

## **Safer Spaces - Molly Byrne, Project Officer at the Encompass Network, and Helen Crowther, Equality and Anti-Poverty Officer**

The Encompass project 'Safer Spaces' aims to provide lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer/questioning (LGBTQ) people in Cambridge and surrounding areas with places where they can feel safe, welcome and supported. For this purpose, Encompass Network offers public and private sector organisations with information and, on request, with training so that people of all genders and sexualities can feel relaxed and protected. Organisations and businesses that sign up to implementing policies for this purpose can display the campaign's logo to promote their services and commitment to diversity and equality. (For more information about Safer Spaces visit the Encompass Website: <http://encompassnetwork.org.uk/saferspaces>). Cambridge City Council has been signed up to the pilot project of Safer Spaces and is about to sign up to the live campaign that will be launched shortly.

This item will:

- Provide information on the background of Safer Spaces, including why the project was developed, learning from the pilot project and plans to engage businesses and public sector organisations, and the community.
- Share support Encompass Network provides to organisations that sign up, and some policies and areas of work that organisations signed up can work on.
- Explore examples of what the Council has been doing so far to make our spaces safe, welcoming and inclusive for LGBTQ people, and some further areas of work we will be developing.