our vision is a vibrant, diverse lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans community in Birmingham in which individuals can realise their full potential and have equal access to all the city has to offer.
Birmingham LGBT Annual Report 2014 Chair’s Report

We have seen another year of substantial growth and development at Birmingham LGBT during the 2013/14 year. Our Health and Wellbeing Centre opened its doors in January 2013 and since then we have seen a steady growth in community groups and providers of essential services for our LGBT Community utilising the centre as a base from which to support and engage.

We have focussed heavily over this year to develop and sustain Birmingham LGBT, ensuring we build strong strategic partnerships across the city and nationally, and that we continue to offer a wide range of services and programmes.

Our Older People’s Project has met with great success, offering older LGBT people the chance to meet, socialise and network. Our Shout Festival, bringing a wide range of LGBT focussed arts and cultural activities to Birmingham, continues with plans for securing longer term financial security.

Our Volunteers Programme has taken off, giving LGBT community members the opportunity to get involved with Birmingham LGBT and to offer their own time and skills to support the community. I would like to offer a heartfelt thanks to all of our hardworking and energetic volunteers who help us in so many ways.

A highlight of the year has been Birmingham LGBT winning the LGBT community organisation of the year award at the National Diversity Awards in September 2013, a real achievement and something we are all incredibly proud of.

Looking forward to 2014/15 we will be maintaining our focus of measured growth, particularly through partnerships and services commissioning, and we are launching our LGBT Leadership Academy to support LGBT professionals in their career progression. We have a very busy, exciting year ahead.

I would like to publicly thank Steph Keeble, our Director, for her ongoing championing, tireless hard work, and amazing strength; and David Viney for his ongoing hard work, enthusiasm and energy too, and the rest of our growing team who all bring such a great mix of skill and personality to Birmingham LGBT.

I would like to end with a dedication to Mike Syrett. Mike has been involved as a Board Member with Birmingham LGBT for a number of years, the latter of those as our Company Secretary. At the time of writing this report I have been informed that Mike has suddenly passed away. Mike was a dedicated Board Member, very keen, enthusiastic and with a great community spirit to do good. He was a fundamental part of the success Birmingham LGBT enjoys today, and will always be remembered as such.

Matt Daniels

Chair, Board of Management
3000 visits to the LGBT Centre

1 trans*/Fest

1 sports festival

95 befriending sessions

80 exercise sessions

2 trans* groups
10 community groups

200 older people supported

33 community events

400 instances of support
Birmingham LGBT Annual Report 2014 Director’s Report

It has been another good year for Birmingham LGBT: we have settled into the new LGBT Health & Wellbeing Centre and continued to grow and expand services. Birmingham LGBT were awarded the “Community Organisation LGBT” award at the National Diversity awards in September 2013, and in March 2014 received a number of awards at the Midland Zone Birmingham Pride Ball, including “Charity of Achievement”, “Best Event” for Pride in Sports, and “Outstanding Contribution to the LGBT Community”.

A lot has happened at Birmingham LGBT, and the last twelve months have been a period of continued growth and expansion. The new TOPAZ older people’s project has continued to develop and grow, offering activities and befriending to older LGBT people in the city. The Volunteering Project has expanded, and we were successful in securing funding from the Department of Health Volunteer and Social Care Fund to sustain the project and launch our new Community Wellbeing Champions programme. We currently have over 30 volunteers supporting the work of the Centre. In 2014 we received funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund ‘Young Roots’ stream to carry out the “Coming Out Stories” project, and are pleased to welcome Sarah Blackstock to the Birmingham LGBT team. We have been offering resources and support to LGBT community groups and currently have twenty groups meeting at the Centre.

We have diversified and developed our training, and delivered training to professionals on mental health awareness, LGBT awareness and domestic violence in LGBT relationships. We also carried out feasibility research into the needs of LGBT people experiencing domestic violence. The first LGBT Leadership Academy ran this year which was really exciting; the programme has received endorsement from the Institute of Leadership & Management (ILM) and 12 people completed the programme. This year we have run a number of events including the Pink Picnic, the first Trans* Fest event, the second Pride in Sports Festival, and the second Shout Film Festival.

