

LGBT ADVISORY GROUP

**Meeting held at OPCC Victory House on
Tuesday, 10th March 2015 at 5.30pm**

- A response was requested by Louise Evan Wong relating to issues raised in relation to the use of interpreters by Northumbria Police. Nitin Shukla from the OPCC was to respond to this.
- Chief Insp Jackie Coleman (JC) updated the meeting on the Northumbria Police Hate Crime Strategy. The strategy has now been agreed along with the action and delivery plan. JC acknowledged the need to know how the public think Northumbria Police are doing but has found in the past that it's quite difficult to get people agreeing to complete surveys. The panel raised concern with officers wearing uniform for these events, they feel it may deter people from engaging with them. The panel felt a uniform was appropriate for enforcement purposes but was not a good idea for community engagement. Louise Evan Wong discussed work that the Fed had carried out recently which could be used to inform and improve the Hate Crime action and delivery plan.
- There was a brief overview of the Hate Crime Week conducted by Northumbria Police. The aim was to generate awareness and the feedback received was positive.
- Carol Taylor (CT), Northumbria Police HR updated the meeting on the appointment of Northumbria Police LGBT (SPOC) Officers. All images of officers and their contact details have been sent to LGBT Community groups and organisations.
- In the absence of Nitin Shukla, OPCC, Louise Evan Wong provided an update on the National Homophobic, Biphobic and Transphobic Hate Crime Partnership. The LGBT Federation will be representing the North East as part of the 31 successful LGBT organisation across the country. This will allow the Fed to work together with other organisations to raise awareness of the different hate crime issues. Dean Lowery, OPCC, informed the panel that this item will remain on the agenda to allow Nitin Shukla to update further.
- The Northern/Southern Pride Survey Results 2014 have been formally published. 38 were completed online with 179 hard copies. The panel advised that it may be better to do send out surveys on the run up to the Pride events rather than on the day of the event.