Birmingham LGBT is the city’s leading charity advocating for and supporting lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans communities in Birmingham and beyond. We offer a range of services focused on improving the health & wellbeing of individuals.

We also believe passionately that Birmingham should be one of the best places in the UK for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans (LGBT) people to live, work and socialise, and we work to enable a thriving, visible and PROUD LGBT community in the city.

Chair’s Report

Birmingham LGBT has a commitment to embracing equality and diversity as one of its values. I want to reaffirm that commitment, following a year in which Birmingham has frequently been the target of those seeking to sew division and mistrust between the city’s communities.

The city’s LGBT community is in itself incredibly diverse, and stronger for it. This is reflected in the 20 or more groups that use our premises to meet and in the wide range of services we deliver. It is no small task for a charity to meet the needs of a large and diverse city like Birmingham. It would be impossible without the support of volunteers, donors, and funders, and we are very grateful for their support.

We have continued to deliver and develop a wide range of services during the year.

Ageing with Pride launched in August 2018. This was a really innovative campaign aimed at empowering LGBT people to continue to be themselves as they get older, promoting social mixing between generations, and addressing issues around ageism. We’re really pleased with the results of the campaign so far.

We have continued to support asylum seekers who are LGBT, in partnership with UKLGIG. Many LGBT asylum seekers have fled persecution in their own countries, and are often poorly treated once they arrive in the UK.

The National Lottery funded Living Well project finished this year and we are very pleased with the outcomes the project has achieved.

I have been Chair of the Board of Trustees for five years. I have decided not to seek re-election to the board of trustees at the November AGM, and a new chair will take over then. I wish them success in their new role.

I am grateful to all of the staff at Birmingham LGBT who I know have all made important contributions to the charity’s successes over the past year, and five years. I am thankful to my fellow board members for their good leadership and personal support to me.

I have worked closely with Steph Keeble, Birmingham LGBT’s director, for several years now. Steph is incredibly committed to our community and has made Birmingham LGBT into what it is today. Steph has supported me in my role as chair and has been wonderful to work with. Thank you, Steph. I am proud of what we have all achieved together.

Chair, Andrew Hitches-Davies
OUR VISION IS A VIBRANT, DIVERSE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANS COMMUNITY IN BIRMINGHAM, UK IN WHICH INDIVIDUALS CAN REALISE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL AND HAVE EQUAL ACCESS TO WHAT THE CITY HAS TO OFFER
Director’s Report

It’s been another successful year for Birmingham LGBT, with some key achievements and developments.

The period from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 has been a great year for Birmingham LGBT. While continuing to deliver our core services, including the LGBT health and wellbeing centre, SHOUT - Birmingham’s Festival of Queer Art, the Umbrella sexual health contract, our wellbeing support service, the LGBT domestic violence project, and the Ageing Better LGBT Hub, Birmingham LGBT also developed new services during the year, which means we have been able to further expand our service offer to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Trans community in the city.

We were successful in a tender to Ageing Better Birmingham to deliver the Ageing with Pride campaign, a year-long campaign aimed at raising awareness of the issues LGBT people face as they age. The campaign launched in August 2018, and had campaign bursts in November 2018 and February 2019, coinciding with SHOUT Festival and LGBT history month. We were also successful in securing Comic Relief funding to expand our Domestic Violence Service, by designing and delivering the first group work programme for LBT women who are survivors of domestic violence. The project started in December 2018.

As a result of Erasmus Plus funding, a number of staff attended training and job shadowing opportunities in Europe, with 3 staff attending facilitation training in Berlin and 4 staff attending training on coaching and leadership in Copenhagen. We also sent 2 members of staff and a trustee to Sweden, on a work shadowing opportunity with RSFL Sweden.

Our wellbeing support services developed, and we continue to be able to offer one-to one-appointments for support to people. This service has proved to be very popular. We also programmed a range of wellbeing events, including mindfulness classes, confidence building, yoga, and the annual Pink Picnic.

Birmingham LGBT’s Queer Arts Festival, SHOUT, joined the Arts Council’s National Portfolio in April 2018, and delivered another great programme while developing plans for the 10th anniversary in 2019/2020.

