A look at Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender life in Sheffield

Compiled and Edited for UNISON City of Sheffield Branch by Stephen Johnson
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A pdf version of this booklet can be downloaded from the following website -

www.sheffield-unison.org.uk/sog/lgbt.html

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A lot has happened in recent years designed to improve the lives of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) people and to recognise that they, like other members of our society, lead ordinary everyday lives. They eat they sleep; they work they play; they drink, watch films and go shopping; they go on holiday and they worship; they get elected to local councils and to Parliament. In short, they do what other people do and they don’t do what other people don’t do.

LGBT people are nowadays accepted by the societies they live and work in and to a greater extent live their lives without fear of abuse and attack. It hasn’t though always been like that, and sadly for some LGBT people, prejudice and discrimination are still suffered at school, at home and at work – despite legislation outlawing homophobic, biphobic and transphobic practices.

The LGBT History Month in February has become an established annual event during which events are held across the United Kingdom to celebrate the lives of LGBT people and reflect on the barriers they have had to overcome. They also acknowledge the efforts and work of those people and organisations that have helped to break down those barriers.

This short booklet has been prepared as a reflection and celebration with a specific emphasis on the LGBT people who live, study, work or are otherwise connected with Sheffield and the organisations based in this city who have made their contributions to breaking down the barriers – and how they broke!

Dave Prentis
General Secretary, UNISON
IT’S THE LAW
Legislation relating to homosexuality and gender through the ages

Anal sex was declared illegal in 1533 and punishable by beheading. This could apply only to men. Women who had sexual relations with each other were accused of witchcraft and punished by being burned at the stake.

The Offences Against the Person Act 1863 commuted the penalty for anal sex from death to imprisonment for years to life imprisonment.

The Criminal Law Amendment Act 1885 punished sex between men (the crime of gross indecency) with two years’ imprisonment with hard labour.

The Sexual Offences Act 1967 decriminalised sex in private between two men over the age of 21 if no one else present (influenced by the recommendations of the Wolfenden Report 1957). This did not extend to the armed forces personnel.

The Local Government Act 1988 was enacted. Section 28 made it illegal for a local authority to ‘promote’ homosexuality. This had serious consequences in schools.

The World Health Organisation’s General Assembly removed homosexuality from its list of mental disorders in May 1990.

The age of consent for sex between men (still in private) was reduced to 18 in 1994.

The Sex Discrimination (Gender Reassignment) Regulations 1999 amended the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 in order to extend its provisions to transgendered people.

The age of consent for sex between men was reduced to 16 in the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 2000 (effective January 2001). This also applied to sex between women, the first time there had been an age of consent for women.
The Employment Equality (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2003 made it illegal for employers (or their employees) to discriminate against current and prospective employees on grounds of their actual or perceived sexuality. This applies also to the sexuality of members of an employee’s family or friends.

Section 28 of the Local Government Act 1988 was repealed in 2003.

The Criminal Justice Act 2003 recognised hate crime against LGB people and made it an offence to harass, bully or abuse someone because of their sexuality.

The Sexual Offences Act 2003 eliminated all discriminatory legislation with respect to sexual relations between men and repealed the Criminal Law Amendment Act 1885.

The Gender Recognition Act 2004 allowed transsexuals to obtain a certificate allowing them to obtain a birth certificate that would show the gender they believe themselves to be.

The Civil Partnership Act 2004 (effective 5 December 2005) permitted same sex couples to register their partnership in a legal civil ceremony. This gives the partners in a same sex relationship the same rights as the partners in a heterosexual marriage. Civil Partnerships have to be legally dissolved as do marriages.

The Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2007 have made it illegal for any individual or organisation providing goods and services to refuse to provide goods and services to, or discriminate against, any LGBT person.
SAYING THE RIGHT THING
A glossary of LGBT terminology and list of abbreviations used herein

Over the years many derogatory words and phrases have been used when referring to LGBT people. These days new and not so new terminology is used which some people do not fully understand. This glossary, which includes some medical terminology, should help give better definition to that terminology.

Being ‘out’ – a person who is open about their sexuality.

Bi – see Bisexual.

Biphobia – prejudice against bisexual people.

Bisexual – a person who is sexually attracted to both men and women.

Coming ‘out’ – a person who is in the process of revealing their sexuality.

Gay – see Homosexual.

Gender – the biological sex of a person, male or female, based on their reproductive anatomy.

Gender identity – the gender a person identifies with. Not necessarily the same as the sex they were assigned at birth.

Gender dysphoria – a medical diagnosis for the conflict experienced by someone between the gender they were assigned at birth and their desire to live as a member of the opposite sex.

Gender reassignment – the medical and/or surgical process of transitioning from the gender assigned at birth to the gender identified with.
**Heterosexual** – a person who is sexually attracted to people of the opposite sex. The more common term used is ‘straight’.

**Homophobia** – prejudice against gay men and lesbians.

**Homosexual** – a person who is sexually attracted to people of their own sex. The more common terms used are ‘gay’ for men and ‘lesbian’ for women.

**LGB** – Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual.

**LGBT** – Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender. Some prefer the term LGB and/or T.

**Lesbian** – see Homosexual.

**Outing** – revealing a person’s sexuality without their consent or knowledge.

**Sex** – see Gender.

**Sexual orientation** – the sexual preference of a person, can be gay, lesbian or straight. The more common term is ‘sexuality’.

**Sexuality** – see Sexual orientation.

**Straight** – see Heterosexual.

**Trans** – an inclusive term including people who identify as transgender, transsexual, transvestite or trans.

**Transgender person** – a person whose own gender identity does not conform to the sex they were assigned at birth. ‘Trans’ is becoming a more popular term.

**Transgendered** – a person who has undergone a medical and/or surgical process to change their gender from one sex to the other. ‘Trans’ is becoming a more popular term.
**Transition** – the point at which a person has medically and/or surgically transgendered from one sex to the other.

**Transphobia** – prejudice against transgender, transgendered and transsexual people.

**Transsexual person** – a legal/medical term for someone who lives, or wishes to live, permanently in their ‘new’ gender.

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**ABBREVIATIONS used herein**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>AIDS</td>
<td>Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome</td>
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<td>BME</td>
<td>Black &amp; Minority Ethnic</td>
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<td>CYWU</td>
<td>Community &amp; Youth Workers’ Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>GMB</td>
<td>General, Municipal &amp; Boilermakers’ Union</td>
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<td>GUM</td>
<td>Genito Urinary Medicine</td>
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<td>HIV</td>
<td>Human Immunodeficiency Virus</td>
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<td>IDAHO</td>
<td>International Day Against Homophobia</td>
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<td>LGB</td>
<td>Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual</td>
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<tr>
<td>LGBT</td>
<td>Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender</td>
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<tr>
<td>NALGO</td>
<td>National &amp; Local Government Officers’ Association</td>
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<td>NHS</td>
<td>National Health Service</td>
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<td>OLGBT</td>
<td>Older Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender</td>
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<tr>
<td>PASH</td>
<td>Peer Activities in Sexual Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>PCS</td>
<td>Public &amp; Commercial Services Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSHE</td>
<td>Personal, Social &amp; Health Education</td>
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<td>SLGBYI</td>
<td>Sheffield Lesbian, Gay &amp; Bisexual Youth Initiative</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOG</td>
<td>Self Organised Group (within UNISON)</td>
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<tr>
<td>STI</td>
<td>Sexually Transmitted Infection</td>
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<tr>
<td>T&amp;G</td>
<td>Transport &amp; General Workers’ Union (now a section of Unite)</td>
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NOT SO ORDINARY PEOPLE
Prominent people in history connected with Sheffield who were gay…?

