



North Midlands

Annual Report 2026

April 2025 - March 2026

North Midlands LGBT+ Older Peoples Group

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Registered Charity number: 1186844

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Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



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UK Government

About Our Charity

North Midlands LGBT+ Older Peoples Group (Also known as OLGBT+)

Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Registered Charity 1186844

Trustees: Maurice Greenham (Chair), Andrew Colclough (Vice Chair), Joe Waring (Treasurer), Stephen Malkin, Paul Smith

Object (paragraph 3 of Constitution) Certified 19 December 2019

The object of the CIO is the promotion of social inclusion for the public benefit by working with people who are socially excluded on the grounds of their gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation (in particular lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people) to meet the needs of such people and assist them to fully participate in society, in particular by: (a) providing a local network group that encourages and enables LGBT+ people to participate more effectively with the wider community and (b) increasing, or co-ordinating, opportunities for LGBT+ people to engage with service providers, to enable those providers to adapt services to better meet the needs of those people.

Combatting Isolation and Loneliness



The OLGBT+ Group celebrated its 15th anniversary in December 2024. Many of the fifteenth year anniversary celebrations fell within the reporting period including the well-attended end of year festivities in Fenton Town Hall Ballroom.

Regular Meetings

In the reporting period from April 2025 to March 2026, the OLGBT group held 52 support meetings. Twelve of these were monthly in-person lunchtime social meetings at Fenton Town Hall hosted by The Café in the Ballroom or in the Community Rooms. Thanks to Lottery funding, lunch and refreshments were provided at all of these meetings.



February meeting at Fenton Town Hall

Twelve in person social meetings took place at Summer Street on Monday evenings. In total 24 members attended one or more of these meetings. The funded pizza nights, understandably, had the highest number of attendees.



Meeting at Summer Street with guest speaker Brett

The remainder of the charity's 52 weekly meetings were held online. Although numbers were smaller than in-person meetings, they were valued by participants, especially those with mobility or other issues that prevented them from coming to Summer Street or Fenton Town Hall.

Trips Out

Thanks to the willingness of group members to organise trips themselves, the number of excursions exceeded the number planned without surpassing the budget for outings. A donation from the National Trust of free entry vouchers enabled multiple visits to Biddulph Grange and Little Moreton Hall.



Trip to Little Moreton Hall

Increased demand for places on the Caldon canal trip resulted in two outings instead of one. The social benefits of spending extended time together were enhanced by the incalculable improvements both physical and mental of being outside in a rich natural environment free from traffic pollution.

Performing Arts

THEATRE TRIPS

Theatre trips included two different productions by the touring theatre company Send in the Clowns and the New Vic's staging of *The Grand Babylon Hotel* by Arnold Bennet, all at the New Vic Theatre. We also had an enthusiastic response for our Christmas trip to see Claybody Theatre's adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens at the Spode Museum.

PERFORMANCES

As previously noted, we collaborated in partnership with B-Arts production of the Community Opera "Who Is Molly Leigh" in which several members took active participatory roles.

DRUMMING WORKSHOP

This activity was another performing arts session in the charity's year two of planned and funded events. It took place in the ballroom of Fenton Town Hall under the direction of Mika de Olivera, leader of Art Brasil. Musical activities of this nature bring fresh mental and creative challenges to group members, as well as facilitating a strong team cohesion.



Drumming workshop in the ballroom at Fenton Town Hall

Partnerships

OLGBT+ extended its collaboration with B-Arts to produce a series of public performances in July of the Community Opera “Who Is Molly Leigh”.



Complete Cast at the final curtain call of ‘Who Is Molly Leigh’

The group continued its partnership with the Beth Johnson Foundation with the digital workshops ‘Tea and Tech’. Our partnership with Project 93 was strengthened when OLGBT+ members supported its Stoke on Trent Centenary world record breaking cream tea party. We were also invited to take part in the Centenary People’s Parade.



World record breaking cream tea party to mark Centenary of Stoke on Trent

Projects

Successful funding applications from the previous year and the present one have enabled the group to plan and achieve its most ambitious programme of projects in its history.