Birmingham LGBT continued to develop and expand our sexual health services in partnership with University Hospital Trust Birmingham, and developed a number of new services, including the Well Women’s clinic and a range of pop-up clinics in venues across the city.

We also continued to expand our training offer, delivering a programme of LGB and T training to a range of organisations. We also delivered a programme of LGBT domestic violence awareness training, in partnership with NOMS (National Offender Management Service).

We have continued to be a member of the National LGB and T Strategic Partnership, and work with a wide range of local partners, including local government, health, third sector, and criminal justice partners. We have also continued to support LGBT community groups, providing them with free meeting space at the LGBT Centre. Over twenty groups continued to meet at the centre throughout the year.

For me, one of the biggest highlights of the year was being one of the eight 2018 GSK Kings Fund Impact Award Winners. We were thrilled to be successful in achieving this prestigious award, and attended a two-day leadership program in May 2018 with the other winners, followed by an awards ceremony at the London Science Museum.

I would like to finish by saying a big thank you to all the staff, volunteers and board members who have worked so hard over the last twelve months to make Birmingham LGBT such a great organisation.
I would also like to thank all our partners, stakeholders, donors, and funders, who have been committed to the vision and values of Birmingham LGBT and enabled us to develop our service offer to the local LGBT community. I am extremely proud of the LGBT Health & Wellbeing Centre and everything we have achieved.

Steph Keeble, Director
6230 Brief Interventions
20 Community Groups met at the LGBT Centre
167 People accessed the Wellbeing Support Service

465 Ageing Better Events
7357 Visits to the LGBT Centre
1107 HIV Point of Care Tests

986 Assisted Self-Sampling STI Tests
33 Living Well Events
2719 Specific Interventions
1173
Non sexual health instances of support

681
New Ageing Better Participants

1075
People attended Living Well events
Our Services
About our Sexual Health Services

Birmingham LGBT has partnered with Umbrella since 2015 to deliver LGBTQ-focused sexual health services across Birmingham and Solihull.

Our open-access services operate 80 hours per week over 7 days, offering Assisted Self-Sampling STI Testing and HIV rapid testing, as well as opportunities for information and signposting.

Most of our sexual health services operate on a walk-in basis, with access to our other services offering holistic health and well-being to community members.

Current opening hours are: 8 am – 9 pm Monday to Friday and 11.30 am – 7 pm Saturdays and Sundays.

Clinical Services

The LGBT centre has fully functional clinical rooms and facilities, and the various nurse or GUM doctor-led clinics are provided by Umbrella clinical staff. These clinics offer tailored services to specific sections of the LGBT community, and treatment to those who may have STI symptoms.

*Our clinical services include:*

Twice weekly LGBT Nurse-Led Sexual Health Clinics - These clinics can be accessed by symptomatic patients.

**Weekly PrEP Advice Clinic and PrEP Impact Trial Birmingham Launch**

PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis) is a method of HIV prevention which involves taking a pill containing two medicines at periods of high risk, and has been shown in various studies to be highly effective at preventing HIV infection. Places on the Birmingham part of NHS England *PrEP Impact trial* are assessed and allocated via these Clinics, as well as monitoring of those on PrEP, whether Impact Trial subjects or privately purchasing.

**Monthly Clinic Trans**

The specifically targeted Trans sexual health clinic runs on a monthly basis, every 4th Friday between 4-7 pm. This clinic is co-facilitated by our Trans Sexual Health Promotion Worker, and provides culturally competent sexual health provision to trans and non-binary people.

**Monthly Lesbian & Bisexual Women’s Clinic**

The *Well Woman Sexual Health Clinic* runs on a monthly basis on the first Wednesday of the month, from 4- 7 pm. This clinic provides a dedicated space for lesbian, bisexual and queer women to access sexual health services and also offers smear testing. Our Lesbian & Bisexual Women’s Sexual Health Outreach Worker facilitates this clinic alongside clinical staff.
Community Sexual Health Outreach and Pop Up STI Testing services

Our sexual health outreach team carry out regular off-site sexual health promotion and testing opportunities directly to the LGBT community in a variety of settings through outreach activities. The majority of our outreach activities take the form of pop up clinics where we offer Assisted Self-Sampling STI Testing and HIV rapid testing, information and advice. Other forms of Outreach include Online Outreach on various dating/hook up sites such as Grindr and at PSE’s (Public sex environments) e.g. Cruising & dogging areas.