EDWARD CARPENTER was a bit of everything at a time when anything outside the accepted and expected norm was a little bit odd, bordering on the eccentric. He was born in Brighton, Sussex, on 29 August 1844 into a middle class family, one of ten children (six girls and four boys). His brothers pursued careers in the armed forces but he followed the academic path, graduating from Cambridge University followed by ordination into the Anglican Church.

In 1873 he had a ‘vision’ that caused him to change his lifestyle. He turned his back on the comfortable life that his job as a curate offered and embarked on a job with the University Extension movement which brought him to northern England.

In this career he travelled widely and lectured to the artisans and working people in an effort to improve their knowledge and their opportunities. This was the start of his conversion to socialism and his commitment to the working class.

Whilst in this career Carpenter settled at some point in Sheffield and lodged with the working class family of Albert Fearneough. In 1881 his parents died and he came into a sizeable fortune with which he bought a small farm at Millthorpe near Holmsfield where he and the Fearneough family went to live. This was his home for the next forty years and was a place to which people came from far and wide to learn about and take part in the simpler way of life that Carpenter followed and advocated. The proximity to Sheffield also allowed him to spend much time there doing his work with and for the working classes and promoting and supporting the fledgling socialist movement.

In this socialistic way of life Carpenter worked hard on his farm, learned
to make sandals, wrote about the pursuit and ideals of democracy, became a vegetarian, was a naturist, studied Hinduism, campaigned against pollution and vivisection, with the likes of John Ruskin and William Morris championed the artistry and labours of the working class craftsmen and wrote several poems and books on alternative ways of life.

Whilst at university Carpenter became aware of his attraction to other men and entered into one or two non-sexual relationships, but which were nevertheless a little romantic. These associations grew in number and if they were not sexual, he pursued his sexual desires by making trips to Paris to seek out male prostitutes.

Having settled at Millthorpe Carpenter became more comfortable about his sexuality and began to enter into longer lasting relationships, eventually settling down with George Merrill, the son of a Sheffield working class family. Merrill went to live with Carpenter at Millthorpe where he was listed officially as a servant, but the two lived openly as a couple.

The two had met in 1891 and their relationship was to last almost forty years. Given the social and religious views on homosexuality at the time and the law prohibiting sexual relations between men and the severe penalties such acts carried (it was in 1895 that Oscar Wilde served a two year prison sentence with hard labour for his homosexual affairs) it was remarkable that they were able to live together without any threat of prosecution or persecution. Though Wilde’s imprisonment almost banned the publication of any material relating to homosexuality, Carpenter was able to distribute his work *Homogenic Love* privately to a select audience. By 1908 he was able to openly publish his book *The Intermediate Sex*, which portrayed homosexuality as something other than a medical problem or the result of a lack of morality. Carpenter published a few other works with homosexual themes though he later concentrated on more political topics.

Carpenter and Merrill moved from Millthorpe in 1922 and went to live at Guildford, Surrey. In 1928 Merrill died and Carpenter the year after and although Carpenter wished to be buried at Millthorpe, the two lie in the same grave in Guildford.
FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE has her place marked in history as the Lady of the Lamp, acknowledging her work nursing soldiers injured during the Crimean War.

She was born in May 1820 in Florence, Italy, the daughter of wealthy English parents, and grew up at Holloway near Matlock, Derbyshire. Her parents and grandparents were strong supporters of the abolition of slavery and this was to influence Florence who, from an early age, was apt to help the poor and the sick.

Victorian England was a time when women, certainly those of Florence’s class, did not pursue independent careers, but she had soon made up her mind to spend her time caring for the sick. Her family put up strong objections to this, particularly as nursing was at that time seen as work done by poorer the classes.

In 1853 she secured an unpaid position as a supervisor at a women’s hostel in London and the year after she left to commence the nursing duties in the Crimea that led to her lasting fame.

In her time she received many offers of marriage including one from a suitor who pursued her for nine years. She did though have a number of close relationships with other women, some of whom were lifelong friends.
There is no evidence that suggests that any of her relationships with women were ever physical or sexual, and if they were they would have been most secretive given the moral values advocated in the Victorian era. Florence wrote of one relationship she had with her cousin Marianne “I have never loved but one person with passion in my life, and that was her.” Such a comment is clearly ambiguous and may well have been written so. It was said of another relationship that she and her companion were “like two lovers.” She once wrote of her life “I have lived and slept in the same bed with English Countesses and Prussian women… no woman has excited passions among women more than I have.”

Despite the saintly image that is portrayed of her, she was certainly a forceful campaigner for women, and had she been born a few years later, might have made her name as a suffragette.

She was awarded the British Order of Merit in 1907 and died aged 90 in London in 1910, but not before having declined an offer to be buried in Westminster Abbey.

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**EDITH SITWELL** was born in Scarborough in September 1887, one of the children of Sir George and Lady Ida Sitwell (with whom she famously did not get on) of Renishaw Hall near Sheffield.

In almost all of her life she found herself in the company of gay men, including her brother Osbert, and a number of lesbians and bisexual women. As with Florence Nightingale there is no clear evidence to indicate that she was ever involved sexually with other women, or men for that matter, but she did strike up a long lasting emotional bond with her former governess Helen. The two went to live in Paris in 1932 until Helen’s death in 1938.
It was while in Paris that Edith further developed her literary career and where she formed a relationship with the lesbian author Bryher Ellerman, who was Edith’s benefactor for the rest of her life.

Her literary and theatrical works were often described as surreal and her dress and mannerisms earned her a reputation of being eccentric. She was undoubtedly what would be called today an experimental artist.

Her physical appearance as well, she was six feet tall and quite slender, made her stand out in the crowd. She was made a Dame of the British Empire in 1954. Her 70th birthday was celebrated by a party in London at the Royal Festival Hall. She died aged 77 in 1964.
THE CITY CENTRE
The Centre for HIV & Sexual Health

Throughout this booklet mention is made of the wide range of work undertaken by the Centre for HIV & Sexual Health. So, what is the ‘Centre’ and what is it about?

The Centre for HIV & Sexual Health, part of the Sheffield Primary Care NHS Trust, was originally established in 1987 as the Sheffield AIDS Education Project. Its role is to promote sexual health and well being by working collaboratively with statutory agencies, voluntary groups and community members in Sheffield, as well as building links with other organisations regionally and nationally. In attempting to address sexual health inequalities, the Centre’s work includes:

- producing a range of sexual health materials, leaflets and resources targeting specific communities and population groups
- delivering conferences, seminars and workshops on a variety of sexual health issues
- delivering a range of nationally recognised training courses
- outreach, street and detached and community development work with vulnerable communities
- policy and strategy development
- peer education – including projects with parents, young people, African communities and gay and bisexual men
- media and communication initiatives to address negative attitudes and prejudices about HIV and STIs and other sexual health issues.

