

ORIGINS OF THE EXHIBITION



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sportBU



Dorset HealthCare University
NHS Foundation Trust



Lesbian, gay, bisexual & trans people in the South West

Introduction

Contents

1. Purposes of the exhibition and related equality and diversity educational PDF's
2. Origins of the project and extent & range of the support it has received
3. Index of contents of the thematic panels and associated PDF's
4. Using the resource for discussion and improved equality and diversity awareness and educational purposes

To encourage discussion of both LGBT communities discrimination and bullying issues, and LGBT inclusivity needs in workplace, sports, educational and broader social contexts with the intent to effect positive change in terms of identifying, challenging and overcoming discrimination where and when encountered, and providing more welcoming and appropriate workplace, sports, and teaching environments for LGBT people and youth.

The resource throughout places emphasis not upon LGBT people as a minority, but rather upon the discriminators as a being a much smaller minority whose shared distinguishing characteristics are fear of difference + recognising and developing their own individuality, and related anti-social exclusivist perspectives.

Origins of the exhibition project and details of the breadth support it has received

Origins: The project was initiated by chance as an outcome of a consultation meeting to discuss preparations for the Olympic Torch passing through Bournemouth. Andrew Williams, Manager of the Safer and Stronger Communities Team at Bournemouth Borough Council, and Alan Mercel-Sanca (chairperson of the Dorset-based multicultural learning Oriental Culture Educational Society: the OCES having a robust stand on equality, diversity and anti-discrimination inclusive values) discussing the multicultural preparations for the event. At the conclusion it was suggested that the LGBT population is one of Bournemouth's distinct sub groups (ethnic communities and the retired population being others) and it would therefore good to have it represented in some meaningful way on the day.

This was the origin of the Olympic legacy anti-homophobia in sport exhibition project. Subsequently a broad coalition of supporting organisations (ranging from local government, colleges and a university, across to NHS trusts and a number of LGBT groups, especially the Space Youth Project) joined together to support and in some cases sponsor the creation of the five thematic panels that constitute the heart of the project.

In addition, academics (Professor Eric Anderson and Dr Chris Pullen) specialising in LGBT issues, and the Deputy Dean (Dr Ian Jones) of the Bournemouth University Sports Faculty [Sport BU] contributed articles to the related PDF educational resource, covering such topics as inclusive masculinity, LGBT transnational identity, and details of Blooms Taxonomy of learning applied by UK higher education sports faculties to the issues of discrimination in sport. The support of James Palfreman-Kay (Bournemouth University Equality Officer) for introducing Dr's Chris Pullen and Ian Jones and Professor Anderson to project lead, principal researcher and creator of the main PDF educational articles material, Alan Mercel-Sanca, is deeply appreciated.

A questionnaire was also created to provide a direct personal dimension to the project (sample responses are provided on the PDF version of panel 1, along with some findings of a Space Youth Project survey of members into the topics of PE in schools and sport). Finally the reflective thinking objective of the project was put into effect, with the result of highly beneficial learning outcomes, through the Bournemouth and Poole College final year graphic design students undertaking the creation of the artwork for the exhibition panels themselves.

The most deep-felt thanks for this originally unlooked for development must go to the College's Gemma Genco [Equalities Manager] Nick Day [Head of Art and Design] and to Jane Jenkins and Ellie Douglas – the college teachers who led the group of final year students who undertook the graphic design dimension of the project – and to the dedication and enthusiasm of the students themselves.

Support: This exhibition is supported by a wide range of partnering organisations and individuals, including nationally and internationally renowned lecturers and writers on LGBT equality issues. These include Bournemouth University, the Arts University College Bournemouth, various Bournemouth LGBT groups and societies (including Silver Moments and the Bournemouth University LGBT group), NHS trusts, AFC Bournemouth, Bournemouth and Poole councils, Equality South West, Space Youth Project, Bournemouth and Poole College, and Stonewall, Bournemouth and Poole councils. Exhibition panel sponsors at the time of the formal launch of the project included: Bournemouth Council, Poole Council, Oriental Culture Educational Society (OCES), Dorset HealthCare University Trust (DHUFT).

Graphic design of the exhibition panels has been provided by final year graphic design students of the Bournemouth & Poole College Art & Design Department as their major final project.

Index of contents of the thematic panels and associated pdf's

Panel 1: Prejudice and Pride: Challenging discrimination and homophobia in Sport

Panel 2: Bully-friendly or sporting excellence-friendly? : the challenge for schools, educational establishments and sports organisations to combat homophobia in the context of sports activities

Panel 3: Challenging the stereotypes of the prejudiced in Sport

Panel 4: Time for Change: Public sector organisations working to diminish discrimination on grounds of professionalism and efficiency as well as due to ethical and statutory requirements

Panel 5: 'One World, One humanity': The importance and necessity for the general welfare of All of the intolerance of intolerance, and how you can play your part

Panel 6: Trans communities and anti-transphobia information resource

Appendix: Three articles by academics and sports educationalist + useful links resource