Volunteering and Peer Mentoring Services Summary

Birmingham LGBT provides a peer mentoring scheme to the LGBT community in order to better support the sexual health and well-being needs of those who access it. Volunteer peer mentors are trained and matched with mentee’s who are able to provide informal support and support access to other services or activities.

Themes for peer mentoring may include:

- ‘Coming out’
- Isolation and increasing support networks
- Coming to terms with an HIV diagnosis
- Healthier relationships

Chemfidential – Chemsex Support

Chemfidential is Birmingham LGBT’s Chemsex support service which aims to support those who may need support relating to chemsex or problematic use of substances (colloquially referred to as chems). The service supports individuals around a multitude of issues, including harm reduction measures such as consent and setting boundaries, approaches to safer sex, awareness of chems and possible detrimental effects and can facilitate links into counselling, psychosexual services and drug services where needed.

EMERGE – Young Trans peoples peer support group summary

Emerge is a peer support group for young people with a transgender identity. The group caters for young people between 13-19 years old. The group runs once a month and is facilitated by our Trans Sexual Health Outreach Worker and volunteers who identify as trans.

Emerge is a well-established and popular peer group, attracting very good attendance numbers.

RANG – South Asian peer support summary group

RANG (Meaning ‘Colour’ in Urdu) is a peer support group for South Asian and Middle Eastern MSM. The group runs once a month and is facilitated by South Asian & Middle Eastern MSM Sexual Health Outreach Worker. The majority of attendees at this group are affected by isolation, with root causes often being their sexuality and cultural background.

Out Central – Young LGBT peoples peer support group partnership work summary

Out Central is a youth group for young people between the ages of 13 and 19 who identify as LGBTQ+. This group is run by BAYC and the city council.

We offer a monthly session whereby a member of our sexual health team attends to offer support and information around sexual health and healthy relationships to the young people who attend.
Ageing with Pride

Ageing with Pride was a 12-month campaign that aimed to raise awareness of the issues faced by LGBT people as they age, to challenge stereotypes, and to promote intergenerational activities. It was the first year-long campaign of its kind in the city, and was carried out in partnership with BVSC as part of the Ageing Better programme. The programme launched in August 2018, and saw a campaign burst during the November coinciding with SHOUT Birmingham’s Festival of Queer Culture, and one in February during LGBT History Month.

The first campaign burst aimed to raise awareness of the presence of older LGBT people and of the issues they face, and the second campaign burst aimed to dismantle ageism in the LGBT community and to promote intergenerational alliances and networks. The campaign featured both digital and traditional media, and included adverts in LGBT press and mainstream media, adverts on billboards and bus stops, social media, and films. It also involved Ageing with Pride ambassadors talking on the radio, and taking campaign messages to care homes and social care providers, as well as social groups for older people.
Living Well in the LGBT Community

Our Reaching Communities funded project, Living Well in the LGBT Community, saw its final year of delivery this year.

The project was conceived as a response to poorer health & wellbeing outcomes experienced by the LGBT population in Birmingham & the West Midlands. These health disparities are often linked to experiences of isolation, discrimination and stigma. The disparities are also compounded by a failure of mainstream agencies to adequately acknowledge and address the needs of the LGBT population in both preventive programmes and service provision. The project aimed to improve the mental health and wellbeing of the LGBT community by providing culturally competent one-to-one emotional support, and decreasing isolation through a programme of wellbeing events and social activities.

Over the 3 years of the project it delivered the following outputs;

- 48 social-cultural events and 36 workshops attended by 2874 people
- 1706 hours of wellbeing support attended by 443 people
- 23 outreach sessions and 32 volunteering opportunities

After attending one-to-one support sessions, 90% of people reported feeling more confident, and 93% report an increased awareness of their wellbeing and how to take care of themselves. As a result of attending social activities, 70% reported felt more connected to the LGBT community, and after attending wellbeing workshops, 100% reported better coping strategies and a better knowledge of issues that impact on their wellbeing.