Gay and bisexual men have historically been, and continue to be, one of the communities most affected by HIV in Sheffield; the city recorded its first case of HIV in 1983, and in 2006 there were 414 people receiving care for their HIV diagnosis, 91 of whom were infected via sex between men.
The Centre has played a central role in the city’s response to HIV and its impact on gay and bisexual men, developing a range of initiatives targeting these communities to ensure men have the necessary sexual health information and resources to protect themselves and their partners. Over the years these initiatives have included:

- some of the first outreach work in the country to target men in cruising areas
- a free condom and lube scheme in every gay pub and club in the city, the first being launched in the Cossack
- a group of gay and bisexual peer educators known as the Queer Peers who took their message into gay venues in the city
- an annual community conference for LGB communities focusing on health and well-being and ways of generating community spirit. The first of these ‘Out On Saturday’ in 1993 led to the formation of SHOUT!, a community group for gay and bisexual men and their allies
- working in partnership with SHOUT! to set up the SHOUT! Centre, Sheffield’s Health & Community Space for gay and bisexual men
- an award ceremony known as the ‘Mary’s’ acknowledging contributions to Sheffield’s gay community and support for people living with or affected by HIV; this has re-emerged in recent years at the ‘Spring Out’ event
- production of a range of information resources to address the needs of gay and bisexual men in Sheffield in relation to HIV
- the establishment of a range of support groups for specific communities of gay and bisexual men, and as the Centre has developed and its sexual health remit broadened, initiatives have been developed that have included the needs of lesbians and bisexual women, young people and the BME community

The Centre is keen to point out that Sheffield is fortunate to have a strong infrastructure of care and support services for people living with
HIV. These include the Department of Genito-Urinary Medicine and the Department of Tropical Medicine at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital, the HIV Social Work Team at the Forge Centre and the HIV and Sexual Health Clinical Psychology Service. The voluntary sector in Sheffield also provides invaluable support to people living with HIV. In the early days this included the South Yorkshire HIV/AIDS Liaison Group, the Quilt Group, to commemorate local people who had died from HIV related illnesses, South Yorkshire AIDSLine and SHIELD, originally established to provide a buddyng and support service for people living with HIV. Out of these voluntary sector projects only SHIELD remains, and alongside the Sheena Amos Youth Trust, it continues to provide important support for people living with and affected by HIV in Sheffield.
HARD TIMES
Young people and their sexuality

Without doubt life is tough for young people when they are at an age when their bodies are going through the stages of puberty. Their bodies become sexually more responsive and they start to become attracted to other people. The days when children were seen and not heard are long gone and children these days, even before the onset of puberty and with or without sex education, are more aware of sex and sexuality. Though at an age when they are possibly not able to be aware of their own sexuality, they are likely to be well aware of how babies are made and what names to call someone who is or maybe LGBT.

The age at which a person becomes aware of their sexuality will vary among individuals and they may well spend a few years before coming to terms with things and finally accepting that they might be or are LGBT. How they do this may be difficult given the various family, religious, social and cultural backgrounds that people come from. A process not made any easier when they may be faced with physical and verbal homophobia. A report by the Sheffield LGBT Multi-Agency Group in December 2006 noted “Research suggests that young LGB people are particularly affected by mental health problems such as depression, anxiety, self-harm and suicidal tendencies. Anecdotal evidence suggests that this is the same for young transgender people.”

Clearly any help would be welcomed! In Sheffield a number of organisations have been established to provide support and help for young people.

PARENT TO PARENT – an organisation which aims to support and educate parents in talking to their children about sex and relationship issues.

SHEFFIELD FRUITBOWL – run by the Sheena Amos Youth Trust and provides information and support to young people up to the age of 17 who are LGB or are questioning their sexuality. Regular weekly group meetings are held in the centre of town and one-to-one support is also available.
The **SHEFFIELD LESBIAN, GAY & BISEXUAL YOUTH INITIATIVE** – originated in the 1980s when the Sheffield Youth Service acquired the Young Women’s Centre and a group was established for young lesbians as part of the Work with Girls movement with the intention of providing support and increasing their visibility. A similar group for young gay men followed soon after. The two groups were later amalgamated to form the SLGBYI. Youth workers are on hand to provide the additional support young LGB people need to help them understand their sexuality and cope with the homophobia they may be encountering. Café Unique (see below) provides a safe space for them to meet others in similar situations.

Informal education groups are provided and the support of a Connexions Personal Adviser sensitive to the needs and concerns of young LGB people is available. A whole range of issues that arise are dealt with including bullying, self harm, homelessness, drugs and alcohol abuse, suicide and sexual exploitation.

The SLGBYI caters for young LGB people in the 16 to 25 years age range which, according to statistics, amounts to a number in excess of 5,100 young LGB people in Sheffield. The statutory, voluntary, community and faith sectors work with about 100 of this number, which highlights the need for greater provision of support. The SLGBYI works closely with Sheffield Fruitbowl (see above).

**CAFÉ UNIQUE** – an alcohol free safe space for young LGB people in the 16 to 25 years age range run by the Sheffield Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Youth Initiative (SLGBYI) (see above).
AN EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE
Life’s learning curves

When young people are in their teenage years they will be at school or perhaps in other full or part time education. It is during these years that young people may be questioning their sexuality, coming to terms with it and accepting it. It is also during these years when young people are probably at their most vulnerable. And the pressures of exams add to any anxieties.

As they grow up most children will be guilty of and the subject of name calling and ‘playful’ teasing, and it is seen as part of the growing up process of life. Though there are those who would argue that any name calling and teasing is bullying and should not happen. It is likely from the early teens onwards that it becomes more serious as it is at that time when it may have a longer lasting effect. Schools, colleges and universities have a duty to ensure that LGBT pupils and students pass through their institutions without suffering any form of homophobic harassment or bullying.

Stonewall’s Queer Bashing study in 1995 noted that of those LGB people under the age of 18 some 48% of those interviewed for the study had experienced actual violence, 61% had been harassed and 90% had received verbal abuse because of their sexuality.

More recently a House of Commons Select Committee has concluded that bullying in schools is on the increase; that cyber bullying is rife; that LGBT pupils are more likely to be victims of bullying; that homophobic and transphobic bullying incidents are not recorded. It was also noted that it was the practice in many schools to exclude the victim on health and safety grounds while the bully remained in school. To help tackle homophobia and its related bullying the Department for Education & Skills has produced the leaflet Stand up for us: Challenging homophobia in schools aimed at helping “schools challenge and respond to homophobia in the context of developing an inclusive, safer and more successful school environment for all.” [Stand up for us]

In further and higher education students tend to organise their own
groups within their educational institutions to support each other and to play their own part in tackling homophobia and transphobia in its various forms, and not just on their own doorsteps.

The **UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD UNION OF STUDENTS** has represented gay students in one form or another for 25 years and it has come a long way since the GaySoc days of the 1980s, becoming and LGBT group in September 2007. The group has always been on hand to support students as well as campaigning on national and international issues such as homophobic laws. The Union building has a safe space and lounge where LGBT students can socialise, use the book and video collection and speak in confidence to a committee member about any concerns they may have. A hate crime reporting service is also operated through the Student Advice Centre where students can pick up a hate crime reporting pack.

Apart from the serious issues of campaigns, politics and welfare, the group also holds regular Tuesday meetings which are intended to be fun and interesting. There are often guest speakers and themed discussions area arranged. The group runs its own monthly club night, ‘Out!’ where anyone can be the DJ, so the music style varies. In addition regular trips are organised to other cities. The Union also runs the monthly Climax club night, renowned as ‘South Yorkshire’s best gay night’.

Education and training is an ongoing part of all our lives. Issues concerning sexuality and sexual health are complex and varied and any individual or organisation requiring training in these matters should receive it from a professional source. The **CENTRE FOR HIV & SEXUAL HEALTH** offers local and national training around issues of sexual health.

The Centre delivers a ‘Training the Trainer’ course to support sexual health practitioners develop their training and group work skills in order to build capacity in the sexual health field.

The Centre has expanded its programme of peer support for all diverse communities in the city. The PASH project trains and educates young people to deliver sexual health classes in schools. Medical students have been trained to do likewise in schools and colleges. The African peer support project works with members of their community around
sexual health issues. The Centre also supports the Parent to Parent organisation.

In working with gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men the Centre delivers a comprehensive programme of HIV prevention and sexual health promotion. The programme includes outreach work in settings where men meet and socialise; the production and dissemination of targeted information resources; the provision of a weekly health and community space offering one-to-one support and workshops; the provision of support groups for specific communities e.g. LGB young people; and the delivery of courses/workshops promoting health and well-being.

