

LGBTQ+ and Dementia: Focus Group

Sheffield Dementia Action Alliance is working collaboratively with LGBT Sheffield to assemble a focus group with SDAA members and supporters to explore how we can raise awareness of and increase understanding of the issues that the LGBTQ+ community can face in respect of access to dementia support services.

The group discussed the notion that we live in a society which generally tends to assume that people identify as heterosexual and have a fixed, binary gender identity. This can make some members of the LGBTQ+ community feel excluded, isolated or unwelcome. So, older members of the LGBTQ+ community often do not feel able to 'come out' and their needs are not recognised by their social care organisations, even though 5-7% of our older population identify as LGBTQ+.

It is against the law to discriminate on the basis of a person's: actual sexual orientation; the sexual orientation they are thought to have; and or the sexual orientation of someone with whom they are associated. The 2010 Equalities Act gives transgender people similar rights.

When the group reassembles, we shall choose the options we wish to take forward from the following:

- Collaborate with Steel City Queer History
- Promote dementia support services with LGBT Sheffield
- Raise the issues gained from the focus group with any new health, voluntary sector and social care service
- Integrate this work with other city-wide strategies where possible