Birmingham LGBT maintains very strong partnership working with a range of organisations: we are a member of the national LGB and T Strategic Partnership: a system partner to the Department of Health, NHS England and Public Health England working to influence the health agenda at a national level, and became part of consortia tendering for two public health contracts in the city: sexual health and substance misuse.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big “thank you” to the staff, trustees and volunteers who are part of the team at Birmingham LGBT. I feel honoured and privileged to work with such a passionate, hard-working group of people. I would also like to say “thank you” to all our funders, donors and stakeholders for continuing to support the aims of Birmingham LGBT, and finally I would like to thank Birmingham’s diverse LGBT communities who are at the heart of Birmingham LGBT’s mission and values. I am very proud to be a member of the community here in Birmingham, and very proud to be the Director of Birmingham LGBT. We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead.

Steph Keeble

Director, Birmingham LGBT
The Birmingham LGBT Centre acts as a one stop shop for community health.

Working with mainstream providers and specialist LGBT services and groups, we have developed an integrated approach to community wellbeing. Through this holistic model we are addressing the health disparities faced by LGBT communities.

As well as Health & Wellbeing services, Birmingham LGBT works with the LGBT community to develop an exciting range of cultural, sporting and community events, ensuring that the centre acts as a hub for LGBT community activity in the city.

It’s been a positive start for the Birmingham LGBT Centre, opening in late January 2013, this report reflects our first full year of activity.

We have hosted and developed a range of services for the LGBT community including: support & signposting, sexual health, wellbeing workshops, counselling, older people’s support, asylum advice, an LGBT library and fitness classes; as well as promoting awareness through our Rainbow Health Campaign.

Community groups meeting at the centre include: BGLAD, Brum Bi Group, Bards & Books, FTM Birmingham, Trans Central, Out with Prostate Cancer, LGBT Polska, Pink Shield, Illuminate, Journey Film Club, LGBT Line Dancing, Rainbow Spirit and the LGBT Alcohol Support Group.

Part of our strategy, to ensure the centre is a community hub, has been to develop series of events. We delivered 32 separate events including author talks, film screenings, theatre, quizzes, workshops, mini conferences, sporting events and debates.

We have been delighted at the level of enthusiasm and commitment from the LGBT community for the centre’s vision and programme, and we look forward to developing this further over the coming years.
TOPAZ is a befriending service which also offers events and activities for lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans* people, who are 50+ and living in Birmingham.

It offers a variety of ways to have safe, welcoming spaces and encourage people to get out and about where possible, taking part in activities with others of the same or similar age group and to make new friends. With the support of our volunteers, we have a “meet and greet” service for events and groups; to go with TOPAZ service users to appointments; make hospital visits; provide company when shopping; going for walks and other activities.

TOPAZ is making a difference to the older lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans* people in Birmingham by improving their social and emotional wellbeing.

We have seen an increase in the number of people using the TOPAZ befriending service in the last year, as well as continuing to support people both with befriending and through events; bringing people together and sharing some of their interests and concerns in a friendly atmosphere.

We have renegotiated a lower age limit for the project, so now people who are 50 or over can take part in TOPAZ activities and be matched by befriending volunteers.

TOPAZ events have included lunch and film club sessions, an ‘Art in Action’ trip, computer skills workshops, consultations about physical and mental health needs: ‘My LGBT Health’ a national debate on LGBT wellbeing for older people, and the Tom Marshman ‘Fiction & Lives’ project, which asked TOPAZ service users which fictional characters had influenced and inspired them.

TOPAZ continues to research and promote the housing needs of older LGBT people through the regular meetings of the Older LGBT Housing Group, chaired by Stonewall Housing.

95 befriending sessions
31 TOPAZ events
200 people supported

Service User Comments

“My meetings with S give me something to look forward to.”