The voluntary group SHIELD ran its first Expert Patient Course in December 2005 for thirteen HIV positive people. Two of the attendees subsequently attended a Training for Trainers course and have delivered nine courses in South and West Yorkshire. SHIELD has developed its training programme and encouraged HIV positive people to become accredited tutors in various aspects of HIV training.

The group has developed links with local schools. HIV positive speakers from a range of backgrounds have contributed to PSHE classes dispelling myths around HIV and encouraging youngsters to think about their own sexual health.
WORK
A four letter word

At some point in time, whether straight from school or via university, we all have to go to work. We get paid money in exchange for being engaged in productive employment. That’s money to spend on clothes, holidays, nights out, cars and later on homes.

Despite legislation decriminalising sex between men in private and reducing the age of consent for gay men, it wasn’t until 2003 that it became illegal to discriminate against LGB people in matters of employment. Up to that point an employer could refuse to employ or could dismiss an LGB employee on grounds of their sexuality. Fellow employees would be unlikely to be disciplined for bullying or harassing an LGB colleague.

The Employment Equality (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2003 changed all that and it is now illegal (subject to certain criteria – see right) for an actual or prospective employer to discriminate against an LGB person because of their actual or perceived sexuality – or even the actual or perceived sexuality of a family member or friend. Equally employers can now, and are expected to, take disciplinary action against their employees who discriminate against or harass LGB colleagues.

Even before the introduction of the (Sexual Orientation) Regulations some employers were on the ball and already had policies in place to deal with any form of harassment,

The (Sexual Orientation) Regulations do allow employers to discriminate against LGB people if the employer is of a particular religious denomination or faith whose tenets specifically forbid homosexuality. This was a cause of concern initially in schools that were aided by churches, but that concern has since been removed.

Discrimination against transgendered people is not covered within these Regulations as such discrimination is gender related and would be dealt with principally under the Sex Discrimination Act 1975.
discrimination, victimisation and bullying against anyone, LGBT or not.

The NHS in its various operations in the city, Government Departments such as the Department for Work & Pensions, the Department for Education & Skills and the Home Office Border & Immigration Agency, South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue, South Yorkshire Police, together with Sheffield City Council, the Sheffield College, Sheffield Hallam University and the University of Sheffield and a host of commercial companies account for thousands of employees. These employers have policies in place that embrace issues of equality and diversity, gender and sexual orientation and some, including Sheffield City Council, have established employee LGB/LGBT groups.

Sheffield City Council has also established an LGBT Officer Group made up of representatives from the various directorates. The Group’s objectives include:

- taking action to address LGBT issues in matters of both employment with the Council and in service delivery
- taking action to address issues around disadvantage and discrimination with respect to sexual orientation and transgender
- raising the profile of the City Council as a positive service provider and employer for people from the city’s LGBT communities
- developing consultation mechanisms and support facilities for employees and service users from these communities
- pursuing the aims of the Equality Standard for Local Government and the City Council’s Equality Policy statement ‘Valuing Diversity and Equality’ with respect to LGBT issues

The LGB campaigning organisation Stonewall established its Diversity Champions programme in 2004. Employers signing up to this programme work with Stonewall to promote LGB equality in the workplace and to date almost 400 employers have signed up. Sheffield City Council signed up in 2004 and according to Stonewall “has been an active and valued member ever since.” The City Council has maintained a consistently high
rating in Stonewall’s Workplace Equality Index, achieving a place in the top ten and fourth ranked local authority in 2008.

Trade unions have existed in one guise or another for around 200 years. Only in the twentieth century were they established in the form we know them now. Yet as employers could discriminate against LGBT employees so could trade unions discriminate against their LGBT members – and as employers themselves, their LGBT employees as well. In the last quarter of the twentieth century trade unions became more aware of the issues of LGBT people and some such as NALGO became more positive towards LGBT members.

In 1993 NALGO was one of the three trade unions which merged to form Britain’s largest public sector trade union UNISON representing over 1.3 million members employed in local government, the health service, the utility companies, schools, further and higher education, the emergency services and the voluntary sector. Sheffield has several UNISON branches to cater for members in these employer groups.

From the start UNISON has acknowledged and valued equality and diversity. It has encouraged self organisation among its Black, Disabled, Women and Lesbian & Gay (since 2005 LGBT) members. SOGs exist at branch, regional and national levels and their structures mirror those of the union nationally. They have their own national committees and conferences, and through these feed their respective issues into the union and thereby help shape UNISON policy. The work the SOGs do is important and it is recognised that the members of those groups are best qualified to discuss topics of particular concern to them and make fully considered contributions to the union.

The UNISON City of Sheffield branch had an active lesbian and gay SOG some years ago which gradually dwindled out of existence. In February 2008 though a new LGBT SOG was established which will hopefully become more active as it finds its feet.

Other local UNISON branches might not have an active LGBT SOG but local members do attend the regional group and UNISON’s annual LGBT national conference. Members are encouraged to set up branch LGBT SOGs and should contact their own branch secretaries or equalities
officers to facilitate this. “Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people are still denied equality in the workplace – too often we face discrimination and harassment instead of a fair deal. Joining UNISON gives you a bigger voice in Britain’s biggest (public sector) union, which is committed to working for LGBT rights.” [UNISON LGBT members]

UNISON is not the only trade union active in equality and diversity issues. GMB has established a lesbian and gay members’ network, the PCS has the Proud equality group which represents its LGBT members and the T&G has national and regional LGBT working parties. The CYWU is another trade union that embraces the issues of equality and diversity amongst both its members and the client base it serves. Each of these trade unions represent people employed in Sheffield.
HEALTH AND SAFETY
Not just a safer sex issue…

…but whilst on the subject, unprotected sex, however practised, is acknowledged as the principal means of transferring STIs between people. Various organisations mentioned in this booklet offer help and advice on the prevention and treatment of STIs.

Any minority group is likely to suffer higher levels of hate crime (defined as a crime where the perpetrator’s prejudice against an identifiable group of people is a factor in determining who is victimised). In 2000 the SAFE IN SOUTH YORKS project was established in the county aimed at increasing the reporting of hate crime against LGBT people and communities. The South Yorkshire Partnership is made up of a number of different agencies, representing housing providers, the police, education bodies, local councils, voluntary groups and local LGBT groups. All are committed to working together to tackle hate crime against the LGBT communities in South Yorkshire. In doing this they place great emphasis on assuring victims, witness or anyone reporting hate crime that they will be dealt with respectfully, sensitively and in confidence. They will not make judgments about the person reporting the crime they were a victim of, whatever their LGBT status.

The project is widely advertised on leaflets and posters and self reporting packs are available at various venues. Reporting can also be done via the Safe in South Yorks website. In 2005 the success of the project was indicated by Crown Prosecution Service figures which showed that there had been 17 prosecutions against homophobic and transphobic incidents.

In May 2005 the Sheffield Hallam University Students’ Union became part of the project. “We have a duty of care to all our students, regardless of ethnicity, sexual orientation, religious belief or cultural values. This is a service which enforces that duty and empowers our students at the same time so we are delighted to be involved.” [Fatima Khan, Students’ Union Equalities Officer]

Notwithstanding the success of the Safe in South Yorks project, hate crime against LGBT people remains at a serious level and there
have been instances where extreme levels of violence have been experienced.

In July 2006 two young men were shot at and injured by someone with an air rifle. A police office attending the incident was also shot at. Homophobic language was used by the attacker, clearly identifying the incident as a homophobic one. As part of their response the police placed notices in a number of LGBT venues advising caution and urging all homophobic incidents to be reported.

It is not unknown for gay men to be lured into situations on some false premise, only to be beaten and robbed – and just because they are gay and seen as easy targets. Again such incidents should be reported to the police. Only if the police know about it can they do anything about it.