Beneficiary quotes

- Speaking to the wellbeing service has been like an anchor point, something to hold on to when having bad mental health days. I know I’m doing something to help out my mental health.
- A fab bunch of people and really helpful, insightful and have had a strong positive impact on my wellbeing and coping strategies.
- It’s nice to be able to attend and "be yourself", as opposed to going to a non-LGBT specific group and having to worry about your peer’s potential reaction, should you decide to come out to them at any point.
IDVA Service

Birmingham LGBT has continued to offer an Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy (IDVA) service for LGBT people who are experiencing abuse from their partners, ex-partners, or family members.

Domestic abuse encompasses various types of abuse such as physical, sexual, financial, psychological, stalking, forced marriage, amongst others. Our IDVA service, therefore, offers a safe space for service users to discuss their options and seek advice and support, tailored to their situation. This provides a platform for service users to then make informed decisions about their situation.

Our IDVA service also provides crisis intervention support, as well as advocacy, emotional, practical support and safety planning.

From April 2018 to March 2019, the IDVA service supported 49 new service users, in addition to providing ongoing support to current service users. This consisted of supporting 21 people experiencing intimate partner abuse, 16 people facing family abuse, and 12 people who were experiencing abuse from ex-partners.

During this period, Birmingham LGBT also received funding from Comic Relief to develop the ‘The Rainbow Project,’ which is a culturally competent group work programme for Lesbian, Bisexual and Trans women (LBT) who are survivors of domestic abuse. It is the first of its kind and will offer a safe space for LBT survivors to learn about domestic abuse, healthy relationships, as well as an opportunity to share experiences and gain peer support.

Service user feedback

I really thought no one would understand how hard it is leaving an abusive relationship. It took a lot for me to open up about my situation. When I finally did, I felt so well supported! I am so grateful to the IDVAs for their empathy, understanding and advice.
Ageing Better LGBT Hub

The Ageing Better LGBT Hub works to reduce and combat isolation in the 50+ age group, working with volunteers from the LGBT+ communities to set up new groups and activities and develop existing groups. Whether the group needs somewhere to meet, help with publicity, funding for resources or connections to places and spaces, the LGBT Hub continues to provide focussed support, information and networking opportunities to the LGBT+ communities of Birmingham and the surrounding areas. Our offer has extended to providing training workshops – “Doing It Better With Ageing Better” – to encourage peer support between groups and sharing information and good practice on funding, marketing, evaluation and problem-solving.

This year, 465 individual events took place which brought in 1015 participants, 681 of whom had not previously taken part in Ageing Better group events. 33 community groups were involved, including 16 new groups set up.

We continue to support groups and activities at the LGBT Centre, but we are also encouraging people to come together in their own areas and have been working in both north and south Birmingham to achieve this. We are also connecting with groups outside Birmingham to offer a wider choice and to share ideas and resources. We are now looking to link with different groups within the LGBT+ communities, such as veterans, communities of faith and of different abilities.

We are particularly proud of the relationships we are building with providers of residential care: we are raising awareness of the needs of LGBT+ people in these settings and helping to ensure they receive a sensitive, culturally-competent service. We’ve worked with agencies who provide opportunities for people to plan their later life end of life care, as well as celebrating all of the benefits age can bring and just how far we have come as a community fighting for our rights and recognition in society. We have also been working with the Birmingham Dementia Strategy steering group to support the refresh of their strategy.

In the year to come, we will build on what we’ve achieved with the Ageing Better in Birmingham programme to ensure we leave a legacy of community spirit, increased capacity and strengthened networks across Birmingham and beyond

Groups supported 2018-19

Acting Out
Proud Baggies
Ageing Better LGBT Housing Group
BGLAD
Bards & Books
InteGreat Theatre
OLN
Sprung
LGBTQ Parents Birmingham
QWSS
BootWomen
Hidayah
Journey Film Club
LGBT Polska
LGBT Line Dancing
Journey Asylum Seekers Social Group
Married Men’s Group
Positive West Midlands
Sutton Rainbow Social
Northfield Rainbows
TranSpectrum
Brum Bi-Group
TransCentral
OUTward Expressions
Rainbow Bridge
Together in Pride North Birmingham
Rainbow Pooch Pride
Rainbow Spirit
National LBT Women’s Health Week

Lesbian, Bisexual and Trans Women’s Health Week took place between 11th-15th March. The aim of LBT Women’s Health Week is to raise awareness about the health inequalities which affect women in LGBT+ communities, to make it easier for service providers to empower service users and for communities to support LBT women, as well as being an opportunity to celebrate, highlight and learn from the work of groups and services which provide dedicated support to lesbian, bisexual and trans women.

