



# LGBT TEESVALLEY FORUM NEWSLETTER

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## LGBT ALLIANCE AWARDS

The winners of the LGBT Alliance Awards were announced by community representatives via social media channels, @HartGables, during the virtual awards event on the 26th March 2021. You can watch the awards unfold on the Hart Gables YouTube channel.

*"Congratulations to all our finalists and winners - you all very much deserve to be recognised for the fantastic work being delivered in the Teesside area..."*

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# LGBT ALLIANCE AWARDS 2021

*The LGBT Alliance Awards was established in 2020 to celebrate the work and achievements of local services and individuals, the aim of the tonight's event was to bring communities together and recognise those who are making a difference.*

*When a person's sexuality or gender identity is validated with kindness and acceptance by someone else, it can be the reason someone goes home from school or work with a smile on their face. Imagine what could happen if LGBT+ inclusion was normalised into more work spaces. A bit of understanding can go a long way in combating many things, including poor mental health, that sadly today, we see too much of.*

*The finalists, winners and applicants have gone above and beyond to encourage and implement an inclusive and accessible environment for LGBT+ people whatever their setting. From schools and universities, to local authorities and larger corporations, we really should be proud of our area and the work that's been delivered to create progressive, understanding, and inclusive environments.*

*Nationally, we see that almost one in five LGBT+ people have been the target of negative comments or conduct from work colleagues in the last year because they're LGBT+ and according to a recent YouGov poll rolled out in 2019, 'LGBT bullying is the most prevalent type of bullying in UK schools' today.*

*At a local level, we too see these challenges and that is essentially why our service exists, but what tonight has demonstrated, is that in our area we are trying to combat these issues and change the statistics by promoting inclusion and challenging bullying and discrimination.*



*Everyone in Teesside matters and it's brilliant to see local services getting behind that.*

*We hope that this years LGBT Alliance Awards was the first of many, and that next year, the event will be in person, allowing us to celebrate all your achievements together.*

*I would like to thank Christopher, Ronnie, Josie and Auntie Blanche for doing a fantastic job of the presentation videos, a big shout out to staff for their kind words about finalists and of course a thank you to our wonderful service users for taking part in the closing video.*

*Goodnight everyone, awards and certificates will be with you soon.*

## **Sarah - Service Lead**

Keep reading to find out who the winners and finalists were. To find out more about our winners, check out the award videos on the Hart Gables Youtube channel.

## 'CONTINUOUS COMMITMENT TO TACKLING HATE CRIME'

This award is presented to an individual or organisation who has shown a continuous commitment to tackling hate crime through events, training and service delivery. The finalists are:

- Liam Twizell
- Safer Communities
- Cleveland Police Community Safety Department

The winner is **Cleveland Police Community Safety Department.**



## 'CREATING LGBT INCLUSION AND ACCESSIBILITY IN THE WORKPLACE'

This award is presented to an individual or organisation who has, through their personal example, innovation or policy, contributed to greater diversity and equality in sexual orientation and gender identity within their workplace. The finalists are:

- North Star Housing
- Foundation
- KP Snacks

The winner is **North Star Housing.**



## 'PROVIDING A SAFER LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR LGBT STUDENTS AND STAFF'

This award is presented to an individual or organisation within the education sector who has been proactive in creating a safer learning environment for LGBT+ communities. The finalists are:

- Teesside University
- Northern School of Art
- Sunderland University
- Middlesbrough College

The winner is **Northern School of Art.**



## 'POSITIVE IMPACT ON LGBT HEALTH'

This award is presented to an individual or organisation who has worked diligently to promote health and wellbeing within LGBT+ communities, with a focus on mental health, physical health and/or, sexual health. The finalists are:

- Anthony Young
- Coral Danby
- Alison Gobie

The winner is **Anthony Young**.



## 'POSITIVE IMPACT ON UNDERREPRESENTED PEOPLE WITHIN LGBT COMMUNITIES'

This award is presented to an individual or organisation who has worked tirelessly to ensure marginalised groups of LGBT+ communities are not excluded from society. For example, those underrepresented groups could include; people seeking asylum or people living with a disability. The finalists are:

- ARC Stockton
- Hartlepool United Supporters Trust
- Justice First
- Nasreen & Adam at Ixion

The winner is **Justice First**.



