



## Dumfries and Galloway LEADER Programme

### Final Report Checklist

As part of the monitoring of each project supported by the Rural Dumfries and Galloway LEADER Programme, a report must be submitted with each final claim.

The following points are intended as an indication of the areas that should be referred to in the report, they are only meant as a guide and not prescriptive. The use of images to illustrate what has been achieved is encouraged.

You will be required to provide both a hard copy and an electronic copy of your report.

### Background to the project

#### 1. How was the idea for the project developed?

Through feedback from and experience in working with LGBT young people and the wider LGBT community in Dumfries and Galloway since 2003, our local service identified some key issues for LGBT people in rural areas:

- Conservative attitudes and myths surrounding LGBT people can be more prevalent in rural areas where LGBT people are largely invisible, and as a result, this can lead to prejudice and discrimination which manifests in homophobic abuse
- LGBT people in rural areas are often scared to come out, and many live in fear and isolation. This impacts greatly on their quality of life and leads to poor wellbeing, mental health issues, poor educational attainment, lack of participation in wider community, poverty and social exclusion etc.
- Mainstream agencies are ill-equipped to support LGBT clients
- Many LGBT people leave the area to find a better quality of life
- The reach of the LGBT Centre had largely been to Dumfries and surrounding areas, and we had historically struggled to work across rural areas of D&G.

With a passion and commitment to tackling these issues and piloting work which would test new approaches in rural areas, our staff with the input of some individuals from rural areas developed the project idea for the LGBT rural outreach and capacity building project.

#### 2. Who was involved in the project? Individuals and Organisations.

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At the beginning of the project, we brought together a group of individuals who would have a key role in facilitating the project and ensuring its success. This included Julie-Ann Karayilan (development worker); Grace Cardozo (Service Manager); Blanche Mulholland (sessional Worker); Sam Brown (sessional worker); Dawn McCubbin (sessional worker); Elinor Predota (community member – east); Carol Mapley (community member: west).

Susan Farmer from LGBT Youth Scotland's head office provided finance support to the project.

In addition, we set up community and interagency forums in Annandale and Eskdale and Wigtownshire which enabled us to engage with local stakeholders to elicit their views and drive the project forward. Several of these local agency stakeholders went on to volunteer with the project.

Lastly we had a group of volunteers who gave their time to help us achieve outcomes including:

- Carol Mapley
- Rachel Crowson
- Robert Dickson

### 3. What were the aims and objectives of the project?

The aims of our project were to:

- 1) **Reach out widely and inclusively** across the rural areas of D&G to raise awareness of our services, promote visibility of LGBT people, and to deliver positive, relevant messages about inclusion and respect
- 2) **Engage meaningfully with LGBT people**, their families and allies, providing them with opportunities to meet others and access information and support in a safe and non-judgemental environment
- 3) **Consult appropriately** with all key stakeholders in order to fully assess needs and aspirations
- 4) **Build the capacity of local LGBT people**, their families and allies to take on leadership roles and to be a confident and visible face of the LGBT community in the social, civic and democratic life of their local areas
- 5) **Work with local agencies and the wider community** groups (using Adult Volunteers and Community Activists where possible), to build confidence, improve service delivery and promote equality.

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And in doing so, we hoped to achieve the following impacts for:

### **Participants** (vulnerable LGBT people and wider community members):

- improved reach to where they're at, reducing their isolation and encouraging participation, engagement and involvement
- improved range of activities and services, providing accessible opportunities for participation which provide support, create connections, raise confidence, improve health and wellbeing, reduce isolation, develop cultural identity & pride and equip individuals to more effectively deal with the challenges of 21st century life

**Volunteers and community activists** will experience all of the impacts above, and in addition:

- increased knowledge, skills and confidence, which will improve their life chances, and enable them to progress (for example) to leadership roles within their communities; further learning or possible employment
- improved capacity to be actively involved and have power to influence decision making in their communities, thereby ensuring their involvement in the creation of a vision and blueprint for the future of Dumfries and Galloway

**Organisations**, professionals, public bodies, policy makers and the **wider community** will benefit from:

- improved knowledge & awareness of the needs & aspirations of LGBT people within the Region
- advice and support to help them improve their confidence and skills to better meet the needs of LGBT people and other minority communities
- a trustworthy agency where they can refer vulnerable clients
- healthier more sustainable communities through celebration of diversity

**Our organisation** will benefit from:

- improved organisational capacity (through the expansion of our voluntary workforce and network of allies) to make an impact for people and to develop sustainable and quality work more widely across the Region.

#### 4. How was the funding package assembled?

The funding package was assembled as follows:

- 50% funding from Leader (£33,000)
- 25% funding from D&G Council's 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector Grants & Choose Life Funds (£13000 + £3500)

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- 25% in kind funding in the form of volunteer time, and some room hire / training costs. (£17,200)

5. How much money did LEADER provide?  
£33,000

### The project experience

6. When did the project take place?

The project took place from 18<sup>th</sup> July 2011 until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012.

