

**MINUTES OF THE
TENANT LGBT OPEN MEETING**

**Held at
SHIVER OFFICES on 12th October 2010**

**Attending
10 customers**

**Sandy Grundy BCH Staff
Yvonne Hammond BCH Staff
Andy Thompson Shiver officer**

Item	Action by /before
	<p><u>1. Welcome</u> Sandy welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.</p> <p><u>2. Single Equality Scheme</u> Yvonne spoke about the scheme and its inclusion of people regardless of their race, gender, sexuality, disability. The scheme commenced in Oct 2010 and in line with the new Equality Act 2010, the Single Equality Scheme has been set to replace our Disability Equality Scheme, Gender Equality Scheme and Race Equality Scheme, to now ALSO include actions to protect a persons age, their sexual orientation, their religion or belief, their marital status, if they transgender, and if they are pregnant or on maternity time. It will help us to eliminate discrimination and harassment. It helps us to ensure everyone has an equal opportunity. It helps us to develop and maintain good relations between all minority groups. It helps us to ensure we consider the needs of our diverse communities when designing and delivering local services.</p> <p><u>3. Hate Crime reporting</u> Sandy asked the group for their initial response to the question on would they be confident on reporting any hate crime to both the police and at our housing office? All present confirmed that they are happy to report any hate crime to police and a few on occasion have been to their local housing office to report issues. In particular Mereside office was praised for its openness and approachability in regards to LGBT issues. Staff were seen as sensitive and made available a private interview room to discuss issues. Staff were seem as being knowledgeable when interviewing and asking the 'right' questions to help ascertain if the incident was a hate crime and offered to support the tenant in completing a formal hate crime reporting form for the police to follow up. Members were unsure however where to obtain a hate reporting form from, besides the police and BCH offices. The only concern the group expressed was of reprisals if a hate crime was reported and the perpetrator knew that they had reported them. BCH reassured the group that all incidents of hate crime will be taken seriously and that we have a zero</p>

tolerance policy against it.

4. BCH Awards

Sandy noted that the rent statement were now out and alongside these were the awards nomination forms. Group encouraged completing these and returning to BCH. If more required Sandy will supply. Take place in mid Feb next year at the Winter gardens and will be a tea dance.

5. Any Other Business

Andy gave out surveys on behalf of the police regarding developing a new domestic/sexual violence unit and what LGBT members would like from it.

World Aids awareness day is 1st December. Service will be held at FY1 Creative on Church Street. All welcome please and support the remembrance service.

6. Date of next meeting

Next Meeting at the SHIVER office. TBA