The problem is doubly concerning when the victim is from a BME background. The London Gay & Lesbian Policing Group’s study *The Low Down* in 2001 noted that of LGBT people in the BME community 68% had suffered homophobic abuse, 81% racist abuse, 10% homophobic violence and 24% racist violence.

HIV/AIDS is one of the most devastating diseases the world has ever experienced, claiming some 25 million lives since 1981 with over 40 million currently living with HIV. In Sheffield in 2006 414 people had been diagnosed with HIV and receiving treatment at the city's hospitals. It is estimated that up to one third as many could be infected and not know. The people most affected locally follow national trends.

In September 2006 the Centre for HIV & Sexual Health in collaboration with partner agencies organised a successful conference in Sheffield entitled ‘Sex and the City’. Key note speakers included Baroness Joyce Gould, Chair of the Government’s Independent Advisory Group on Sexual Health and HIV. Sexual health services across the city were showcased and the conference also saw the launch of the newly formed Managed Sexual Health Network in Sheffield.

The GUM Department at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital is refurbishing and expanding its premises. Capital funding was secured for a clinic rebuild with improved facilities for both male and female GUM clinics
and an expanded HIV clinic increasing the number of consulting suites and patient facilities.

The Sheffield GUM service has undergone extensive modernisation of its services to promote 48 hour access and some of its innovations have been cited as exemplary in recent Department of Health publications.

The Forge Centre, a service that provides social support to people affected by HIV/AIDS, delivers social care services to a diverse population of people affected by HIV. The Centre received an improvement grant allowing it to purchase new furniture and equipment, thereby improving the working environment.

Health and Safety is not just a matter of individuals looking after their sexual health or ensuring that hate crime is removed so that the community in general is a safe one for LGBT people (or anyone) to be out and about in. Since the passing of the Domestic Violence, Crime & Victims Act 2004, domestic violence, once an area where the police would not become involved, has been accepted as criminal an act as any other incident of violence against a person.

Domestic violence is generally seen as violence perpetrated by a male against his female partner. But statistics show that the same type of violence exists between same sex couples, between straight people and their LGBT siblings, between parents and their LGBT children and vice versa. The permutations are wide and varied. Just as domestic violence by men against their women partners used to go unreported, so too to some extent does domestic violence against LGBT people: “For LGBT people who are beaten up and abused by their partners everyday, deliberately infected with HIV, threatened with ‘outing’ or having their children removed, life is hell.” [Broken Rainbow (an LGBT domestic violence support charity) Annual Report 2004/05].

“One of the consequences of the conspiracy of silence is that many members of our community stay in miserable and dangerous situations, unable to recognise and label their experience as ‘domestic abuse’ and look for help.” [Out in UNISON Summer 2007] This comment refers particularly to domestic violence within same sex relationships and highlights how, in a number of instances, victims of domestic violence
feel ‘unable to look for help’. When the LGBT person suffering domestic violence is young the situation can lead to an even more dangerous situation – running away from home; homelessness; drugs; prostitution; suicide!

An instance of the potential conflict arising from LGBT issues that can be created within a family occurred in Sheffield in December 2004; one which led to a fatal result. A father of two teenage sons, both of whom lived with their mother, was living as a woman and taking prescribed medication whilst awaiting gender reassigning surgery. A dispute arose between the man and his former wife which led to the man entering his former wife’s home and during an altercation with both sons was stabbed several times by one of them. The incident was a tragic one as both sons were supportive of their father’s need to live as a woman. It was stated in the case that when presenting as a man, the victim appeared more erratic and sometimes more aggressive than when presenting as a woman. Though the son stood accused of murder, and found guilty of manslaughter, the case highlighted the complexities of understanding the emotions and behaviour of someone transitioning from one gender to another. As said in the trial, there were three victims in this unfortunate case, not one.

Any violence, domestic or not, is criminal, and sufferers often need help in reporting it to the police and pursuing action in the courts, as may their family, friends and witnesses. This help may also include emotional support. **VICTIM SUPPORT SHEFFIELD** offers a service that provides free emotional and practical support, regardless of whether a victim’s experiences (ie domestic abuse, homophobic or transphobic hate crime, harassment and other crimes) have been reported to the police. Help and support is available at court through the Witness Service and help and representation is available when applying for a Criminal Injuries Compensation.
A CIVIL MATTER
Civil Partnerships

The Department for Trade & Industry was charged with ensuring that everything was ready for the Civil Partnership Act 2004 to become active on 5 December 2005. An enormous amount of legislation had to be amended so that it was all compliant with the requirements of the Act – including such unlikely Acts of Parliament as the Slaughterhouses Act 1974 (don’t ask!).

“This is one of the most significant pieces of legislation the Government has introduced. The Civil Partnership Act sends a clear message that we value and support the contribution committed same sex couples make to each other and to our society…this Act will help create a more equal society. It opens the way to respect, recognition and justice for those who have been denied them for too long.” [HM Government]

When the Act received its Royal Assent local authorities’ legal teams had to look at the practicalities of implementing the Act. In Sheffield a Road Show was held in the Town Hall in August 2005 to promote Civil Partnerships and the city’s preparations and for other organisations and agencies to have their work and services on show. So popular did the Road Show prove to be that it overran by an hour. “I was impressed with the amount of information provided in clear language, even the complicated legal aspects.” [an attendee]

The Sheffield Register Office, like others around the country, had to do a lot of preparatory work so that it was ready to perform its first civil ceremony and was taking provisional bookings as early as the summer of 2005. Everyone in the Office had to undergo training so that they knew what was expected of them. Any likely special arrangements had to be considered. Marriage ceremony venues had to be checked out to determine if they would be willing to hold civil partnership ceremonies, otherwise they might face losing their licences. It was a task met with exemplary professionalism and the Register Office was ready on time to perform the first Civil Partnership ceremony in Sheffield on 21 December 2005 (one of the first in the country) between Robert Forman and Dr Martin Hayes-Allen. Some 80 people attended the ceremony including
Council Leader Jan Wilson who presented the couple with a certificate to honour them as the first to hold a Civil Partnership ceremony in Sheffield Town Hall.

To help people understand the process of arranging a Civil Partnership ceremony and the various other arrangements that have to be made, the Sheffield Register Office has produced a comprehensive free booklet entitled *Sheffield Civil Partnerships: The Essential Guide to planning your Civil Partnership in the Sheffield Area*. This includes advice on how to give notice of a ceremony, necessary documentation, licensed venues, the ceremony itself as well as a whole range of other mustn’t forgets like catering, attire, rings, receptions, photography etc…

Tony Atkin, one of the first people in Sheffield to enter into a Civil Partnership, writes of his experience and what it meant for him:

“When Brian and I first met we just knew we were going to be together for a long time. As time went by we became increasingly aware that because we were both men, our relationship was not seen as equal to those of our friends in heterosexual relationships. In particular they had the right to marry if they chose to and have their relationships recognised by society and the law. We thought we would never see the day when same sex couples would have the opportunity to stand before their friends and families and publicly declare their commitment to each other in a legal ceremony.

“When the Civil Partnerships Act came into force we were obviously delighted that after twelve years together we could have our relationship validated and recognised and on 23 December 2005 we had our ceremony and signed the Civil Partnership Register at Sheffield Register Office. We were pleased to be one of the first couples in Sheffield to enter into a Civil Partnership and the day itself was just perfect, made even more memorable by the fantastic reception we received from the Register Office staff. They were extremely welcoming and showed they really wanted to make the occasion a special one for us. We had a small and simple ceremony with our closest friends and then headed off to spend Christmas in Norfolk. We were overwhelmed by the amount of good wishes and support we received from our families, friends and colleagues.
“Although the ceremony was very important to us in terms of our relationship, the real difference it has made is that we are now seen as a couple in the eyes of the law with the same rights, responsibilities and protection previously only enjoyed by our heterosexual peers. Civil Partnerships give a strong message to society that loving and supportive same sex relationships are as valid and important as heterosexual ones. In terms of acceptance and equality they are an important step in changing hearts and minds and move us all towards a more inclusive society in which the gender of partners is not the important issue, but how we love, respect and treat each other.”
OLDER PEOPLE
Life begins at –ty

These days, with a more liberal public opinion of homosexuality and with LGBT people better accepted by and in our society, there is an assumption that there are more LGBT people around than ever before. This though is nothing more than an assumption. Because of the rights LGBT people have fought for and won over the years they are simply more confident about being out and therefore more visible.

