



20th September 2017

MEET 'N' MATCH AND VOICE FOR ALL HOST LGBT EVENT FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES



Participants at the last LGBT Event in August 2017

Meet 'N' Match, the friendship and dating agency for people with a learning disability, are hosting an LGBT event for people with learning disabilities next month. The event, which is targeted at people that identify as LGBT, or those who are unsure, is unique in that it is the only event in Lancashire aimed purely at people from within the LGBT community and who have a learning disability.

The first event, held in partnership with Brothers of Charity Voice for All Self Advocacy Group, took place in August, with 14 people attending from Lancashire and Greater Manchester; the event was also attended by Lancashire LGBT, the Police and Sexual Health Services.

The Meet N Match project provides various events and parties for people with physical and learning disabilities, and together with Voice for All are calling on more people with learning disabilities within the LGBT community to join them at this innovative event.

Lucy Hamlin, Events & Project Coordinator for Meet N Match said: “People with learning disabilities do not always get the chance to go out, have a drink and meet like-minded people. When they are gay, lesbian or transgender, we find that there are even more barriers to meeting people and forming relationships. This is one way we are trying to break down barriers, match people up and educate people on staying safe.”

The event will have a representative from Lancashire LGBT who will talk about what support they can offer people, as well as a speed dating element and a presentation from a member of Meet N Match which recently spent 3 nights at Manchester Pride.

Sue Sharples, Chair of The U Night Group, the community interest company behind Meet N Match said: “Generally, people with a learning disability have limited opportunities to meet their peers and to form lasting connections. Our current members have told us that this leads to them feeling lonely, isolated and depressed. We hope that this will be one way of improving peoples physical and mental wellbeing, whilst opening up possibilities for the kind of relationships that others take for granted. The project also acknowledges the need to provide additional information and support to help the process of developing relationships, so we will also be offering lots of information, guidance, advice and specialist training, in addition to signposting to other agencies.”

The event takes place on Wednesday 25th October 2017, 2pm – 4pm at Brothers of Charity, Lisieux Hall, Dawson Lane, Whittle Le Woods, Chorley PR6 7DX

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