

**Public Meeting with LGBT Community and the
Metropolitan Police, Barking & Dagenham
Ripple Centre
Thursday, 19 November 2015**

Apologies

Peter Tatchell | Cllr. Darren Rodwell | Mick Beackon | Tid Page

This is an initial meeting between the Police and the local LGBT Community. There was an update on the public facts relating to the ongoing police investigation regarding the deaths of four men found in Barking and the subsequent charging of a suspect. The meeting was reminded that the actual case in question could not be discussed further because of sub judice rules (prohibited from public discussion).

The main purpose of this meeting was to reassure the local LGBT community and listen to public concerns and to develop ways to improve engagement between the police, the wider community and other local partners within the borough.

When the Local Authority (LA) were first advised that there had been 3 fatalities relating to drug use, its initial response had been to warn and provide information to the public via local drug agencies about the possibility of a bad batch of drugs doing the rounds.

The Borough Commander informed the meeting that the Metropolitan Police has referred itself to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) concerning the deaths of the four men. The referral informs the IPCC of potential vulnerabilities in the response by the MPS to the four deaths.

Gallup had already made a submission to the IPCC on this matter.

A recent IPCC Statement about this case has not yet been circulated / shared with partners or the local LGBT Community. It was agreed by IAG members to share the statement.

The IPCC will be holding a meeting with the LGBT Community and others, the meeting will be facilitated by the LGBT Independent Advisory Group (IAG) and information will be circulated at a later date.

A member of the IAG stated that the IPCC would also welcome LGBT concerns, independent of the police.

Many of those present from the LGBT Community were surprised to learn there were dedicated LGBT Liaison Officers (LO's) in the borough that could be asked for and contacted confidentially to report hate crime. For some members of the audience the fact the names and contact details of these dedicated police officers didn't appear in local police stations was an issue as it had been raised several times at previous LGBT Forum meetings.