LGBT+ LIVES – PHOTOGRAPHY & HERITAGE PROJECT

With Support from Arts Council England through a Project Grant we have been working in collaboration with arts organisation GRAIN Projects to produce a photography and heritage project with the LGBT+ older community in North Staffordshire. During 2025/6 there have been a series of workshops exploring LGBT+ identity, lived experience and our connection to the city. Professional artists Ming de Nasty and Daniel Lyttleton have created new photographic portraits with individuals in North Staffordshire that will be accompanied by personal histories and archive materials that will be curated for exhibitions and a publication in Autumn 2026.

Our project has been further expanded by GRAIN receiving support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to co-create a heritage project that explores and celebrates the identity and histories of older LGBT+ residents of Stoke-on-Trent and the North Staffordshire area.

As part of our collaboration with GRAIN Projects OLGBT+ members delivered a training session for the Stoke Archives service and had a behind the scenes tour of archival items. We look forward to developing this partnership further as the project reaches fruition.



Discussions at Stoke Archives (photo by GRAIN)

OLGBT+ CLAY STORIES

Projects completed within the reporting period include OLGBT+ Clay Stories with Sarah Fraser; an eight-week programme exploring storytelling and narrative using clay. Additional funding allowed this project to be extended, culminating in exhibitions at ACAVA Studios, Spode Works, Stoke and Fenton Town Hall.



Clay Stories Workshop at ACAVA Studios, Spode Works

RAINBOW THREADS

The continuation of Rainbow Threads project led by textile artist Jane Titley formed part of the second year of planned and funded creative craft workshops. Each session strengthened social cohesion within the group as well as offering opportunities to acquire new skills or improve existing ones. Some of the pennants created by members were displayed at the Lord Mayor of Stoke's banquet, at Stoke Pride in June 2025 and also at the end of year celebration at Fenton Town Hall.



A display of pennants made by OLGBT+ members and supporters.

Community Health Champions

The North Midlands LGBT Older Peoples Group is a partner of the Community Health Champions (CHC) initiative co-ordinated by VAST.

We have continued our participation in the NHS Community Health Champion scheme by hosting speakers on health related topics at our in person meetings and posting regular health messages in our weekly mailings and monthly newsletters.

In June 2025 we concluded a series online surveys designed to gather feedback from our members about local services and how they could be improved to tackle LGBT+ Health Inequalities. The surveys were themed around **Hospitals and Primary Care, Mental Health and Adult Social Care**.

We created a post on the OLGBT + website to help disseminate the results to our local organisations. Read more and download the reports here - [Health Inequalities surveys on the OLGBT+ website](#)



Prides

OLGBT+ was present at Stoke Pride 2025 with a new branded gazebo and banners. This year's Pride had the greatest numbers of group members taking part in the parade. Pennants created by participants in the Rainbow Threads project were displayed. Member David had a selection of his vast collection of models on display and Nicola and Ming from GRAIN Photography Hub were engaging visitors to participate in the ongoing LGBT+ Lives Photography and Heritage Project.



Our new branded gazebo and flags at Stoke Pride 2025

As well as our regular attendance at Stoke Pride, OLGBT+ took part in the first Pride In the Moorlands and in the second Stafford Pride.



Pride In the Moorlands Parade in Leek

Research

Throughout the reporting period, OLGBT+ has received numerous requests from university departments and individual students to help with their research programmes. The group lacks the capacity to engage with all these requests, but we have responded to as many inquiries as we are able that align with the charity's objectives. Research supported over the past twelve months included equality following the Same Sex Marriage Act Of 2014, LGBTQ+ health and the experiences of older gay men.

Communications

Monthly newsletters have been created and posted to our mailing list of over 500 subscribers as well weekly mailings sent to 150 members and prospective members. WhatsApp is the most popular social media platform used by the group with our Facebook Page and Private Facebook Group in second place. The group email account has seen increased use by members and also from outside sources.

Over the reporting period, the North Midlands LGBT Older Peoples Group has seen a significant increase in membership and an exponential growth of subscribers to the mailing exceeding 500.