It is estimated that 5-7% of the UK population are LGB, and it can be assumed that Sheffield’s LGB population is of the same order, ie some 35,000 or so people. This figure embraces the whole age range and includes those who are not out, which means that Sheffield’s visible LGB population is somewhat less.

No one would suggest that life for every young LGBT person is a bed of roses nowadays. But it’s certainly easier to be accepted than it was not all that long ago. Many of the invisible LGB people in Sheffield will be of an age when to be out in their younger days would have meant them being outcast and ostracised for being ‘different’, when to be out almost certainly meant continual unfavourable treatment and harassment and an end to their job, and even being forced out of their homes. It is in living memory of many older gay men that simply being gay could carry a custodial sentence. In the region of 4,000 men were arrested in 1952 because they were gay, some of those were sent to prison. As homosexuality was viewed as a mental disorder some gay men were subjected to various, often painful, therapies intended to ‘straighten’ them out. Having lived through that culture and having not dared be out, it is not surprising that many older gay men are still not out.

There are several groups and organisations in the statutory and voluntary sectors around at present that provide a variety of services to and for LGBT people. Whilst it is true that most of these providers cater for all ages, some are clearly aimed at younger LGBT people. The older LGBT population could be forgiven for thinking that these services are not for them and those who are not out (who despite today’s more accepting attitude towards homosexuality may still live with some degree of fear) remain part of a
forgotten section of our society.

As part of its work for older people in general Age Concern has recognised that there are OLGBT people in society and its services are fully inclusive of these people. **AGE CONCERN SHEFFIELD** is an independent local organisation dedicated to supporting older people, particularly those who are vulnerable or isolated, and has been providing support to Sheffield’s over 50s for more than 25 years. Their aim is to work to improve the quality of life for thousands of older people across the city by helping them retain their independence and get the most out of life. A range of services are offered to help achieve this, including information and advice, benefit checks, practical help in people’s homes, providing social opportunities and much more.

They try to ensure that their services are accessible to all older people including those who are LGBT. **AGE CONCERN SHEFFIELD** recognises that many older LGBT people have particular fears and concerns about being open about their sexuality and accessing services, and has recently formed an internal OLGBT sub-group. This sub-group reviews all organisational policies and procedures affecting LGBT service users, staff and volunteers. It aims to improve internal communication, consult with the OLGBT client group and has produced a rolling programme of training for all staff and volunteers within the organisation.

**AGE CONCERN ENGLAND** has taken a lead in raising awareness of the needs and concerns of older people who are LGBT. ‘Opening Doors’ is the umbrella title of **AGE CONCERN ENGLAND**’s developing programme of publications, resources and events for and about OLGBT people in the UK.

Age Concern has produced a range of free information publications for OLGBT people including:

- **IS8 Planning for later life as a lesbian, gay man or bisexual person**
- **IS28 Civil Partnership and older same sex couples**
- **IS27 Older same sex couples and benefits**
- **IS30 Planning for later life; transgender people**

In addition ‘The whole of me… meeting the needs of older lesbians, gay men and bisexuals living in care homes and extra care housing’ is a resources pack for professionals.
LEISURE
What do LGBT people get up to?

LIBRARIES

Two studies by Sheffield University students – Pink Perceptions: the information needs of LGBT library users as perceived by public librarians and by the LGBT communities within Sheffield UK and Denver Co USA by Meagan O’Leary 2005 and Do personal and institutional anxieties within Sheffield Central Library and Norwich Millennium Library affect the promotion of particular genres (Black British/Asian and Gay/Lesbian fiction)? by Laura Armstrong 2006 – both considered similar themes from different approaches, both generally concluded that the library service in all three cities underserved their respective LGBT populations and recognised the need to improve access to and knowledge of the LGBT material in their stocks. As a way to reverse this adverse trend the studies recommended, as far as Sheffield is concerned, better promotion of the LGBT stock and better interaction with LGBT users.

A good public library service should be a source of strong support for LGBT communities and its stock should reflect understanding of diverse lifestyles and challenge prejudice. Community information can provide awareness and can support networking. Archives can ensure that diversity is captured and recorded.

Sheffield Libraries, Archives & Information service has built up a stock of material with LGBT themes or by LGBT authors and gay newspapers are also available in its branches. The library has built up and maintains an extensive community information resource including information on LGBT support groups in the city, health and sexual health information etc.

Sheffield Archives maintains and supports the nationally, and internationally, important Edward Carpenter collection. This collection contains a wealth of historical information from the late 19th and early 20th centuries relating to the Sheffield based socialist pioneer of gay rights. The service has recently produced a study guide entitled Sources for the study of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Communities for anyone with an interest in the city’s LGBT history. This
can be downloaded from www.sheffield.gov.uk/archives and click on ‘publications’.

SOCIALISING

The **GAY DINING GROUP** is an LGBT dining group for people of all ages. The group holds monthly meetings in a variety of venues.

**OUT ALOUD** is Sheffield’s first Gay Choir that enables members of the LGBT communities in the city to come together and enjoy singing. The Choir is open to all members of the LGBT community aged 16 or over and members don’t have to be experienced singers as long as they can ‘carry a tune’. The Choir began rehearsing in September 2006 and its first public performance was at the IDAHO event in May 2007.

**PUBS & CLUBS** – see THE SCENE

**SHEFFIELD HIKING DYKES** is a walking group for lesbians that treks mainly in the Peak District. Shorter summer evening walks are followed by a pub meal.

Each September the **SHOWROOM CINEMA** screens a programme of films each with LGBT themes. The films form a touring festival originating at the London Lesbian & Gay Film Festival. In addition the cinema’s annual Documentary Film Festival often includes in its programme films with an LGBT theme.

**SOMETHING IN SHEFFIELD** is an email based social group for lesbians in Sheffield. Monthly gatherings are held in pubs and restaurants and other social events are organised.

**SOUTH YORKSHIRE PRIDE**

Pride events have been a regular feature on the calendar in various parts of Britain for several years, but the first to be held in South Yorkshire was in the Doncaster Market Place on Sunday 19 August 2007. Pride events are an opportunity for the local LGBT communities to make themselves more visible in a carnival atmosphere which all
sections of the community can enjoy. The event in Doncaster, organised by the Doncaster Partnership Against Homophobia & Transphobia, was supported by several groups and organisations across the county including UNISON City of Sheffield branch and Sheffield City Council. The event attracted over 1,000 people and brought together people from different backgrounds. Attractions included live performances, fairground rides and a market.

Plans were well under way at an early stage for other South Yorkshire Pride events in 2008, including Sheffield’s first. The Organising Committee writes:

“We are holding a Pride event in Sheffield, a ‘Festival in the Park’, on Saturday 7 June 2008 for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities of South Yorkshire and their many friends and supporters. The venue is Cemetery Park in Sharrow, just off Ecclesall Road, which is a fantastic space, very green and self contained.

“There are six of us on the Committee and we currently have roles and
responsibilities and action lists coming out of our ears.

“Inevitably we are learning as we go along, especially with raising funding which is a hard, long slog to say the least. Our press releases, fundraising events, website and letters of support have helped generate interest and offers of help and helped us gain funding.