We felt that this week was an opportune time to relaunch the Well Woman Clinic for lesbian and bisexual women, run in partnership between Birmingham LGBT and Umbrella, and to highlight the role and engagement work of our lesbian and bisexual women’s sexual health outreach worker – Georgia Pattison - by launching a 6-month promotional campaign with DIVA magazine (a UK and Europe magazine and online platform specifically for lesbian and bisexual women).

The first organised forum we were involved with was an online Twitter Q&A which was hosted by the National LGBT partnership and took place between 2-4 pm on 12th March. Georgia was a member of the panel for this. Also on 12th March, Georgia attended a meeting at the House of Lords hosted by Baroness Barker, who is the chair for the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) which is made up of MPs and Peers and who aim to raise awareness in parliament of the importance of improving all aspects of the sexual health of women and men in the UK. This particular meeting was focusing on the Sexual and Reproductive health needs of LBT women. As part of the panel attending the meeting, Georgia delivered a presentation on the specific needs of LBT Women and barriers they may face when accessing healthcare.

On 13th March, Georgia delivered a presentation to key stakeholders from across the West Midlands, such as screening providers, local authorities, third sector organisations, and Clinical Commissioning Groups, at an event in Birmingham hosted by the Screening and Immunisation Team at Public Health England. The presentation aimed to give the audience an understanding of key barriers and inequalities faced by the LGBT community in accessing health services, particularly in relation to screening campaigns.

On 14th March, Georgia, along with Alexus Savage, our Trans Sexual Health Outreach Worker, both attended the launch of the LGBT Sector Women’s Network, a forum created by the National LGBT partnership. This was an initial networking event and a chance for LBTQ+ Women who work in the LGBT sector to network and meet peers. This was an invaluable experience for building connections, creating networks and making contacts. The connections made at this networking event will mean that as an organisation we can ensure that we are constantly updating our services to improve quality and keeping in the loop with what other LGBT organisations are developing for the community.
[SHOUT 2018] took risks and pushed at the boundaries of what is usually examined in theatre/performance exploring LGBT issues... Performances dealt with innovative and new ideas and challenged my thoughts...' – Arts Council England, Quality Assessment Report of SHOUT Festival 2018.

SHOUT
FESTIVAL OF QUEER ARTS AND CULTURE

2018 saw Birmingham join the Arts Council’s National Portfolio, securing our funding from 2018-2022. Over 26,000 people travelled from across the Midlands and beyond for our 9th year of SHOUT Festival. The festival spanned 10 days, presenting the best of performance, film, and visual arts from a diverse line-up of LGBTQ+ talent.

SHOUT’s 2018 programme marked 30 years since the introduction of Section 28 - it looked at exploring queer relationships, and the connection we make with one another. The festival kicked off in glamorously sequined style with the brilliant Le Gateau Chocolat performing ICONS at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, complete with a live orchestra, and was followed up with hilarious, touching, and outrageous events and performances from Jinkx Monsoon, Harry Clayton-Wright, Lucy McCormick, and Darren Pritchard Dance’s RENT PARTY.

Over the course of 2018, SHOUT supported 12 Midlands-based artists with new commissions and development opportunities. We also welcomed 50 professionals from arts organisations across the region to a training course on trans* awareness and accessibility in arts venues. In February 2019, we presented our third Birmingham LGBT History Festival to sell-out audiences.

For the first time ever we supported a SHOUT Artist in Residence, Sean Burns. Sean re-created a new edition of Birmingham LGBT+ magazine from the late 1980s In The Pink and distributed 3000 copies of these around the city for free. The publication was selected to appear as part of the Paris Ass Book Fair, an LGBTQ+ publication festival at the prestigious Palais de Toyko, Paris, making it the first piece of work commissioned by SHOUT to be presented outside the UK.

