

LGBT issues

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LGBT



- Lesbian
- Gay
- Bisexual
- Trans



How many LGBT people are there in Croydon?



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■ **20,370**

— source: LGBT London website (www.lgbtlondon.com)



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- **Between 15,000 and 30,000**

- source: Croydon Council's Equality Strategy 2010-13



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- **Nobody knows!**



Principles

- The Public Sector Equality Duty now includes:
 - Gender Reassignment (“T”)
 - Sexual Orientation (“LGB”)
- Being LGB or T is *not* a medical condition – but may have medical implications



Gender issues

- **Gender nonconformity** is the extent to which a person's gender identity, role, or expression differs from the cultural norms prescribed for people of a particular gender.
- **Gender dysphoria** is discomfort or distress caused by a discrepancy between a person's gender identity and that person's sex assigned at birth.

– Adapted from: *Standards of Care for the Health of Transsexual, Transgender, and Gender Nonconforming People*



Trans people:

- Some trans people wish to have gender reassignment treatment and possibly surgery, and will need specialist support
- Some trans people are happy merely to live in their chosen gender without treatment
- In either case they will want to be recognised as belonging to their chosen gender
- They may not wish it to be known that they once had a different gender (and for anyone else to reveal it may be a criminal offence)



LGB people:

- May not wish to disclose their sexual orientation
- But if they do disclose it, will want to be treated with respect and understanding
- For many LGB people, being gay (etc) is a fundamental part of their identity



LGBT people in general:

- Have higher than average levels of smoking, drinking, and substance abuse
- Are much more likely to be living alone



Attitudes of health professionals

- “The ambulance staff had never met a trans person before.”
 - Local trans woman



Attitudes of health professionals

- “My GP was very hostile and uncooperative. I’ve now changed to a different GP who is very supportive with my application for gender reassignment surgery.”
 - Local trans woman



Attitudes of other service users

- “When using the GUM service on London Road I have had “Batty Man” and “Chichi Man” comments said in my hearing as I leave the waiting room.”
 - Local gay man



Please don't make assumptions!

- “... it was assumed I was heterosexual – I was constantly plied with requests to use birth control methods such as the coil, the Pill etc. Now, as a disabled, older woman, it is taken for granted that I'm STRAIGHT.”

– Quoted in *Appropriate Treatment*



Please don't make assumptions!

My GP prescribed HRT and said that 'it should make my husband happy'. I was stunned by the sexist and heterosexist assumptions wrapped up in this comment.

— Quoted in *Appropriate Treatment*



Please don't make assumptions!

“The growth turned out to be rectal cancer but this hadn't been considered as it was presumed that as I was gay it must be related to sexual practices.”

– Quoted in *Appropriate Treatment*



Older people with HIV/AIDS

- They weren't expected to grow old
- What about when age-related dementia sets in?
- How will service providers cope?



Young gay men and sexual health

- HIV is no longer a death sentence, but it is still a very serious condition
- There's a rise in other STDs
- The message of safer sex needs to be constantly reinforced



Young gay men and sexual health

- Safer sex for gay men needs to be emphasised in schools
- LGBT youth clubs (like The Bridge in Croydon) are invaluable (not just for safer sex)
- Maybe deploy health workers in known public sex environments (PSEs)



Ethnic Minorities

- There are LGBT people in all ethnic groups, and of all faiths or none
- Some religions, and some ethnic groups, may make life very difficult for LGBT people, who may feel obliged to keep their sexuality secret, or even to get married.
- Some people may be terrified of their families finding out.



Some questions (1)

- Have there been any epidemiological studies (systemic collection of mortality/morbidity rates) into the specific health needs of LGBT communities in Croydon?



Some questions (2)

- How much coverage is there of LGBT health issues in medical/nurse/other health professional training courses in Croydon?



Some questions (3)

- What support is available locally for LGBT health staff?



Good practice

- Policies should explicitly state that discrimination against LGBT people will not be tolerated. Saying “we’re open to everyone” is not good enough.
- Ensure that all staff are aware of their obligations not to discriminate



Good practice

- Provide a list of health services available to local LGBT people
- Don't make assumptions
- ...



Sign the LGBT London Pledge!



