elections
21. Mid 2012 develop LGBT Oral History group
22. On-going, regular updates and info via web site and Facebook, e-mail and posted newsletters, attendance at Police Diversity and Café Laare, monthly community open meetings

Our first project has to be the consultation on this paper, the CF AGM, and a democratisation of the group and the emergence of volunteers with allocated jobs. Subject to consultation feedback we are going to try and be non-hierarchical, no chair, vice chair, secretary, but select a convenor at each meeting and have co coordinators for specific roles.

Our second project has to be to find out what you want and how you want to see it implemented. That will allow prioritisation. This should combine with the working party on our structure going forward. Maybe some of you will not want to use CF, but it is there, has 20 years of experience and a charity registration, if we can adapt it, why not?

Third has to be the ball, our launch party, we have Kitty Litter and some fabulous raffle prizes, including holidays.

Fourth is regular communication, updates to the web site and Facebook and newsletters

Fifth is to foster existing events, activities and groups and to start new activities and groups. Many of these will be voluntary. Some may be in conjunction with commercial venues, we need to review and consider the interplay

Sixth is to review how we offer mentoring, befriending and counselling. CF operated a 'phone line for 15 years. Contact for counselling is now via the web site or e-mail address. It is not always satisfactory. In an ideal world we would offer a best service via a phone, may be a chat room. We need to train volunteers how to deal with difficult situations presented by service users in a non-directional, caring and accepting manner, to strict ethical guide lines. We can also explore an advocacy service for those who have trouble with the police, education or social services. This is for young and old alike.

Seventh is a sexual health programme and awareness campaign. The Health department still has no proper LGBT sexual health strategy, so we are looking at trying to get one, to get materials and to have workshops and outreach programmes. Many younger gay men are taking health risks because they think HIV and Hep are not a live issue.

Eighth is a luxury, but if enough people want to volunteer, we would like an IOM LGBT history and we think that the best way of doing this would be via an oral history project. None of this is documented at present and those in our communities who can say what it was like in the 1950's and 60's are getting fewer and even those involved in the law change campaigns and debates are getting older

Ninth we may need an annual event to raise awareness, funds and to have fun, we may also want to mark and celebrate World Aids day, International Day Against Homophobia, or have Pride or Mardi Gras. What about a coming out day?

This is our provisional events diary, this is just a start

Events 2011-12

Night with Chris de Bray at G&D's <> 8.00pm tickets from G&D's £16 inc meal and show. Show only 10.00pm tickets £3.00

Rainbow Ball 23 July 2011. Empress Hotel 7.30 pm for 8.00pm tickets from £30 to £40 with different levels of benefits attached, on sale now, see newsletter

LGBT themed Movie Nights every Thursday. Dates, venue, time and films TBA

Summer BBQ middle of May/June/July. 24 June from 12.30 pm at Castletown prom/beach (Derbyhaven Road, opposite end runway, car park past low flying aircraft signs other dates, venues and times tba

Camping trip end of June. Date, venue, time and how to book TBA

Dinners out at IOM restaurants. Dates, venues and times TBA

Blackpool/Manchester/Liverpool weekends away.

Christmas at midsummer (Australian Christmas, on the beach?)

Pub Nights

Quiz/Karaoke nights. Car Treasure Hunts

Theatre/Cinema trips

Oral History project

Walking days

Sitges Carneval 2012 trip

Regular news letters

Regular updates to the web site

Chat room

Re introduction of live mentoring, befriending and counselling with trained volunteers via e-mail, chat, maybe 'phone and face to face if required

Publicity

Over the next few weeks we intend contacting the Island media and leading gay publications across the UK and Europe to introduce and promote the Island LGBT communities, what we are doing and what we hope to achieve. We are hoping we can get as much press coverage as possible but of course we need everything in place first. We understand that going public potentially a mine field but we feel we and you can rise to the challenge. And we will endeavour to show our communities and our Island in a positive and constructive way.

Working Party Mission Statement

To combine the resources and members of CF, this working party and of Team Queer, Ellan Vannin Gay Group and any individuals who want to contribute, less than one LGBT umbrella for the IOM. Which will ascertain the needs of our communities and seek to deliver services and events to meet those needs including but not limited to

- Mentoring, befriending and counselling in a safe and non-judgmental environment
- Fundraising and sponsorship to cover core activities and events
- Health and safer sex education, outreach and advocacy
- Event organisation
- News and views exchange via web site, forums, chat rooms, Facebook and news letters
- Preserving and promoting our communities and their histories
- Campaigning and awareness raising
- Police liaison and advocacy