



AIMS & OBJECTIVES

MEMBERSHIP:

The Tayside LGBT* Forum consists of agency representatives, individuals and other parties living or working within Tayside* (or for Tayside) with a positive and active interest in LGBT issues.

THE FORUM EXISTS TO:

1. Provide the opportunity for workers in the field of LGBT to meet on a regular basis as a Forum, and in particular to:
 - ✓ Facilitate networking between members of this Forum (and between relevant agencies throughout Tayside);
 - ✓ Facilitate reciprocal support between members of this Forum (and between relevant agencies throughout Tayside);
 - ✓ Keep abreast of developments in the field of LGBT via specialist guest speakers, inter-agency collaboration and general information-sharing.
2. Promote greater understanding and raise awareness of LGBT-related issues to the public and relevant bodies.
3. Identify ways of combating discrimination and homo/bi/transphobia within legislation, education, press & media, and work-environments.
4. Promote positive images of Tayside's LGBT population by, where possible, inputting to education, media, and literature; and through general awareness-raising.
5. Promote and facilitate the involvement of service-users in the planning & development of services.
6. Contribute to the strategic planning of LGBT services in Tayside by ensuring that LGBT issues are included in local authority and health service planning strategies and policy documents.

NB: These objectives will not necessarily be actioned by the Forum itself, but may in part (or in total) be actioned by individual Forum members via their own agencies (following discussion and formulation at the Forum). Forum sub-groups may be formed in order to take forward specific issues (e.g. Young People's Issues).

MEETINGS:

1. Meetings will be held at six-weekly intervals at a central venue.
2. The Chair will prepare an Agenda, but responsibility for Agenda items is collective.
3. Forum members will take minutes on a rotational basis.
4. The Chair prior to meetings will circulate agenda and Minutes. #
5. All Forum members should take responsibility for reading Minutes **prior** to meetings, and noting any action points.
6. Apologies should be sent if attendance is not possible. Any Forum member who has missed two consecutive meetings without sending their apologies shall be removed from the "agenda" list (but will continue to receive Minutes).

GROUND RULES:

- ✓ Items raised by Forum members should be discussed in a respectful and supportive manner. No Forum member should feel de-valued or disempowered.
- ✓ Attendees of the Forum are not obliged to disclose their sexual orientation, and no assumptions shall be made as to attendees' sexual orientation (excepting voluntary self-disclosure).

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM):

An AGM will be held at the beginning of each calendar year with the purpose of reviewing the Forum's objectives, and work carried out by the Forum during the previous twelve months. A Chair shall be elected for the following twelve months, but he/she may resign at any time during this period.

PUBLIC MEETINGS:

The Forum will set dates for 'open meetings', to which all interested parties and members of the general public may attend. These meetings will be convened for the purposes of consultation, information-sharing and general service-user discussion.

* Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender

+ Angus, Dundee City, Perth & Kinross

For reasons of time-management, efficiency and cost, Minutes and Agenda can only be circulated electronically (via email).