



Annual Report 2025- 2026

**DUMFRIES
& GALLOWAY
LGBT
PLUS**

Contents

Chair’s Foreword	Page 1
Organisation, structure, governance & management	Page 2
Achievements	Page 6
Financial Summary & Reserves Policy	Page 10
Declaration	Page 11

Chair’s Foreword

It’s with great pride and real excitement that I introduce our 2025–2026 Annual Report, a celebration of another inspiring year filled with impact, compassion, and resilience across Dumfries and Galloway.

Our support and counselling services have continued to transform lives throughout the region. From one-to-one sessions and group work to outreach and crisis support, our team has shown incredible dedication, meeting people where they are and helping them move forward with confidence, dignity, and hope.

None of this would be possible without our amazing staff and volunteers. Their professionalism, empathy, and unwavering commitment are the driving force behind everything we do. I also want to extend heartfelt thanks to our Board, whose guidance and leadership ensure we remain strong, sustainable, and true to our values.

Together, we’ve built an organisation that is trusted, inclusive, and deeply rooted in the communities we serve. Thank you all for your passion, your energy, and your belief in what we can achieve.

Organisation structure, governance, and management

Dumfries & Galloway LGBT Plus is a **Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation**, which is a legal form unique to Scottish charities, and can enter contracts, employ staff, incur debts, own property, sue and be sued. It also provides a high degree of protection against liability. It is governed by a charitable constitution and presided over by a board of Trustees as elected by its members.

Board Members as 31st March 2025

Robbie Phillips	Joined 09/11/2022
Josep Soler-Monells	Joined 14/11/2023
Jo McKellar	Joined 25/08/2025
Tracy Barron	Joined 24/06/2025
Sandra Dickson	Joined 28/08/2025

Resigned Board Members

Angel Robinson	Resigned 08/11/2025
Malcolm Struthers	Resigned 15/08/2025
Nicola Shennan	Resigned 30/05/2025
William Branney	Resigned 17/02/2025

The **constitution** sets out the responsibilities and the recruitment of Trustees as well as our charitable purposes and strategic outcomes.

Charitable Purposes:

Within Dumfries & Galloway and surrounding regions and other rural areas, we will promote equality and diversity, and advance human rights by:

- Supporting LGBT Plus* adults and older people, their families, friends, supporters, and allies to live happier, safer, more active and healthier lives and engage more confidently within their communities.
- Working with organisations and communities so they can better support, include and value LGBT Plus adults, older people, and families.

*LGBT Plus in this instance refers to individuals who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, pansexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual, or otherwise affected by issues of gender identity and/or sexual orientation

Strategic Outcomes:

Our strategic (and intermediate) outcomes outline the ways in which we hope that our work will impact positively on LGBT Plus adults, older people and families over the next 11 years. With this in mind, and through our ambitious programme of work, we aim that LGBT Plus adults, older people and families will, under the following outcomes:

1. **PERSONAL WELLBEING:** be happier, safer, healthier, more confident, and better able to enact their rights.
2. **SOCIAL WELLBEING:** engage more confidently within their communities, and will be better integrated into the social, leisure, and cultural life of Dumfries and Galloway.
3. **VOLUNTEERING, ACTIVISM AND CAPACITY BUILDING:** participate more as active citizens and will have their voice heard in policy and service development at a local and national level.
4. **INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES:** be visible across Dumfries and Galloway, and will feel supported, included, and valued by organisations and the communities to which they belong.
5. **EFFECTIVE ORGANISATIONS:** be served by an effective, value driven organisation, which demonstrates best practice in all aspects of leadership, management, and business support



The main activities we undertake to help us achieve our outcomes include:

- 1 2 1 support sessions (face to face, online and via telephone)
- Advocacy and advice
- 1 2 1 Counsellor Services
- Training (Level 1 “Awareness” and Level 2 Applied”)
- Group work (with transgender people, older People, carers and those with more complex needs)
- Phone Befriending Service (for hybrid support)
- Issue based seminars / workshops
- Social activities
- Events, such as Pride
- Volunteering opportunities (Outreach Team)
- Activism and representation at local and national levels
- Networking and partnership working
- Interagency / Partnership work on Equality and Diversity



Our Funders and supporters

Dumfries & Galloway LGBT Plus would like to thank the following funder for their support in the past year. Without their continuing support, guidance, and funding we would not be able to help our communities in the way we do today.