- We will commit to listening and responding to the needs of our regional or borough lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans networks, ensure the needs are met, and strive to set up an effective network if one does not already exist.
- We will always assess the impact and suitability of policies, strategic commitments, tenders and service commissions on lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans individuals.
- We will actively invite people from the lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans communities to take part in local decision-making and community forums, and monitor the attendance of LGB&T individuals.
- We will communicate regularly with London's lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans communities, both through our own media channels and through lgbtlondon.com.

www.lgbtlondon.com/pledge



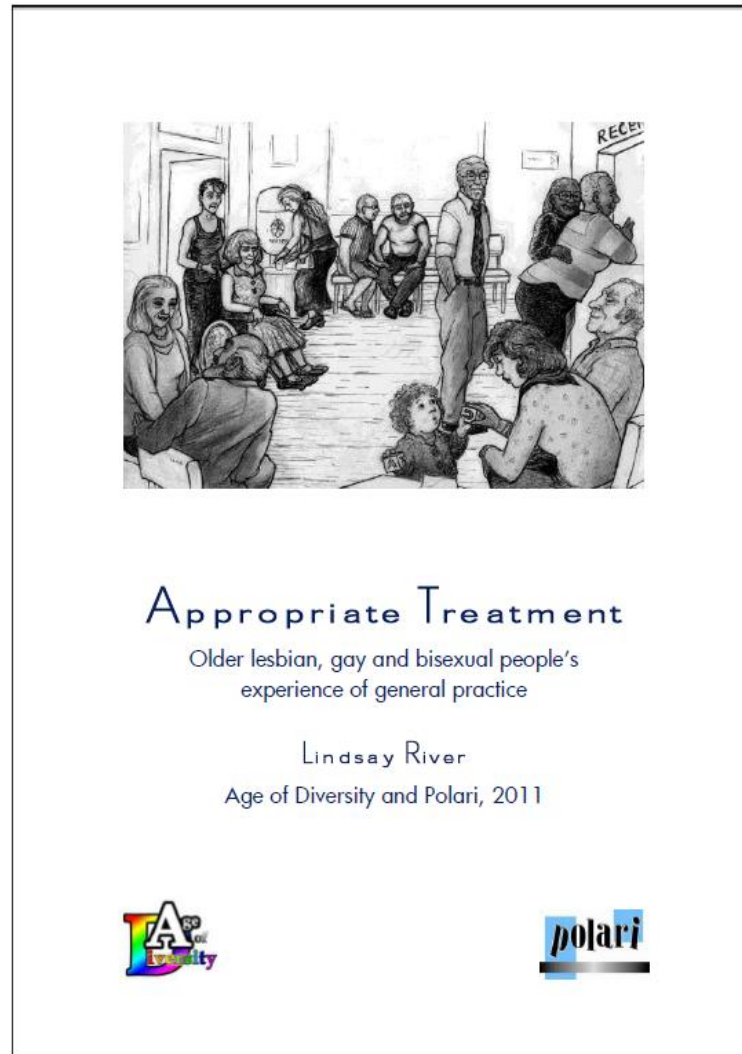
Some resources:



