ABOUT US

In September, 1976 a group of people were concerned about the lack of information being provided to young gay men who were experiencing homophobic attacks set up the first Helpline for gay men and women.

The helpline was organised by local volunteers and delivered from the front room of a house. In 1981 the helpline was the first LGB group in the UK to receive money from a public authority. The LGB communities represent between 8-10% of the UK population.

By 1985 the work of the helpline had grown sufficiently that it was decided to move into premises at 45 King Street. Community services such as a youth group and HIV prevention work were managed and delivered by volunteers.

In 1992 the Gay Men's Team was formed which saw paid staff working with volunteers to deliver the work of the organisation. By 1996 we had been fortunate enough to receive a National Lottery Grant resulting in 8 members of staff and over 20 volunteers delivering a range of services. We moved into 15 Wellington Street, our current location, in 1997.

The autumn of 2009 also saw the official change of the Centre's name to the Leicester Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Centre. The LGB communities teamed up with the Transgender community to work and support each other for more diverse and equitable communities.

In 2010 we started a complete refurbishment of the Centre including opening up the frontage of the Centre and having our first official sign. We redesigned our ground floor to make it more friendly & accessible and converted the 2nd floor to a purpose build home for our Youth Group.
ABOUT US

Leicester Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Centre is a registered charity established to support lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

Our Mission
Leicester LGBT Centre recognises that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people face many forms of discrimination and prejudice which can affect the opportunities to be involved, included and valued in society as equals. The Centre exists to provide a safe social and support space, deliver high quality professional services that are responsive to the needs of the local community and challenge the inequality created by society.

Our Aims
To provide safe, accessible and appropriate services, venue and support to combat social isolation, exclusion and discrimination that LGBT people face.
To promote a positive environment that empowers those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender and educate those who are not.

Our Services
We provide information in a range of formats on a wide range of subjects that affect LGBT people's lives including signposting and referrals to other agencies.
Why Do We Need a Centre?

21% of trans people fear going out of their homes due to the threat of harassment

1 in 5 lesbian and gay people have experienced a homophobic hate crime or incident in the last 3 years

7 in 10 did not report hate crimes or incidents to anyone

1 in 8 LGB people equivalent to over 450,000 people in Britain, have experienced a homophobic hate incident in the last year

8% of all black and minority ethnic lesbian and gay people have experienced a physical assault as a homophobic hate incident, compared to 4% of all LGB people

46% of trans people have experienced harassment within their own neighbourhood

73% of trans people have experienced some form of harassment ranging from comments to physical abuse and violence

28% of trans people have had to move due to harassment

LESBIAN GAY BI & TRANS
the CENTRE LEICESTER
52% of lesbian, gay and bisexual people in Leicester said they suffered from depression and 35% had serious thoughts of self-harm.

In 2004 nearly 50% of LGB people in Leicester were smokers compared to just 27% of the general population.

A 2007 survey of trans people found that 34% of respondents had considered suicide. This is much higher than the general public.

20% of lesbians have had an eating disorder compared to 5% of all women.

1 in 12 lesbian & bisexual women aged between 50 & 79 have been diagnosed with breast cancer, compared to 1 in 20 in general.

21% of GP’s did not appear to want to help or refused to help with treatment.

17% of trans people were refused (non trans related) healthcare.
Why Do We Need a Centre?

Homophobic bullying is almost endemic in Britain's schools. Over half (55 per cent) of young lesbian, gay and bisexual pupils in secondary schools have experienced direct bullying. Seventy five per cent of young gay people attending faith schools have experienced homophobic bullying.

Even if gay pupils are not directly experiencing bullying, they are learning in an environment where homophobic language and comments are commonplace. Ninety eight per cent of young gay people hear the phrases “that’s so gay” or “you’re so gay” in school, and over four fifths hear such comments often or frequently.

Less than a quarter (23 per cent) of young gay people have been told that homophobic bullying is wrong in their school. In schools that have said homophobic bullying is wrong, gay young people are 60 per cent more likely not to have been bullied.

90% of transgender students heard negative remarks about someone’s gender expression sometimes often or frequently at school. Remarks about student’s not acting masculine enough were more common than remarks about students not acting feminine enough.

A third of transgender students heard school staff make homophobic (32%) remarks, sexist (39%) remarks about someone’s gender expression (39%). Transgender students also reported little intervention on the part of school personnel when such language was used, less than a fifth of transgender students said the school staff intervened.
## Why Do We Need a Centre?

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Why Do We Need a Centre?

What we do

We provide facilities and space for LGBT social and support groups to meet. These include:-

Rubyfruit Woman - a social group for all lesbian, bisexual and questioning women.

Brotherhood - a social group for transmen

Silver Sipp-ers - a mixed group aimed at mature LGBT people who would like to meet and socialise with like-minded people in a ‘non scene’ environment.

Leicester Gay Group - one of the longest running social groups in the country for gay and bisexual men.

First Out - Leicester LGBT Centre's social and support group for young people aged between 13 and 19 who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or are questioning their sexuality or gender identity.

Leicester Butterflies - a group for Transsexual, Transgender and Gender queer people.

Iris Film Club – social group for local LGBT people aged 18+

Transgender Centre of Excellence – youth group for young trans people aged 0-18.

Leicestershire Rainbow Voices – LGBT choir

Friends – Online Social group for the local South Asian communities
Further Development

As part of our continuous improvement plans we aim to further develop work in these areas:-

Black & Minority Ethnic

Faith Communities

Older people

Disability

Emotional wellbeing

Mental health

Rural communities

And any other areas where LGBT people are at risk of social exclusion
Funding

The Leicester LGBT Centre receives no government funding to run its services. The Board of Directors, Senior Managers and staff have to raise all the monies needed to keep your Centre open by bidding for funding from various organisations. This is a challenging situation and what little funding the Centre receives can only be allocated to specific projects.

This means that the vital front line services that the Centre currently operates are not being funded. This is compounded by the current economic climate, which has resulted in many of our funding streams being cut.

All of the above means that the Centre is under threat and we need your support to ensure it survives and continues to provide the vital service it carries out on behalf of the LGBT people in Leicester, Leicestershire, Rutland & the East Midlands.

How Can You Help?

Donate to Leicester LGBT Centre
Remember us in your will
Fundraise for the Centre
Volunteer