The group's website is a gateway for members and the wider public to discover what is doing and what it has achieved. Thanks to the diligent and enthusiastic work of Andrew our Vice Chair, the website has also become a rich and valuable resource for local LGBT+ history. Funded projects like GRAIN LGBT+ Lives photography project and members collaboration with Staffordshire Archives LGBTQ+ Oral history project have facilitated an exuberant, wholehearted response.



<https://olgbtstoke.org.uk/lgbt-history>

Financial Statement (Appended)

The appended financial statement sets out our income and expenditure for the financial year April 2025 to March 2026.

We are grateful to the following for the grants we have received:

Grants received £1,000 or more 2025/26

We did not receive any grants of £1000 or more in this reporting period.

Grants From the Previous Financial Year

Our activities this year have primarily been funded through grants received in the previous financial year. We gratefully acknowledge support from:

- Awards for All (The National Lottery Community Fund) - **£18,415**, a two year grant to be spent by 28th May 2026)
- Arts Council - **£13,500** for our photography based history project in partnership with GRAIN Photography which will conclude in financial year 2025/26
- Consortium LGBT+ Futures: Equity Fund (Consortium of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Voluntary and Community Organisations) - **£4,740**, to be spent by 30th October 2025

We are also grateful for the support of GRAIN photography and wish to acknowledge the support of National Lottery Heritage Fund for the LGBT+ history project that GRAIN are running in partnership with us.

**Thank you to all our members and supporters,
we look forward to another successful year!**

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees' of
North Midlands LGBT+ Older Peoples Group
for the year ended 31 March 2026**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the period ended 31 March 2026 which are set out on pages 7 to 9.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees of The North Midlands LGBT+ Older Peoples Group, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of The North Midlands LGBT Older Peoples Group accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of The North Midlands LGBT Older Peoples Group as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed 
Daryl Denson ACMA
VAST

Date 03/07/26

**North Midlands LGBT+ Older People Group
Receipts & Payments account
for the year ended 31 March 2026**

		<i>Unrestricted</i>	<i>Restricted</i>	2026	2025
		£	£	£	£
Receipts	Notes				
Donations		1,211	-	1,211	1,327
Grants	3	-	474	474	39,703
Bank interest		277	-	277	95
Total receipts		1,488	474	1,962	41,125
Payments					
Misc, insurance etc		23	110	133	176
Visits		-	2,313	2,313	9,885
Project costs		-	25,008	25,008	2,150
Total payments		23	27,431	27,454	12,211
Net receipts/(payments)		1,465 -	26,957 -	25,492	28,914
Cash funds at start of this period		2,447	28,344	30,791	1,877
Cash funds at end of this period		3,912	1,387	5,299	30,791

**North Midlands LGBT Older Peoples Group
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
at 31 March 2026**

	2026	2025
Cash assets	£	£
Current account	86	505
Savings Account	5,213	30,286
	<u>5,299</u>	<u>30,791</u>

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the organisation by:

Signed 

Date 03/07/2026

Name Maurice Greenham

Position Chair

North Midlands LGBT Older Peoples Group
Notes to the accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2026

1. Receipts & payments accounts

Receipts and payments accounts are statements that summarise the movement of cash into and out of the organisation during the financial year. In this context “cash” includes cash equivalents, for example, bank accounts where cash can be readily withdrawn to pay for debts as they become due.

2. Creditors

	2026	2025
	£	£
Accountancy	498	474
	498	474

3. Funds

	Funds b/f	Income	Expenses	Funds c/f
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted				
General Funds	2,447	1,488	(23)	3,912
	2,447	1,488	(23)	3,912
Restricted				
Awards for All	12,100	-	(11,113)	987
Arts Council	12,150	-	(11,750)	400
Consortium LGBT+Futures	4,094	-	(4,094)	-
VAST	-	474	(474)	-
	28,344	474	(27,431)	1,387
Total	30,791	1,962	(27,454)	5,299









OLGBT+ 2026 Accounts

Final Audit Report

2026-07-03

Created:	2026-07-03
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