www.stonewall.org.uk/documents/older_lgbt_checklist_for_adult_social_care.pdf



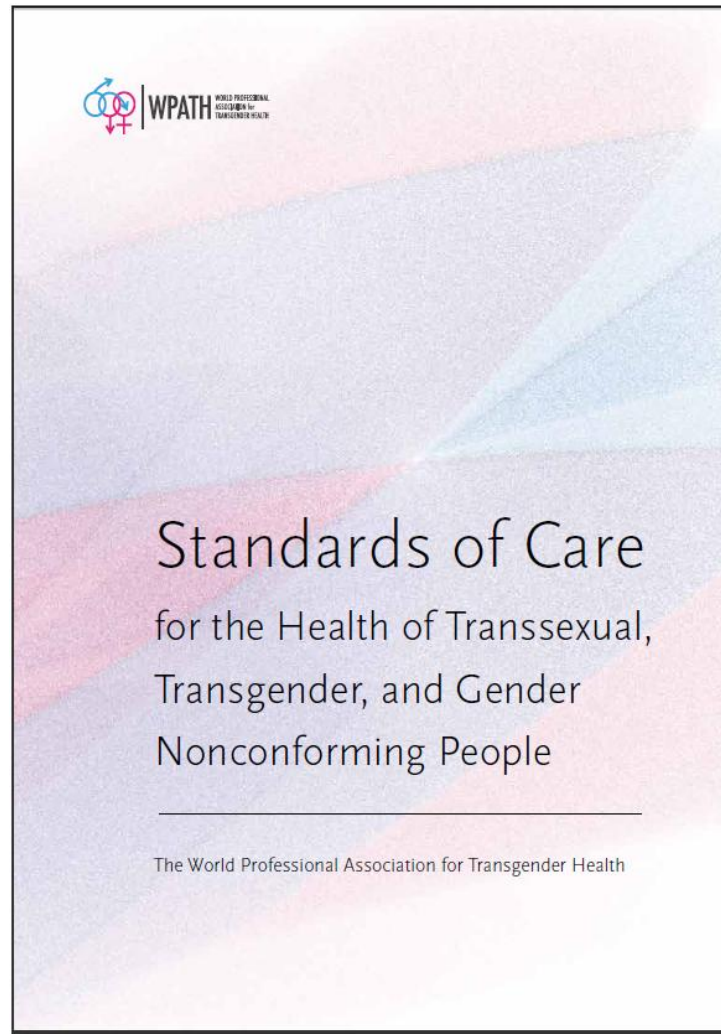
Some resources:



www.ageofdiversity.org.uk/sites/default/files/AppropriateTreatment.pdf



Some resources:



[www.wpath.org/documents/Standards of Care V7 - 2011 WPATH.pdf](http://www.wpath.org/documents/Standards%20of%20Care%20V7%20-%202011%20WPATH.pdf)



Some resources:


LGBT Croydon
Resources and support groups for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Trans people in the London Borough of Croydon

[Home](#)
[Coming events](#)
[LGBT History Month](#)
[IDAHO](#)
[Other annual events](#)
[Local history](#)
[Photo gallery](#)

LGBT London
for a list of LGBT organisations and events in London (including LGBT events in Croydon), see LGBT London: www.lgbtlondon.com/.

The Bird in Hand
The Bird in Hand, 291 Sydenham Road, Croydon CR0 2EL, is Croydon's only full-time LGBT venue: www.bird-in-hand-croydon.co.uk

Welcome to LGBT Croydon

This website is a portal for the various LGBT groups in and around Croydon. It's in the process of being updated, which is why some pages have a different look and feel. See our [Events page](#) for a full list of forthcoming events, or click in the "Event category" column below for a particular group's events.

Croydon's LGBT organisations

Group Logo	Group details	Event Category
	Aurora — Croydon's LGBT Police Consultation Group: Meetings between the police and the LGBT community alternate months: www.aurora-croydon.org.uk/ .	Aurora
	The Bridge: youth club, ages 14 to 19, 6:30 pm Mondays: 07540 722171.	The Bridge
	The Brief Encounter: Open meetings with speakers, first Tuesday of alternate months in central Croydon (formerly at The Brief public house, now closed). For details and current venue see www.cags.org.uk/brief.htm .	Brief Encounter
	CAGS — Croydon Area Gay Society: Social events for lesbians and gay men, with an active tennis group: www.cags.org.uk/ . Contact details for all events are in the CAGS Newsletter, circulated to all members.	CAGS
	Crocus - Croydon's LGBT Network: a strong voice for Croydon's LGBT people. www.croydoncrocus.org.uk/ .	Crocus
	Crocus 18-30: Social and support network by and for younger LGBT people. www.croydoncrocus.org.uk/crocus-18-30	Crocus 18-30
	Croydon Trans Group: social and support for trans people. www.croydontrans.org.uk/ .	Croydon Trans Group
	Lesbian Network: Social and discussion group for lesbian and bisexual women. Various free events through the year. Contact Kim: text or call 07954 580106.	Lesbian Network
	Rainbow Reading Group: LGBT reading group meeting in Croydon Library on the last Thursday of each month. www.rainbowreadinggroup.org.uk/ .	Rainbow Reading Group
	Silver Rainbow: for older gay men and lesbians in Croydon. www.silverrainbow.org.uk/ .	Silver Rainbow

www.lgbt-croydon.org.uk

