

**Background information**

Birmingham LGBT was set up in 2002, with the aim of reinvigorating the diverse LGBT communities in Birmingham. Originally named ‘Birmingham Pride Trust’, reflecting its origins as a breakaway group from the Birmingham Pride festival, it had an initial funding donation from profits from the festival. Several of the Birmingham Pride organisers wanted to do something to improve the quality of life of the LGBT community in Birmingham all year round, not just during the Birmingham Pride weekend.

Following a successful bid to the National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund, Birmingham LGBT set up the first LGBT Health and Wellbeing Centre in England in Birmingham and developed a programme of wellbeing initiatives that aim to address the significant health inequalities experienced by LGBT people. These initiatives include:

* LGBT peer support and community groups;
* social and wellbeing support for older LGBT people;
* support for LGBT survivors of domestic and sexual violence and abuse;
* cultural activities and events as part of the Shout Festival;
* LGBT input into public health projects;
* drug and alcohol misuse support to LGBT people;
* LGBT-affirmative wellbeing support and counselling
* LGBT sexual health services as part of the University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Trust’s Umbrella Health service;
* LGBT Awareness and Trans Awareness training for healthcare and other organisations.

Birmingham LGBT has successfully organised many LGBT community-focused events and projects, including the Pink Picnic, Queer Question Time, Are You Being Served?, Gay Birmingham Remembered and the Shout Festival, all aimed at raising the profile and visibility of the LGBT community in Birmingham and the West Midlands and informing key service providers and stakeholders of its specific needs.

**Our Vision is a vibrant, diverse, LGBT community in Birmingham and the West Midlands in which individuals can realise their full potential and have equal access to all the city and region have to offer.**

Our objectives are:

* to raise awareness of the needs of LGBT people in Birmingham and the West Midlands;
* to advocate for their needs to the wider community and to promote opportunities to LGBT people in Birmingham and the West Midlands to enable them to fully participate in the lives of their communities;
* to act as the voice of the LGBT community in Birmingham, based on a knowledge and evidence of real needs;
* to create a positive and visible LGBT community in Birmingham and the West Midlands;
* to create a highly skilled LGBT third sector that has opportunities for volunteering and service development;
* to raise awareness of the needs of the LGBT community in Birmingham and the West Midlands;
* to develop appropriate services for the LGBT community where needs exist;
* to challenge negative stereotypes about LGBT people and to combat homophobia, biphobia and transphobia.

Birmingham LGBT will be moving to new, purpose-built premises in Hurst Street in the summer of 2025.