Quote from the volunteer befriender with E – “I have really seen a difference in her over the last few months. She is really starting to be more talkative and outgoing now.”

“It feels good being able to plan to go to things which I wouldn’t go to on my own and I feel much more a part of things in life now.”

“Excellent lunch, excellent service and friendly atmosphere – great occasion for a lonely gay man.”

“First time visit – very impressed. I wanted to connect with other gay women and experience the centre and the café.”
Birmingham LGBT continues to develop its cultural programme which includes SHOUT Festival and LGBT Heritage projects.

As part of the ongoing development of the SHOUT Festival, we have secured funding for a new format festival in November 2014. The Boutique Festival will take place over four days and focus on performing arts and literature.

We were successful in a bid to Heritage Lottery Young Roots to develop a new project called ‘Coming Out Stories’. Led by young people, the project explores the concept of ‘Coming Out’ and looks at the social, political and personal context through personal testimony, and filmed interviews. Young people will learn new skills through participation and volunteering. Outputs for the project include a film, radio show and peer education pilot.

The third Pride in Sports Festival took place in September 2013. It included 27 taster sessions, plus 10 complementary events. The festival is a partnership between Birmingham LGBT and LGBT community sports clubs. The Festival attracted over 1000 participants from around the UK.

BeActive funding allowed us to develop a range of free activities in the VAULT fitness studio, including: Beginners Yoga, Pilates and Circuit Training. We have also developed a Table Tennis group.

We look forward to building on the success of Pride in Sports and the Be Active project, thanks to funding from Sports England to develop a three year programme of LGBT community sports in Birmingham.
We continue to support the trans* community in Birmingham through our two support groups for trans* men and trans* women, FTM West Midlands and Trans Central.

The groups meet monthly and have a healthy membership. As well as regular support groups meetings, and thanks to an Awards for All grant, we have been able to put on regular training for the trans* community including, confidence building, self-defence, sexual health, packing and binding and wigs and make-up.

We also hosted Birmingham’s first celebration of trans* life, trans*/Fest 2013. The event took place over three days and included films, speakers, workshops and a cabaret event featuring trans* artists and performers.

Volunteer Comments

“I have gained experience of different LGBT issues and a better understanding of how this impacts on people’s lives.”

“I’m enjoying making a contribution to my community. I think volunteering has improved my employment prospects.”

“I’m more confident as an out gay man in my working environments. When a colleague made inappropriate comments about my sexual orientation I was confident in raising it with my line manager. I have greater confidence in just been me.”

This year has seen the Birmingham LGBT volunteer programme go from strength to strength. We recruited 30 volunteers for our programmes including the LGBT Centre and the TOPAZ project. Trained volunteers are essential to the smooth running of the organisation. The volunteers have brought with them new skills, added greatly to our capacity and enabled us to be more flexible in the services we deliver. On average volunteers contributed 27 hours per week.

The passion and the enthusiasm of the volunteers has been overwhelming, they are vital in helping Birmingham LGBT fulfil its mission. This year saw an exciting new development in the volunteer programme with the new Wellbeing Champion programme, funded by the Department of Health, Volunteering Fund.
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
(Incorporating income and expenditure account)  

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Restricted</th>
<th>Sub total</th>
<th>Restricted Capital</th>
<th>Total 2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Incoming resources</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>from charitable activities</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>283,674</td>
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<tr>
<td>Earned income</td>
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<td>6,284</td>
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<tr>
<td>Incoming resources from Generated funds</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Voluntary income</td>
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<td>10,230</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1,637</td>
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<td>1,637</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,794</td>
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<tr>
<td>Incoming resources for Capital Fund</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>193,385</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total incoming resources</td>
<td></td>
<td>64,093</td>
<td>283,674</td>
<td>347,767</td>
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<td>438,414</td>
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Resources expended