‘A festival we all should be shouting about’ – Diva Magazine
### BIRMINGHAM LGBT

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**

**AS AT 31 MARCH 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>Unrestricted funds general £</th>
<th>Unrestricted funds designated £</th>
<th>Restricted funds £</th>
<th>Total 2019 £</th>
<th>Total 2018 £</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donations and legacies</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>64,040</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>64,040</td>
<td>26,125</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charitable activities</td>
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<td>2,848</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>632,429</td>
<td>635,277</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
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<td>14,268</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>14,268</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>21,263</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>21,263</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total income**

| | 102,419 | - | 632,429 | 734,848 | 730,089 |

**Expenditure on:**

| Notes | Charitable activities | 8 | 63,620 | - | 774,001 | 837,621 | 674,203 |

**NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**

| | 38,799 | - | (141,572) | (102,773) | 55,886 |
| Fund balances at 1 April 2018 | 166,979 | 30,000 | 261,083 | 458,062 | 402,176 |

**Fund balances at 31 March 2019**

| | 205,778 | 30,000 | 119,511 | 355,289 | 458,062 |

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.
### BIRMINGHAM LGBT

#### BALANCE SHEET

**AS AT 31 MARCH 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Notes</strong></td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fixed assets</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tangible assets</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>8,452</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Current assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debtors</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>57,556</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at bank and in hand</td>
<td>340,106</td>
<td>342,714</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>397,662</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</strong></td>
<td>16</td>
<td>(50,825)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net current assets</td>
<td></td>
<td>346,837</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets less current liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>355,289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income funds</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted funds</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>119,511</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted funds – designated</td>
<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unrestricted funds – general</td>
<td>205,778</td>
<td>166,979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>355,289</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2019. No member of the company has deposited a notice, pursuant to section 476, requiring an audit of these accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies’ regime.

The accounts were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on ________________

Mr A Hitchens-Davies (Chair)
**Trustee**

Company Registration No. 07203554
Erasmus 2018 Job shadowing in Sweden

Sajida (Senior IDVA), Megan (Trustee), and myself (Trans Sexual Health Worker), flew to Stockholm on 25 November 2018, to shadow colleagues at The Swedish Federation for LGBTQ Rights (RFSL). RFSL is a non-profit organisation founded in 1950, with the goal that ‘LGBTQ people should have the same rights, possibilities, and obligations as everyone else in society’. The organisation has 60 or so staff working at the Stockholm office, with 38 branches all over Sweden. The branches are where members can take part in social events and other activities. There are around 7000 members. RFSL as an organisation works on a local, national, and international level.

The main areas of work covered by RFSL are:

• Crime/victim support
• Education and certificating unit
• Newcomers/Asylum seekers
• HIV/Sexual Health
• Trans support

During our stay, we were looked after by Kina Sjostrom, Carina Wrangebo, and Maria Tillquist, who all work on the Crime Victims and Asylum Support team. During our visit to the Stockholm office, we also met with other members of staff, including the director, education team, Trans support, and HIV support.

We visited an HIV clinic specifically for LGBTQ people, and shared our experiences with sexual health work and the different outreach activities we undertake in Birmingham and Solihull to reach communities. We were also shown around a refuge for female victims of domestic/sexual violence - the refuge has a Trans inclusion policy so that Trans women can safely and confidently access the service. A visit to one of the local branches also took place, where we met members of the community and talked about the activities they can get involved in.

There are obvious differences between Birmingham LGBT and RFSL in terms of size and scope, and it was interesting to compare the way both our organisations work, and what all 3 of us took from the trip was that we, as an organisation, punch above our weight.

Alexus Savage, Trans Sexual Health Worker
Funders

We would like to thank the following funders for their support:

National Lottery Community Fund (Awards for All & Reaching Communities)
Comic Relief
Henry Smith
Erasmus Plus
University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust
Arts Council England
Southside Bid
Manchester Airport
Sports England
Ageing Better in Birmingham (BVSC)
Gowling WLG
Pride Fund

We would also like to thank our partners, stakeholders and beneficiaries.