“We have received masses of advice from the Sheffield LGBT Multi-Agency Partnership, the police and fire services, Sheffield City Council, the trustees of Sheffield General Cemetery and from organisers of Pride events from across the country who attended the annual United Prides Conference. We have also received lots of feedback from all attendees to our ‘open meetings’ where we aim to ‘plug in’ further offers of help.

“We are aiming to give Pride a real community feel, something which members of the Sheffield LGBT communities have asked us for, with a wide variety of acts on the main stage and supporting community activities such as a women’s performing tent which will be open to all. We hope that we can give Sheffield the Pride it deserves!

April 2008”
CAMPAIGNS
Meeting the continuing challenges

One of the earliest gay campaigning groups was the Campaign for Homosexual Equality (CHE). CHE was established in Manchester in 1964 and had its roots in the North West Homosexual Law Reform Committee. In 1975 CHE held its annual conference in Sheffield during which the Gay Sweatshop Theatre Company, which was formed in London in 1975, performed Mister X, specially written for the occasion. At the Sheffield Gayfest held in August 1982 CHE was officially wound up and relaunched as the Gay Community Organisation which became defunct in 1984.

The INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA (IDAHO) is now an established annual event “designed to raise awareness of the impact of homophobia on the lives of lesbian, gay and bisexual people throughout the world and also on the lives of their families, friends and colleagues.” [Centre for HIV & Sexual Health]

The first national IDAHO day was held in 2006 and organisers had intended that one minute’s silence be observed as a mark of respect to those who have suffered homophobia. In Sheffield however participants at the event held in the Peace Gardens on a wet May afternoon decided that one minute’s noise was more appropriate. Over 100 voices were raised, whistles were blown and lots of noise was made.

The event in May 2007, again in the Peace Gardens but in better weather, was no less noisy. In fact it was a lot noisier so as to “speak out loudly and clearly that homophobia is simply not acceptable.” [Centre for HIV & Sexual Health] The Star reported “A real racket was made [which] brought together politicians including council leader Jan Wilson, Attercliffe MP Clive Betts and Coun Jackie Drayton [and] members of the public.”

The trade union UNISON celebrated an IDAHOBITS day to acknowledge that Biphobia and Transphobia also exist and to state that they are equally unacceptable.
WORLD AIDS DAY is another established event that is observed annually on 1 December around the world. The event is symbolised by the internationally recognised Red Ribbon, first used in 1991. In 2007 the University of Sheffield celebrated the day by an event entitled “Hope Through the Arts” which featured several live performances and speakers from organisations in the UK and abroad.

The LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER HISTORY MONTH is another established national annual event held each February. It is an occasion to acknowledge the struggles, difficulties and discrimination that have been faced by LGBT people in the past and to celebrate the relative equality that LGBT people now enjoy. The month sees a variety of projects designed to raise the awareness of LGBT issues among the public at large. These projects range from short and longer term displays in a range of venues to day long events in larger venues that bring together the work of statutory and voluntary groups and organisations who are engaged in working for a better and safer society in which LGBT people can live, work and play. The LGBT History Month 2008 was the third to be held in the city.

The SHEFFIELD LGBT MULTI-AGENCY GROUP is made up of representatives from the statutory, voluntary and community sectors who meet regularly with the broad aim of raising awareness and promoting a safer city for LGBT people to live, work and socialise in.
LGBT SUPPORT GROUPS and SERVICES
Local LGBT groups for local LGBT People

CENTRE FOR HIV & SEXUAL HEALTH – a Sheffield Primary Care
Trust service providing information, education and training on matters
relating to sexual health. The Centre also provides targeted projects and
initiations with LGB communities.

indigo – a new service for LGB people from a black and minority ethnic
background in Sheffield. One-to-one support is offered as well as
workshop based activities and more.

SHEFFIELD FORGE CENTRE – provides social support to people affected
by HIV/AIDS.

SHIELD – a South Yorkshire HIV support group.

SHOUT! – (previously known as SHOUT!Centre) a health and community
centre for gay and bisexual men offering a range of health, social and
welfare services. SHOUT! also offers support to men who are married or
in relationships with women who are also attracted to men.

TIME OUT – provides one-to-one support for gay and bisexual men to
gain advice on relationships, sexual health and sexual practices.
THE SCENE
LGBT social venues

Sheffield has never been seen as one of the big LGBT social centres in the United Kingdom. Unlike say Leeds or Manchester, which have a reasonably steady number of bars and clubs all in a defined area for LGBT people, the Sheffield scene has tended to vary in size over the years and in venues that have been diversely located. The few LGBT and gay friendly venues that exist today are though, with the exception of one, all within the area of the city centre and this number is increased by regular monthly LGBT events in other venues in the city.

Attempts in the past to establish a regular ‘gay scene’ in Sheffield has resulted in venues opening and closing after only a few years, and in some cases only a few months. It was mooted a few years ago that a gay village should be established in the city, but what was mooted got neutered! That said the venues that do exist cater for the socialising and clubbing needs of LGBT people in Sheffield – and not just Sheffield LGBT people. People do come from outside the city to Sheffield venues, as indeed Sheffield LGBT people go outside the city.

**Affinity** opened its doors in December 2007 in premises on Campo Lane previously occupied by the Golden Ball pub.

**Climax** is a monthly club night for mainly LGBT students held on Fridays at the Sheffield University Students’ Union on Western Bank.

**Club Xes** at the junction of Carlisle Street and Gower Street started life in 1860 as the Norfolk Arms meeting the needs of thirsty steel workers.

**Dempseys** on Hereford Street opened as a gay bar and club in 2000.

**Lion’s Lair** on Cross Burgess Street opened as a gay pub in December 2005. It is one of Sheffield’s oldest pubs opening originally in 1796 as the Yorkshire Man and later renamed the Yorkshireman’s Arms. In its later years under this name it was a gay friendly pub.
Pride is an annual LGBT event that usually takes the form of a march followed by a social event that varies from picnic size gatherings to huge socials with live bands. They are held in various towns and cities in the summer months and some of the largest Pride events are held in London and Manchester. Sheffield will hold its first Pride event on 7 June 2008.

The Roebuck Tavern on Charles Street dates from 1790 and is a gay friendly pub.

Ruskins is one of the city’s newest pubs located in Tudor Square in the former Ruskin Gallery. It is a gay friendly pub and is within only a few moments walk of the Crucible and Lyceum Theatres, the Central Library and Graves Art Gallery, the Millennium Galleries and the Winter Gardens.

The Rutland at the corner of Brown Street and Furnival Street, which began life in 1833, is a gay friendly pub.

Spring Out is an annual event organised by the Centre for HIV & Sexual Health and SHOUT! and is held every Spring at a city venue with the aim of celebrating and promoting healthy LGB communities in Sheffield.

LOST – some of the venues that have disappeared over the years

The Av-it Bar, also known as Ma Baker’s, on Carlisle Street opposite Club Xes, was a short lived gay venue.

Bar Celona on Attercliffe Road was a gay bar that was open for two or three years.

Club FAB opened in early October 2007 in the venue previously occupied by the Planet on Attercliffe Road and closed in early 2008.

The Cossack on Howard Street opened in 1795 as a beer house and became fully licensed 1833. Originally a two storey building it lost its top floor in the Blitz of 1940. It had been a gay pub for about 50 years and in 1995 was renamed But & Ben before going back to the Cossack. It closed in 2003 when Howard Street was completely revamped and during that period of renovation the building served as a site office. The site has now been demolished.
Fuel on Eyre Street opened in 2005 it what had been previously Berlins night club. In August 2007 it relocated into the Plug club almost next door due to redevelopment of the area about to commence. Fuel closed shortly after.