Helping us to deliver support, events, volunteer opportunities and training across the region.

National Lottery Community Fund & Funds for All, The Robertson Trust, Dumfries and Galloway Council, Foundation Scotland, Bank of Scotland Foundation, NHS Endowment Fund, Impact Funders.



Donations have been allocated into our long-term welfare fund, and this allows us to support those in need, or crises with additional support, such as supermarket vouchers, food, meals, phone vouchers and “Warm Spaces”

Donations have come in many forms over this reporting period, such as personal donations, and those left to the organisation by individuals and families as a bequest.

Along with the sale of Rainbow Lottery tickets, 50% of ticket sales are given to the Organisation. Along with donations received by our outreach team at activities across the region over the year.

Our Office Space in Dumfries “The Centre”



The Centre, having all the internal advantages, also has the natural beauty of trees, plants and open spaces, it's a natural place to work.

Having the gardens close by, we are able to deliver our “Walk and Talks” sessions, health walks, along with picnics.

We also have access to the many events laid on over the year in the grounds, from Opera to Picnics, from music events to world class cycling events.

The space outside is as important as the inside and forms itself into a very large office space amongst the trees and nature, helping improve lives. Our Breathing Space and Centre.



Our Office Space in Stranraer “The Hub”



Our Stranraer Office and West Hub, located next to the Harbour at Burns House.

Running twice weekly, on Tuesdays 10 till 1pm, is a safe space in Burns House for social get-togethers, groups, workshops, health walks and 1-2-1 support delivery sessions.



Achievements 2025-2026

Digital Outreach

- We have 260 Followers on Instagram.
- We have 2155 Followers on Facebook.
- The Newsletter audience has a circulation of 331 and 238 are subscribers.
- Texting Service has 143 subscribers.

Other Media

- Released 2 press releases in relation to LGBT events/services covering issues such as suicide, IDAHOBIT, Hate Crime, Pride, Equality and World Aids Day.
- Staff have also taken part in 2 radio interviews relating to LGBT+ issues. Along with a film shoot for suicide awareness within the farming community.
- The Organisation took over the D&G Website of 'Greatest Hits Radio' with 3 separate weeks showcasing the Organisation and the services on offer.

Capacity Building

Attended the Stranraer, Oban, Cumbria and Whitehaven Pride events, promoted International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia (IDAHOBIT) events, the World Aids Day with a film event at the RBCFT in Dumfries, and the Transgender Day of Remembrance. Along with all other national and international LGBT awareness days delivered online via social media and groups in Stranraer, Newton Stewart and Dumfries.

In addition, we attended national level meetings and events across Scotland.

Partnerships Working

We have built links with many organisation's throughout the region: D&G Carers Centre D&G Advocacy Service, NHS D&G, Change In Mind, Financial Inclusion and Assessment Team (FIAT), CHSS (Chest, Heart Stroke Scotland) D&G Health Improvement, Capability Scotland, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, NHS Drug and Alcohol service partnership, BBV, D&G Sexual Health, CTC, to name but a few. Staff and our volunteer community champions attend strategic meetings. We currently have volunteer champions representing the organisation on the D&G Equality & Diversity board, D&G Equality Partnership, The ITV Border Equality & Diversity board, Scottish Government LGBT Cross Party Working Group.

The Equality Partnership and the Diversity Working Group

D&G LGBT Plus are part of the D&G Equality Commission, made up of DG Voice, Third Sector D&G and DGMA.

We have attended 82 core meetings & Impact Assessments, both in the Commission Partnership and with the Diversity Working Group.

Delivered 7 training sessions around equality awareness.

LGBT + Training and Awareness

Dumfries and Galloway LGBT Plus Training and Awareness offers two levels of training:

1. Level 1: LGBT Awareness Training

This training focuses on creating awareness and understanding of LGBT issues. It covers fundamental concepts, terminology, historical context, and challenges faced by the LGBT community. The goal is to foster empathy, reduce stereotypes, and promote inclusivity.