## 'LOCAL AUTHORITY COMMITMENT TO LGBT COMMUNITIES'

This award celebrates the best example of a local authority who has shown dedication to LGBT+ communities in their borough through partnership work, LGBT+ inclusion within their workforce and a meticulous commitment to tackling key issues LGBT+ communities' face. The finalists are:

- Hartlepool Borough Council - Youth Service
- Stockton-On-Tees Local Authority
- Stronger Communities Middlesbrough

The winner is

**Hartlepool Borough Council - Youth Service**

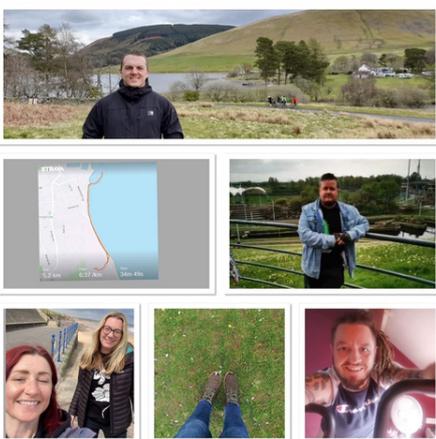


# INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA, TRANSPHOBIA AND BIPHOBIA 2021



Hate crime touches the lives of people locally and globally. At a national level LGBT hate crime reports have tripled over the last 5 years and at a more local level and in just the last 12 months, 43% of our service users claim to have been the victim of a hate incident either online, in their homes or in the community. Furthermore, 50% of our young people claim to have seen an increase in anti-trans trolling taking place on social media and a recent teachers report claims that LGBT+ bullying is the most common form of bullying in UK schools today.

Hart Gables, along with service users and allies, smashed their total of 17 miles - their aim is to raise awareness and show solidarity against all forms of hate. Joined by ARCH, Hartlepool Borough Council Youth Services, Cleveland Police, Catalyst, and more, it was a lovely day of raising awareness.



# TACKLING GENDER CRITICAL THINKING

To combat the misinformation and fear spread by Gender Critical groups, which can incite transphobia and violence against trans and non-binary people and jeopardise their rights, equalities and inclusion in public spaces. Together the Forum aims to equip local services to recognise and respond effectively to anti-trans rhetoric and propaganda and protect trans-inclusive policy and practice. We also aim to address common myths about trans people that feed into transphobia and are spread on platforms such as social media, encouraging the general public to fact-check, look for sources and reliable information, ultimately increasing understanding and inclusion of trans people and making them feel safe in respected in public life.

Forum members and Forum Champions produced a trans myth-busting resource that we shared on social media for Trans Day of Visibility. Eye-catching illustrated slides presented people with a myth and then a fact to combat it. These were shared on social media by lots of our followers. We also worked with Forum Champions to make a short film addressing myths about trans people using public bathrooms, which is available to view on the Hart Gables YouTube channel and has been shown in Forum meetings - this drew on information gathered in a local survey and also national research. Champions and Members contributed to a template letter for local services to customise to their purposes should they receive pressuring communications from Gender Critical groups or individuals that threaten trans-inclusive policy.

Individuals from local partner services have told us that the video about public toilets has changed their long-held attitudes. Local organisations who contributed to the template letter tell us they now feel more confident and equipped to challenge gender critical communications in a robust way, using knowledge and facts. Our Forum Champions, amongst them trans individuals, have felt empowered to take action to address issues that impact their personal dignity and right to equality.

We will remain alert to Gender Critical language, rhetoric and the tactics groups and individuals use to attempt to 'other' trans and non-binary people and roll back their rights, dignities and equalities. We will consult regularly with our Forum Champions and the trans and non-binary people we support so we know what Gender Critical messages they are seeing in the media and their impact, and set actions to combat these. We will support our Forum Members with tailoring the letter template to their needs and implementing it where necessary.

If you would like access to any of the resources spoken about please email [info@hartgables.org.uk](mailto:info@hartgables.org.uk)

**⊗ You need to have 'The Surgery' to be trans**  
 Data suggests only a **small percentage** of trans people have surgery.  
 To be protected under the Equality Act from gender reassignment discrimination, you **don't have to have undergone any surgery or medical treatment.**

**⊗ People transition of it, or to sneal**  
 Waiting lists for Gender Ide long. Adult services require their self-identified gender before hormones. To get a Gender Recog have lived in your gender for two y diagnosis of gender dysphoria/inc

**⊗ Trans people are sexual predators**  
 There is **no evidence whatsoever** to suggest trans people are more likely to be

**75% of people who aren't trans said they feel safe when using public toilets.**

**Helping you get it right.**  
 LGBT + stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and the + is used to include other identities.

**What services do Hart Gables offer?**  
 We can provide support with the following services:  
 • Youth groups  
 • One-to-one  
 • Family support  
 • Training for teachers around LGBT awareness

**tips**  
 If you feel a student is struggling with their sexuality or gender identity and don't know what your options are to support them, contact Hart Gables where we will happily help:

**tips**  
 If afraid to get pronouns or terminology wrong, Most know the difference between someone who makes a and someone who gets it wrong on purpose. You can fully ask about someone's pronouns, but don't ask a person anything you wouldn't ask a cis person (cisgender who is not transgender).

**Trans+ Myth-busting - Public Toilets**