



# Government Equalities Office

Putting equality at the heart of government

## Transgender e-bulletin no.3 August/September 2011

### In this issue:

- Message from Lynne Featherstone MP, Minister for Equalities
- Message from Victoria Atkin from Hollyoaks
- Update on employment
- Survey information
- What's new?

### Message from Lynne Featherstone MP, Minister for Equalities



*Thank you once again! We received almost 500 responses to our second transgender survey, which focussed on the important issue of health. These findings, along with our continuing engagement with the trans community, is shaping the Government transgender equality action plan, which we will publish by the end of this year.*

*One of the most important parts of my job, and the most enjoyable, is going out and meeting people from the trans community. Opening Sparkle in Manchester on Saturday 9 July was a great opportunity to meet so many of you. Can I thank everyone who came – you made it a great day and made me feel so welcome! I had a really brilliant time and look forward to seeing you again.*

*It's hard to believe, but we are now up to our third transgender e-bulletin. These bulletins are here to keep you updated with progress on our work and to give you an opportunity to contribute your views and ideas. As employment was identified as one of the priority areas in an earlier survey, this bulletin includes an article on the Government's Work Programme – the biggest change in welfare reforms for over 60*

*years. It also includes a focused survey on employment and identity/privacy to give you a further opportunity to tell us your views so that we can consider what actions we can take. We would be grateful if you could take the time to respond to our third survey by 16 September 2011.*

*This e-bulletin also includes a video message from Victoria Atkin who plays a trans character in Hollyoaks. Victoria has been a great advocate for trans equality and I'm grateful to her for her support. Click on the message below to find out more!*

*Thank you once again for all your invaluable support. Please continue to spread the word about how people can get involved. Circulate our e-bulletin to your friends, colleagues, post it on your blogs and raise it in your community groups. We need your continued input, challenge and support to help us make this the era we make historic progress for transgender equality.*

### **Message from Victoria Atkin from Hollyoaks**

Victoria plays Jason Costello in Hollyoaks, Britain's first transgendered teen on Channel 4. Having such a character in a high profile soap is an important way of highlighting issues facing trans teens.

We are very pleased to have the following [video message](#) from Victoria.

### **Update on employment**

#### ***Work Programme***

On 10 June 2011, the Government launched the *Work Programme*, which forms part of the Government's plans to reform welfare-to-work provision in the UK, and ensure people have the right support when moving into employment. The Work Programme has been designed to support a wide variety of people back into sustained employment, including claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance and those claiming Employment and Support Allowance. Rather than a one size fits all approach, work programme prime providers are free to innovate and design support that really works. They will be paid primarily for the results they achieve in supporting people into sustained employment, and will be paid more to help those claimants furthest from the labour market. The Government's aim is to ensure that the benefits of the Work Programme will be equally accessible to all eligible claimant groups, including those from the transgender community. Further information can be found on the [DWP website](#).

## Survey information

### Second survey on health

In our first survey<sup>1</sup>, respondents identified health as being their number one concern. To address this in more detail, our second survey focussed on health. We were very pleased to receive almost 500 responses on this important issue. Some of the initial headline findings from the health survey are:

#### ***Who responded to the survey?***

- The age range of respondents was between 14 and 82. The average age of respondents was 42;
- 21.6% of respondents considered themselves disabled;
- 86% of respondents had received treatment for gender dysphoria.

#### ***Treatment***

- A third of respondents had been treated on the NHS, 22% privately and 35% a combination of both.

#### ***Delays***

- Three-quarters of respondents said they had experienced delays in trying to access treatment for gender dysphoria.
- Respondents experienced the greatest delay when trying to obtain a referral to a psychiatrist.
- Almost half of respondents had experienced delay in accessing their Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) for gender dysphoria treatment.

#### ***GPs***

- Almost half of respondents thought GPs needed awareness raising of trans issues.
- Respondents felt that awareness raising was most needed on the gender reassignment process itself, followed by general healthcare treatment for transgender people.

#### ***Primary Care Trusts***

- A third of respondents said that the greatest challenge they had experienced with primary care trusts was their lack of awareness of trans issues.
- Almost a quarter of respondents had their treatment for gender dysphoria refused to them.

---

<sup>1</sup> Please note that this is a survey, not a census of the transgender population, carried out to try to understand the main areas of concern for transgender people, and therefore results should not be used to derive population estimates or other demographic information related to the transgender community.

### ***Real Life Experience (RLE)***

- 30% of respondents hadn't experienced any problems in relation to RLE.
- A quarter of respondents thought that RLE was inflexible.

