

| Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee | | | |
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| Title | LGBT Provision in Lewisham – Evidence Session | Item No | 4 |
| Contributors | Scrutiny Manager | | |
| Class | Part 1 | Date | 2 November 2017 |

1. Purpose of paper

- 1.1. The Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee agreed to undertake a review looking at Provision for the LGBT Community in Lewisham as part of its work programme for 2017/18. This report, coupled with evidence provided at the meeting, will provide information for the Committee to discuss as part of its review.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The Select Committee is asked to:

- Receive evidence from Danny Ruta, Director of Public Health
- Receive evidence from Adam Bowles, Head of Organisational Development and HR
- Note the content of the report and consider the information presented at Committee
- Note the date of the telephone conference with Leicestershire County Council which will take place on Monday 13th November at 8.30am.

3. Background

- 3.1. At the meeting of the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee on 26 April 2017, the Committee resolved to undertake an in-depth review looking at LGBT provision in Lewisham. At its meeting on 26 June 2017 the Committee approved the scoping report for the review.
- 3.2. The scope for the review proposed the review include information on a wide range of issues relating to the LGBT community and to consider good practice. This evidence session allows the Committee to increase understanding of the Lewisham context. Members of the Committee are also invited to participate in a phone conference with Leicestershire County Council which will take place on Monday 13th November at 8.30am. This will be to gather evidence on the work they have done to become the highest rated local authority in 2016 and 2017 in the Stonewall Top 100 Employers Survey¹ (7th in 2016 and 36th in 2017).

¹ Stonewall Top 100 Employers Survey 2017

http://www.stonewall.org.uk/sites/default/files/top_100_employers_2017-web.pdf

- 3.3. The Committee invited Stonewall to provide evidence to the Committee. In response Stonewall highlighted the following resources and publications which they felt would be important for the Committee to consider as part of their evidence. The first is a new guide they produced [LGBT in Britain](#) which focusses on LGBT experiences in public spaces. The second was their [service delivery toolkit](#) which they encourage organisations to use in understanding and mapping the journey of an LGBT person whilst using their service.
- 3.4. The Committee requested information on community value assets be provided to the Committee. This is a new right under the Localism Act 2011 and came into effect on 21 September 2012. It means that an eligible local voluntary or community group can ask the Council to list certain assets as being of value to the community by making a nomination. If an asset is listed and then comes up for sale, the new right will give an eligible community interest group that wishes to be treated as a potential bidder to purchase the asset, 6 months to put together a bid to buy it. This right is intended to give communities an increased chance to save shops, pubs or other local facilities which are of community value. The Assets of Community Value Regulations 2012² provides additional information on the process.
- 3.5. These concerns were raised by the Committee in response to the loss of many LGBT venues across London in the last 10 years. Research by University College London³ highlighted that since 2006 there had been a 58% fall in the number of LGBTQ+ nightlife venues across London (125 in 2006 to 53 in 2016). Which was significantly higher than the fall in UK pubs overall (25% in the same period) and other London “grass roots” venues (35% fall).⁴

4. Presentation

- 4.1 Danny Ruta, Director of Public Health, will give a presentation to the Committee, Committee members will have an opportunity to ask questions.
- 4.2 Adam Bowles, Head of Organisational Development and HR will give a presentation to the Committee, Committee members will have an opportunity to ask questions.

5. Further implications

- 5.1. At this stage there are no specific financial, legal, environmental, equalities or crime and disorder implications to consider. However, each will be addressed as part of the review.

² The Assets of Community Value Regulations 2012
http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2012/2421/pdfs/ukxi_20122421_en.pdf

³ LGBTQ+ Cultural Infrastructure in London: Night Venues, 2006-Present, UCL UrbanLab 2017
https://www.ucl.ac.uk/urbanlab/docs/LGBTQ_cultural_infrastructure_in_London_nightlife_venues_2006_to_the_present.pdf

⁴ Ibid

Background Documents and References

[LGBT Provision in Lewisham Scoping Report](#) (26.06.17)

LGBT in Britain, Hate Crime and Discrimination, Stonewall, 2017
https://www.stonewall.org.uk/sites/default/files/lgbt_in_britain_hate_crime.pdf

LGBTQ+ Cultural Infrastructure in London: Night Venues, 2006-Present, UCL UrbanLab 2017
https://www.ucl.ac.uk/urbanlab/docs/LGBTQ_cultural_infrastructure_in_London_nightlife_venues_2006_to_the_present.pdf

Stonewall Service Delivery Toolkit, Stonewall, <http://www.stonewall.org.uk/service-delivery-toolkit>

Stonewall Top 100 Employers Survey 2017
http://www.stonewall.org.uk/sites/default/files/top_100_employers_2017-web.pdf

The Assets of Community Value Regulations 2012
http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/2421/pdfs/uksi_20122421_en.pdf

If you have any questions about this report, please contact Katie Wood, Scrutiny Manager (ext. 49446)