

## **York & Districts LGBT Forum Information Update:**

### **York LGBT Pride in the Park Event:**

York LGBT Forum remains actively involved within York. We recently held our second 'Pride Picnic in the Park' on Sunday August 19<sup>th</sup> in Rowntree Park. Although the weather was rather dull and overcast with rain forecast, the event was well attended with live music, DJ, community stalls and dog show. Customers and staff from The Little John Pub in York (this is York's 100% straight friendly pub) marched from Castlegate to Rowntree Park adorning 'rainbow flags' and whistles. This was a sight to be remembered. The event was officially opened by The Lord Mayor of York Councillor Irene Waudby who gave a resounding opening speech. The 'Pride' steering group will begin organising next year's event in the next month or so.

### **SIWG Funding Grant:**

The forum has recently produced its first newsletter, a copy of which every member of City of York Council should have received in their pigeonholes. Copies of the newsletter will be distributed throughout York and North Yorkshire. The forum believes in keeping LGBT people informed of current events and issues. To achieve this the forum has purchased a new laptop computer and printer along with memory sticks. This equipment will assist the forum's secretary, committee members and general members produce meeting minutes and the compilation of future newsletters and other promotional materials. The forum would like to thank City of York Council SIWG for their generosity in allocating a funding grant to enable us to purchase equipment.

### **LGBT Forum Meetings:**

The officers and committee members of the forum agreed to invite guest speakers to attend future forum meetings and talk about their roles and policies involving LGBT issues. The forum will in due course be inviting an array of guest speakers including those from all the political parties in York to discuss LGBT policies and their involvement. We are also hoping to arrange quiz nights and other nights of interest to raise funds and maintain active interest amongst forum membership.

### **Yorkshire Forward Funding Grant:**

York & Districts LGBT forum were successful in obtaining a grant from Yorkshire Forward Community Intervention Chest. The funding will be used to employ a part-time sessional youth worker who will engage with LGBT youth in York. We hope that the workers role will be to develop exciting new initiatives for our LGBT youth to raise and encourage greater awareness around LGBT youth specific issues. Funding received will only initially fund a twelve month contract. If successful and the forum feel the need to develop the post further, we shall seek to obtain future funding from other sources.

### **Meeting Dates for your Diary:**

**York & Districts LGBT Forum** - Tuesday September 4<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm.

**York & Districts LGBT Forum Committee Meeting** - Tuesday September 11<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm.

**York & Districts LGBT Forum AGM** - Tuesday October 9<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm.

**All meetings are held at Yorkshire MESMAC offices, Marygate Lane, York. Tel: 01904- 620400**