



OUTing Nottinghamshire

Small grants available to LGBT groups in Nottinghamshire to assist with research to identify the specific needs of LGBT communities in relation to substance use and misuse.

Nottinghamshire County Equality and Diversity Strategic Group strategically leads, plans, co-ordinates and advocates equality of opportunity across the substance misuse/criminal justice sector for vulnerable and marginalised groups or individuals who live, work in or visit Nottinghamshire; Specifically relating to the key equality strands of:

R ace
E thnicity
G ender
A ge
R eligion
D isability
S exuality

The group is chaired by Afzal Sadiq (Chief Executive of the Nottinghamshire Racial Equality Council) and draws its membership from a wide range of statutory and community sector organisations.¹

¹ Membership currently includes: Nottinghamshire County Drug & Alcohol Action Team; Nottinghamshire County Teaching Primary Care Trust; Nottinghamshire County Council; Community Cohesion leads; Portland Training College; Voluntary Sector; Nottinghamshire Police; North Nottinghamshire College; Nottingham Crime and Drugs Partnership; User representatives; Family/Carer representatives; Sherwood Forest Trust; Criminal Justice; Racial Equality Council; National Offender Management Service (NOMS); Substance Misuse Provider Services; Black Minority Ethnic (BME) Provider Services; Community Projects; Asylum Seeker/Refugee Service; Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender (GLBT) Provider representatives; Children and Young People's Services; Migrant Worker Services; "Disability" partnerships

The Group has commissioned the University of Central Lancashire (Uclan) to conduct a piece of research to explore the correlation between an individuals sexual orientation and their substance use, specifically relating to prevalence, needs and experiences of use, and access/barriers to treatment and support. The research will be carried out using a community engagement approach with lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgendered community organisations playing an active role in the process.

We are currently seeking a number of LGBT community organisations as partners. Community organisations will be able to facilitate access to members of the lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgendered communities of Nottinghamshire. They may help by organising a small discussion or focus group or administering a small number of questionnaires. The kinds of issues that will be explored might include:

- the nature and extent of substance use within the LGBT community; (including trends and cultures of use of specific substances)
- the particular needs of substance users within the LGBT community
- whether there may be a relationship between an individuals experience of 'coming out' and/or of discrimination and prejudice on the one hand, and of substance use on the other;
- examples of good or bad practice in relation to the provision of substance use services for the LGBT community.

Up to £500 is available to Community groups to help cover the costs associated with helping (e.g. room hire costs; refreshment costs; participant expenses etc).

The information gathered as a result of the research will be used to produce a report for the Nottinghamshire County Equality and Diversity Strategic Group with a view to improving substance misuse services for LGBT communities.

If you would like to help, we would love to hear from you.

For more information, please contact Imran Mirza on 07812 653371 IAMirza@uclan.ac.uk

The deadline for expressions of interest is 5th December 2008. We hope to run the consultation in January/February 2009.