## **What's new?**

### **CONSULTATIONS**

#### ***Suicide prevention strategy***

The Department of Health has published a draft [suicide prevention strategy](#) for England, which is now open for consultation. The document brings together information about groups at higher risk of suicide, effective interventions and resources available and places a new emphasis on family members. The consultation recognises that more information is needed about the rates of suicide amongst the transgender community and about what interventions may be helpful.

The consultation closes on 11 October 2011. Consultation responses will inform the final strategy, which will be published in early 2012.

### **INTERNATIONAL**

#### ***Gender Recognition (Approved Countries and Territories) Order 2011***

The Gender Recognition (Approved Countries and Territories) Order 2011 (Statutory Instrument no: 1630), came into force on 5 July 2011 and marked the end of a project to update the list of countries that are approved for the purposes of the Gender Recognition Act 2004 (GRA). The [2011 Order](#) together with the explanatory memorandum provides more information. Any queries relating the 2011 Order should be made to the Ministry of Justice: [humanrights@justice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:humanrights@justice.gsi.gov.uk)

#### ***Council of Europe***

Dominic Grieve MP, Attorney General for England and Wales, attended and [spoke](#) the Council of Europe's launch of their report '[Combating discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity - Council of Europe standards](#)' on 23 June 2011. The report is intended as a reference tool for all those who are involved or interested in protecting and promoting the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people across Europe.

#### ***United Nations***

On 17 Jun 2011, the [United Nations Human Rights Council](#) adopted a historic resolution expressing grave concern about acts of violence and discrimination against individuals because of their sexual orientation and gender identity. This is the first UN resolution solely focused on LGB&T people ever adopted. You can view FCO [Minister Jeremy Browne MP](#) and the [Foreign Secretary](#)'s statements welcoming the resolution on the FCO website.

## EVENTS AND MEETINGS

### No.10 pride reception



The Prime Minister and Gareth Thomas at the No.10 Pride reception

The Prime Minister hosted his second Downing Street reception for the LGB&T community to celebrate Pride on 22 June 2011. This year the event focused on tackling homophobia and transphobia in sport. Guests included Billie Jean King, Gareth Thomas and Ben Cohen as well as members from across the LGB&T community. The Prime Minister's speech in support of Pride can be found on the [No.10 website](#). More information and photos of the event can be found on the [Home Office](#) website

### Pride London 2011



Theresa May at Pride



James Brokenshire and GEO staff at Pride

The Home Secretary and Home Office Minister James Brokenshire attended this year's [Pride London](#) on 2 July 2011. Government had a stall at Pride London for the first time this year. It was great opportunity to meet and hear from you directly. Thanks to everyone who came to Pride London, and signed our sports charter - over 800 people! You can still sign up to our facebook page on [I love sport but I hate homophobia and transphobia](#) to tell us your sports news and spread the message. We look forward to seeing you again next year at Pride.

## ***Sparkle***



*Lynne Featherstone at Sparkle in the Park*

Lynne opened Sparkle in the Park, the national transgender festival, on 9 July 2011 in Manchester. Videos of Lynne's speech can be found on [YouTube](#). Thanks to everyone who attended and made it such a special event! More information about the event can be found on the [Sparkle website](#).

### ***Trans health workshop***

On 19 July 2011 the Government Equalities Office held a workshop on transgender health, which respondents to our survey's had identified as their number one priority in our first survey. Policy makers, health professionals, commissioners and representatives from transgender organisations attended to share best practice, identify concerns and discuss potential solutions. Findings from the workshop are helping to inform the development of the transgender equality action plan.

### ***Trans youth event***

On 28 July 2011 the Government Equalities Office held an event with young trans people. The workshop was a fantastic opportunity for us to hear directly from trans people aged 14-30 what challenges they face and how we may be able to address them. We are now looking at the feedback received to shape the development of the transgender equality action plan.

### ***Gender Recognition Panel User Group Meetings***

The Gender Recognition Panel (GRP) will be holding two Tribunal User Group Meetings this year – one in Edinburgh on 27 September and another one on 9 November in London. These meetings are an opportunity to discuss matters relating to the GRP's processes and procedures with representatives from the Panel and the Secretariat. If you would like to attend or would like to raise any questions for discussion at the meetings, please contact the GRP Secretariat at [grpenquiries@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:grpenquiries@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk). Please note the GRP cannot discuss any issues relating to specific cases at these meetings

*For additional advice and information please visit our website:  
[Transgender equality | Home Office](#)*

*Please forward this message and bulletin to your friends and colleagues; post it on your blogs and discussion forums; and raise it in your community groups. Your support will make all the difference!!*

*Any projects you are involved in you would like to tell us about? Any questions? Please email us at [transgender@geo.qsi.gov.uk](mailto:transgender@geo.qsi.gov.uk)*