The Matilda Tavern on Matilda Street was built c1840 originally as a coaching stop. In the early 2000s it was another short lived gay venue.

The Planet night club at the junction of Attercliffe Road and Effingham Road had previously been the Attercliffe Non Political Club where many ‘turns’ appeared, some of who went on to become TV stars.
**FOOTNOTE**

**Happy anniversary**

2007 saw the 40th anniversary of the passing of the Sexual Offences Act 1967 which decriminalised sex in private between two men over the age of 21, subject to certain conditions. In July Channel 4 television showed a series of programmes over a week reflecting on the changes that that Act, and subsequent legislation, has made to LGBT people’s lives and society’s attitudes to sexual orientation.

Reviewing one particular programme The Star (21 July 2007) commented “Of course, today the content of this drama won’t raise too many eyebrows, but not so long ago, a programme depicting openly homosexual behaviour would have been unthinkable. In fact, the passing of the Sexual Offences Act in 1967 was just the beginning of a legislative process that continues to this day.”

The article concluded “It may have taken 40 years to change society’s attitude, but the fact that it happened at all is well worth celebrating.”
CONTACTS
Who and how; the local organisations and groups mentioned in this booklet. Some national organisations are also included.

Age Concern Sheffield
0114 250 2859   Fax 0114 272 0552
advice@ageconcernsheffield.org.uk
www.ageconcernsheffield.org.uk

Broken Rainbow
08452 604460
www.broken-rainbow.org.uk

Café Unique
0114 228 9266
gayandlesbianyouth@hotmail.com

Centre for HIV & Sexual Health
0114 226 1900   Fax 0114 226 1901
admin@chiv.nhs.uk
www.sexualhealthsheffield.nhs.uk
www.gaysheffield.co.uk (for gay and bisexual men)

Equality & Human Rights Commission (Manchester office)
0161 829 8100   Fax 01925 884 000
info@equalityhumanrights.com

Gay Dining Group
0114 258 6246

Gender Recognition Panel
0845 355 5155
grp enquiries@tribunals.gsi.gov.uk
www grp gov uk
Gender Trust
01273 234024
0845 231 0505 (National Helpline)

Genito Urinary Medicine (GUM) Clinic
0114 276 6928

IMAAN (Muslim LGBT support group)
07849 170 793
info@imaan.org.uk

indigo
07974 199230
indigo@chiv.nhs.uk

Jewish Gay & Lesbian
07504 924742
info@jglg.org.uk

Lesbian & Gay Christian Movement
020 7739 8134
www.lgcm.org.uk

National AIDS Trust
020 7814 6767 Fax 020 7216 0111
info@nat.org.uk

OUT ALOUD
07892 896806
info@outaloud.org.uk
www.outaloud.org.uk

Parent to Parent
0114 226 1917
kath.broomhead@chiv.nhs.uk
Safe in South Yorks
www.safeinsouthyorks.co.uk

Sheffield Archives
0114 203 9395   Fax 0114 203 9398
sheffield.archives@dial.pipex.com

Sheffield City Council (main switchboard)
0114 272 6444

Sheffield Domestic Abuse Forum
www.sdaf.org.uk

Sheffield Forge Centre
0114 226 1142

Sheffield Fruitbowl
0114 226 1750   Fax 0114 226 1901
07974 825318
www.lgbsheffield.co.uk

Sheffield Hallam University Students' Union
0114 225 4111   Fax 0114 224 4251
www.hallamunion.com

Sheffield Hiking Dykes
0114 258 0211
0114 268 6409
sheffield-hd@fsmail.net
http://www.freewebs.com/hikingdykes/sheffield

Sheffield Information Service
0114 273 4761
sis@sheffield.gov.uk
www.sheffieldhelpyourself.org.uk
Sheffield Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Youth Initiative  
0114 228 9266  Fax 0114 228 9229  
gayandlesbianyouth@hotmail.com

Sheffield Libraries online collection catalogue  
www.hip.sheffield.gov.uk

Sheffield Register Office  
0114 203 9423

Sheffield University Union of Students LGBT Committee  
0114 222 8673  
lgbt@sheffield.ac.uk  
http://lgb.union.shef.ac.uk  
http://lgbt.union.shef.ac.uk

Sheffield Youth Clinics  
0114 271 6790

SHIELD South Yorkshire HIV Support Group  
0114 278 7916  
karl@shield.org.uk

SHOUT!  
0114 253 6767  
www.shoutinsheffield.co.uk

Showroom Cinema  
0114 275 7727  
0114 279 6006  
Showroom@fdgroup.co.uk

Something In Sheffield  
somethinginsheffield@yahoo.co.uk

South Yorkshire Pride  
www.southyorkshirepride.co.uk
Stonewall
020 7593 1850 Fax: 020 7593 1877
Minicom 020 7633 0759
08000 502020 (Information line)
info@stonewall.org.uk

Terrence Higgins Trust (Leeds office)
0113 246 9272
info.leeds@tht.org.uk

Time Out
0114 226 1907 Fax 0114 226 1901
0114 226 1908
tony.atkin@chiv.nhs.uk anthony.bains@chiv.nhs.uk

UNISON
0845 355 0845 (UNISON Direct)
www.unison.org.uk (National website)

UNISON City of Sheffield Branch
0114 273 6037 Fax 0114 276 6412
lgbranch@sheffunison.org.uk
www.sheffield-unison.org.uk

UNISON Yorkshire & Humberside Region
0845 355 0845

Victim Support Sheffield
0114 275 8411 Text 07835 396543
admin.vss@vssy.co.uk
www.victimsupport.org

All contact details were believed to be correct at the time of going to print.
JOIN UNISON

If you work in the public sector and you are not in a trade union, you should seriously consider joining UNISON. You never know when you might need us, and we’re HERE to help YOU out THERE!

UNISON BRANCHES IN SHEFFIELD:

Central Sheffield Health Branch (Royal Hallamshire Hospital)
0114 226 1210
0114 271 2224

City of Sheffield Branch (Local Government)
0114 273 6037    Fax 0114 276 6412
lgbranch@sheffunison.org.uk
www.sheffield-unison.org.uk

Northern General Hospital Branch
0114 271 4408
www.sng-unison.org.uk

Sheffield Care Trust Branch (Sheffield Community Health)
0114 271 6154    Fax 0114 271 6180
susan.highton@sct.nhs.uk

Sheffield Hallam University Branch
0114 225 3117    Fax 0114 225 3117
a.devine@shu.ac.uk

South Yorkshire Police Branch
0114 252 3610

University of Sheffield Branch
0114 222 8829
unison@sheffield.ac.uk

If you are not sure which UNISON branch you should join, contact the Yorkshire & Humberside Regional Office on 0845 355 0845.
CONTRIBUTING ORGANISATIONS

Age Concern Sheffield

a:gender

Centre for HIV & Sexual Health

Home Office Border & Immigration Agency

Sheffield City Council

Sheffield Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Youth Initiative

South Yorkshire Pride

UNISON City of Sheffield Branch

University of Sheffield Union of Students LGBT Committee

Victim Support Sheffield

UNISON City of Sheffield Branch wishes to thank all the organisations and individuals who have submitted articles and made other contributions to this booklet
NOTES
‘OUT THERE’
A DVD highlighting positive aspects of lesbian, gay and bisexual lives

‘Out There’ is a new DVD from the Centre for HIV & Sexual Health highlighting the positive aspects of lesbian, gay and bisexual lives and can be used in both formal and informal education settings. The DVD provides positive images of lesbian, gay and bisexual people, using real life abstracts and focusing on people’s hobbies, passions and daily activities.

The DVD is accompanied by a training guide and is suitable for organisations wishing to promote a more positive and balanced image of lesbian, gay and bisexual people.