

**BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**REPORT TO CABINET COMMITTEE - EQUALITIES**  
**4 FEBRUARY 2013**

**REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE, PERFORMANCE**

**ISSUES FACING THE LOCAL LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND  
TRANSGENDER (LGBT) COMMUNITY**

**1. Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet Equalities Committee of some of the issues faced by Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people in our communities. The report will also outline the influence that the council has on removing barriers and improving accessibility to services.

**2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/Other Corporate Priorities**

The Strategic Equality Plan (SEP) is a statutory plan and a cross cutting issue that impacts on the whole of the council. It is linked to the council's Welsh Language Scheme, Customer Care Programme and supports the community cohesion agenda.

**3. Background**

- 3.1 In July 2010, members of the Cabinet Equalities Committee agreed to receive reports and presentations on topic areas relevant to the equalities agenda. Part of this included inviting in community representatives to present on relevant topics. The overall aim is to give the council a broader view of issues different groups face within their communities and to discuss wider engagement needs.
- 3.2 An update on the current issues facing the local Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender community was added to the Committee's Forward Work programme.

**4. Current situation / proposal**

- 4.1. The council's SEP was produced following extensive consultation and engagement with citizens, customers and service users including people from the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community. The plan details the actions the council will undertake to improve accessibility of council services. Progress towards actions is ongoing.
- 4.2 The council is a member of the Wales Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Excellence Centre. Meetings between the council and the excellence centre has highlighted that the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community can face a range of issues in their day to day lives such as discrimination.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender representatives from Bridgend College are presenting an overview of some of the challenges the community face. The presentation will cover:

- Bullying at school and college
- Discrimination at work, school, college and in service delivery
- Family acceptance
- Gender reassignment issues
- Housing and homelessness
- Hate Crime

The council is keen to develop a close working relationship with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people in Bridgend County Borough to support improving council services and to enhance accessibility.

## **5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules**

- 5.1 No direct effect however the council is required to effectively implement it's statutory duties in relation to equalities and human rights.

## **6. Equality Impact Assessment**

Whilst no Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out, this report provides the committee with information which aims to positively assist in the delivery of the authority's equality duties.

## **7. Financial Implications**

- 7.1 No financial implications identified at present.

## **8. Recommendation**

- 8.1 That the Cabinet Equalities Committee receives and considers this report.

**Sarah Kingsbury**  
**Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development**  
**Date: 23 January 2013**

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**Background papers: None.**