

Trustees Annual Report 2020 -2021

North Midlands LGBT Older Peoples Groups

Charity 1186844

Trustees: Maurice Greenham (Chair), Paul Segynowycz (Treasurer), John Miller (Secretary), Angie Boote, Dennis Layton, Stephen Malkin, Andrew Colclough

Charitable Incorporated Organisation – Association Model

A volunteer led group whose trustees are elected by its members – In the past year, all activities including monthly Board meetings have been held online

The last twelve months has tested the resilience of the group with a second wave of the coronavirus leading to a prolonged lockdown. Members have met these challenges with remarkable good will and a generous spirit of cooperation. There has been consistent support for the programme of online activities we have been able to offer thanks to a successful project funded with a grant from the National Lottery Community Fund and the Government.

The group can now record passing its one-year milestone as a registered charity: Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) 1186844 (9 December 2019)

OLGBT MIND-MATTERS Project was awarded £5000 from the Coronavirus Community Support Fund to help with people's mental health and wellbeing. We can report that the project was completed on time and on budget. In total 47 participants attended at least one session; some were attracted to one activity more than another. All feedback from the four craft workshops and four performing arts series of workshops was positive. Realizing that not everyone was in the fortunate position of having a supportive organisation during the pandemic, all workshops and social Zoom sessions were made available to members of the wider public who felt they might benefit from our programme of creative and social activities. This explains the higher number of participants than normal and is in furtherance of our public benefit objective to integrate with the wider community. Moving our monthly group meetings to weekly ones online, increased opportunities for people to engage socially from 12 to 52...more than a fourfold increase.

Stoke Pride 2020 was cancelled because of the pandemic and the online version only had one contributor – this group. Preparations are underway for a better organised online Stoke Pride 2021, and we have been working on making a video of the OLGBT group's activities throughout the past year as our contribution.

As full members of the LGBT Consortium we benefitted from its advice and trustee training in conjunction with the Small Charities Coalition. As a result, our trustees are better

prepared to understand and undertake their roles and responsibilities. In addition, we now have a set of policies in place which we intend to review annually and update when needed. We can also be confident that all activities have directed at the charity's chief beneficiaries (older LGBT people) as well as for the wider public benefit.

Maurice Greenham (Chair)