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<th>Notes</th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Restricted</th>
<th>Sub total</th>
<th>Restricted Capital</th>
<th>Total 2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charitable activities</td>
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<td>27,962</td>
<td>250,035</td>
<td>277,996</td>
<td>47,527</td>
<td>325,523</td>
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<tr>
<td>Governance costs</td>
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<td>1,382</td>
<td>1,967</td>
<td>3,349</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,349</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total resources expended</td>
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<td>29,344</td>
<td>252,002</td>
<td>281,345</td>
<td>47,527</td>
<td>328,872</td>
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</table>

Net income for the period

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<th>Notes</th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Restricted</th>
<th>Sub total</th>
<th>Restricted Capital</th>
<th>Total 2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>34,750</td>
<td>31,672</td>
<td>66,422</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>47,527</td>
<td>18,895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>172,479</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
BIRMINGHAM LGBT

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>£ Unrestricted funds</th>
<th>£ Restricted funds</th>
<th>£ Designated fund</th>
<th>£ Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fixed assets</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4,505</td>
<td>238,888</td>
<td>243,393</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Current assets

Debtors and prepayments | 10 | 18,710 | 18,710 | 35,830 |
Cash at bank | | 91,077 | 56,571 | - | 147,649 | 75,884 |
Total Current assets | | 91,077 | 75,281 | - | 166,358 | 111,714 |

Creditors: amounts falling due

Within one year | 11 | 241 | 3,679 | 3,920 | 12,497 |
Net current assets | | 90,836 | 71,602 | - | 162,438 | 99,217 |
Total net assets | | 95,341 | 71,602 | 238,888 | 405,831 | 386,936 |

Represented by:

Accumulated funds:

General unrestricted fund | 12 | 95,341 | - | - | 95,341 | 51,653 |
Restricted funds | 12 | - | 71,602 | - | 71,602 | 48,868 |
Restricted capital fund | 12 | - | - | 238,888 | 238,888 | 286,415 |
Total | | 95,341 | 71,602 | 238,888 | 405,831 | 386,936 |

For the period ended 31 March 2014, the charity was entitled to exemption from an audit under section 477 the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors’ responsibilities:

1. The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act; and
2. The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements were approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf

Matt Daniels
Chairman

Simon Pickford
Treasurer

Date 17 September 2014
National Diversity Award 2013 // LGBT Community Organisation of the Year
Midlands Zone Readers Awards 2014 // Charity of the Year
RICS West Midlands 2014 // Community Benefit, Highly Commended (LGBT Centre)
Midlands Zone Readers Awards 2014 // Event of the Year (Pride in Sports)
Midlands Zone Readers Awards 2014 // Event of the Year, runner up (SHOUT Festival)
Local Government Awards 2013 // PING 2012, Highly Commended (BCC Partnership)
Midlands Zone Readers Awards 2014 // Outstanding Contribution Award
Trustees: Matt Daniels, Rita Tappia, Simon Pickford, Julia Lowndes Noreen Dowd, Kathryn Hobbs, Ben Smitton, Andrew Hitches-Davies.

Staff: Steph Keeble, David Viney, Ann Strach, Maria Hughes, Rose Page, Paddy Broughton, Larna Gallier, Jed Jerwood.

We would also like to thank all of the dedicated volunteers who are vital to the work of Birmingham LGBT.

Corporate Donors: DBK Partners, Southside BID, Midland Heart, Be Active, Birmingham & Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust, Pride in Care, John Taylor Hospice, Healthwatch, Unite, TUC, BVSC, West Midlands Police (The Network), BCC Employee Network, Gloscats and Wragge & Co.

A big thank you to all of our individual donors and sponsors.

Photography Colum Lavelle, Jamie Cox, David Viney

We would like to make a special mention for Mike Syrett, a Board Member and Company Secretary for Birmingham LGBT, who passed away in August 2014. Mike joined Birmingham LGBT as a Board Member in 2010 and served in a number of roles including a brief period of time when he stepped up as Interim Chair, then later as Company Secretary. He was keen and enthusiastic about providing services and opportunities for our LGBT community, and the development and growth of Birmingham LGBT. A dedicated Board Member, colleague and friend, Mike will be deeply missed by the Board and Staff of Birmingham LGBT.