

# plymouth prideevent 2008

## Media Release

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### **Public services to be examined at Pride 08 event**

Visitors to the South West's largest Pride event on Saturday (June 7) will be able to directly question how public services are provided to the region's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans (LGBT) communities.

They can quiz representatives of the police, the city council, and the NHS during a public question time session at plymouth prideevent 2008 (CORRECT).

The free-entry, one-day Pride event takes place in Plymouth Guildhall and will be officially opened at 11 am by the city's Lord Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor Brian Vincent and Pauline Murphy.

Questions on health will be put to Plymouth Primary Care Trust (PCT) director of public health Debra Laphorne.

Local authority issues will be tackled by city council safer communities head Peter Aley and Mark Kelly, of Unison, who has been an open LGBT union activist.

Questions on policing will go to Sgt John Naismith, who is head of the Plymouth diverse communities team.

Among more than 50 stalls at the event will be those representing a number of city council departments, the PCT, Devon and Cornwall Constabulary, and Devon and Cornwall Police Authority, where further opinions on public services can be offered.

Visitors can also have their say on public services by completing a questionnaire at the event.

In addition, there will be an opportunity to nominate somebody for this year's Pink Pride of Plymouth award, which goes to the person who is considered to have contributed the most to the city's LGBT communities.

Everybody who enters a nomination and/or completes a questionnaire will be entered into a draw to win a Canon digital camera.

plymouth prideevent 2008 is organised by a committee of volunteers from LGBT communities in the city and members of support organisations.

The day also features an LGBT communities' history exhibition, including Holocaust Memorial Day and a play based on the memories of older lesbians and gay men, a public question forum with police, health, and city council representatives, an international speaker relating the experiences of being a gay Muslim in Iraq, and sexual health workshops for women and men.

Plymouth prideevent 2008 is a registered charity raising funds in support of the city's LGBT organisations and working in partnership with Plymouth City Council, Devon and Cornwall Constabulary, Plymouth Primary Care Trust, Out Youth Group, Plymouth Pride Forum, Plymouth Sound Radio, The Swallow public house, Zeros Nightclub, Eddystone Trust, Intercom Trust, Fyne Times, In Other Words Books, She Bang, University of Plymouth, and the TUC South West.

More information about the 2008 Pride event is available by visiting the website [www.plymouthprideevent.co.uk](http://www.plymouthprideevent.co.uk) or emailing [info@plymouthprideevent.co.uk](mailto:info@plymouthprideevent.co.uk) or telephoning 07753 339965.

ENDS

**Notes for Editor:**

- The phrase 'trans' should be used as it is a particular term covering transsexual, transgender, transvestite
- Photos are available on request
- Queries on this media release can be directed in the first instance to Julia Netherton or John Thorne, M2S Media, PR consultants to plymouth prideevent, on 01823 663146 or email [julia@m2smedia.co.uk](mailto:julia@m2smedia.co.uk) or [john@m2smedia.co.uk](mailto:john@m2smedia.co.uk)