7. What actually happened?

During the project we engaged with LGBT people and supporters during our rural drop ins/monthly activities. We supported LGBT people face to face/online/over the phone and through our centre based groups. Also through the project we made strong links with professionals and community members though the capacity building side of our project.

8. How was the project delivered?

Engagement:

- The project was delivered by holding monthly drop in's in both Annan and Eskdale and in Wigtownshire, these drop ins didn't work particularly well so with consultation with group members we changed these monthly drop is to monthly social activities again one within each area.
- We delivered 121 sessions to people living in A&E or Wigtownshire via face to face, phone, email or via live chat on facebook. We also engaged with community members from both areas through our Dumfries ran services.

Awareness raising:

- We attended various outreach events in both areas in-order to increase engagement with the local community but also raise awareness of the project and the services we ran.
- We ran interactive mainstream outreach sessions to youth groups to raise awareness of LGBT issues/ the centre and the project.

Capacity Building:

- We worked in partnership with other professionals and community members in-order to build their capacity to support LGBT people in these areas through training sessions and professional forums.

9. What marketing was undertaken

- We had a poster campaign where 8 posters were developed with the slogan of "Life Gets Better Together",
- We placed news articles in local papers in Wigtownshire and A&E;

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- We had a radio add which aired for a week during launch of the project
  - We did online advertising through our social media sites/ our website and our networks.
10. Who benefitted from the project?
- 85 individuals that can be accounted for benefitted from the project from direct delivery of services.
  - Through outreach and awareness raising in person and online including formal training we are unable to quantify how many hundreds of people have benefitted from the project however we have had great success from the capacity building side of the project as strong lasting links have been made with other organisations and professionals and community members who are to this day fighting for inclusion of LGBT people in rural communities of D&G.
11. How did the final budget turn out?  
We had a 193.86 underspend from anticipated budget.
12. What lessons have been learnt?

Through this project, we learned several key things about work with LGBT people in rural areas:

- Support based drop-ins are not the best approach when working in rural areas for a number of reason:
  - We could not anticipate the levels of fear which still exist for some individuals accessing identifiable LGBT services in their local area. The drop-ins we ran were very quiet, and although we engaged with people via other means, many felt unable to come forward for fear of being identified. Some opted to travel to Dumfries to our Centre rather than accessing in their own home town.
  - For many, social isolation was the greatest need of all, which in turn led to poor mental health. It was felt that providing social opportunities which could then signpost people on to support may be a better option, as it might be more anonymous and less stigmatising that support based opportunities
- Online work is very important when engaging with LGBT people in rural areas
  - Not only does it allow reach to people within their own homes, or at a convenient time without them having to be identified by coming to a

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venue, but also it allows people to build a relationship and trust with you first which may encourage them to access services in the future.

- Several key outreach tools were used including Facebook chat and work on gay dating sites for men. Through the latter, we discovered that there are many married men engaging in sexual activity with other men who are terrified of being discovered and feel they could never come out.
- Interagency work and outreach at local community events etc. is very important as:
  - is allows us to reach isolated LGBT people who may be within these agencies or accessing these events
  - it helps to raise awareness of LGBT issues, improve attitudes and create environments where LGBT issues are 'every day' and mainstreamed into local communities.
- Build community capacity
  - Where active community members have the skills and commitment to taking work forward themselves, this should be encouraged and supported – social / interest groups could be a key focus for community led work
  - LGBT people who are confident enough to be 'out' in their local community are one of the key drivers for changing attitudes.
- In general, work in rural areas will be a 'slow burner' and it will take many years of investment and work before there is a significant change in attitudes of others or confidence of LGBT people

#### 13. Will the project be mainstreamed or transferred?

The work will be developed using the approaches which were found to work better, and a new project will be developed where we will run a programme of social activities with LGBT people, whilst building their capacity to develop and run their own groups and activities.

#### 14. Detail the sustainability of the project and/or the exit strategy.

Future funding has been secured through Leader and NHS D&G for the Out and About Project, and active members of the community have been brought together to form a committee which can apply for future funding. Through building the

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capacity of volunteers, we will look to them to continue to run the social activities into the future.

15. Detail how the project has addressed the LEADER issue selected in the application.

Our project aimed to foster positive inter-cultural relationships, and promoted social cohesion by attempting to place LGBT equality at the heart of communities in which we worked. Where possible, we brought people of all sexual orientations and gender identities together in a spirit of mutual respect and co-operation, through:

- work with agencies and the wider community including training, implementation of our LGBT Charter Mark Scheme, awareness raising sessions in schools and youth groups; and events (e.g. for History Month, or outreach to community events) to increase visibility of LGBT people and their issues, combat prejudice and stereotypes of LGBT people and to promote acceptance and understanding
- work with our own service users to promote understanding and awareness of other groups and organisation within our region, including particular work around bridging the gap between LGBT people and agencies, including the police.
- Working in partnership with LGBT people and agencies to develop projects and run activities which again brought people together.

With the final claim you will be expected to supply the Final Report as detailed above, the final evidence of target groups and outputs and a Statement of Expenditure. As stated in your grant Offer Letter, 25% of your grant will be retained until these items have been received and processed by the LEADER staff.

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