2. Level 2: LGBT Applied Training

Building upon the foundation provided in Level 1, Level 2 training delves deeper into practical applications of knowledge and skills related to supporting and advocating for the LGBT community. It covers topics such as allyship, creating inclusive environments, addressing discrimination, and promoting equality in various settings.

The overall aim of Dumfries and Galloway LGBT Plus Training and Awareness is to enhance inclusivity, foster equality, and promote a more accepting and supportive community for LGBT individuals in the region.

Over the funding period we delivered 8 training sessions to several organisations across D&G.

Level 1 duration 1.5 hours

Level 2 duration 6 hours

Support and Group work

We have delivered.

- 1935 hours of support and counselling
- 308 hours of Group work across the region
- 312 hours of Intern Counsellor work in Dumfries

Support is delivered with 1-2-1 sessions and a blended approach, face-to-face sessions are carried out at our Dumfries and Stranraer offices, along with partner referral spaces.

The sessions included support, advocacy, advice, guidance, along with signposting to other partners and agencies.



Stranraer Drop-In (The Potting Shed) Library and Film Group

Running weekly from 10 till 12pm, forming a social space for a 'cuppa and chat', if weather permitting a walk around the shoreline, along with a LGBT+ film showing on the last Thursday of each month.

Regional Satellite Offices

Ran in Castle Douglas, Whithorn and Wigtown, Annan, Newton Stewart, and Whithorn.



Outreach

The Outreach team is made up of trained volunteers and staff, this reporting period the team visited:

- 2 Agricultural shows (Wigtown and Dumfries)
- 4 College events (Stranraer and Dumfries)
- 6 Health and Wellbeing events (Stranraer and Dumfries)
- 2 Cancer Awareness event (Stranraer & Dumfries)
- 3 Pride Events
- 15 Partnership events (Networking)
- 1 Trans Mini Conference

Other Events

Our Staff and Volunteers attended the Scottish Government LGBT Cross Party group meetings, the Equality Network meetings.

LGBT History Month, Transgender Day of Remembrance, and Visibility, World Aid Day, D&G Colleges LGBT+ Tea Parties, and Prides.

Stranraer Pride

Stranraer Pride 2025 has been a celebration filled with colour, courage, and community spirit, and it simply wouldn't have been possible without the incredible people who brought it to life. To every volunteer who gave their time, energy, and heart: thank you. Your dedication is what turns a small coastal town into a place of visibility, joy, and welcome for all.

And to everyone who joined us on the day, whether you watched, danced, supported from the sidelines, or simply showed up as your brilliant self, thank you for making Pride in Stranraer a space where everyone can belong. Your presence sends a powerful message that equality, kindness, and solidarity matter here.

Together, we've created something beautiful in Stranraer. Here's to community, to pride, and to the people who make both possible.



Our volunteer activities have continued to grow across the region, with our volunteers delivering an impressive 1,248 hours of support. Alongside this, they have represented the organisation at numerous partnership meetings, both in person and online.

Much of this work has been driven by our Outreach Team, supported by our Drop-Ins, Meet Ups, and Walking Groups, all of which help us stay connected with communities across Dumfries & Galloway.

We also want to express our sincere thanks to the volunteers who serve on our Board of Charity Trustees. Their dedication, expertise, and willingness to give their time freely ensures strong governance and helps us deliver meaningful impact for the community.



Financial Statement

Over the reporting period, we have been exceptionally busy delivering our one-to-one support, counselling services, events, and Outreach activities. This work has only been possible thanks to the generous support of our funders and donors, whose contributions have enabled us to provide services across the region, including through our virtual platforms.

We are deeply grateful to our funders, including The National Lottery Community Fund, The Robertson Trust, NHS D&G Endowment Fund, Bank of Scotland, D&G Council Coastal Funding and Area Funding (Wigtownshire), Foundation Scotland, Impact Funders and The Kilgallioch Community Grants.

We also received funding through a commission from Dumfries & Galloway Council, as part of the D&G Equality Partnership, to engage with and represent the LGBT+ community. We sincerely appreciate the continued support of these organisations and others; your contributions make our work possible.

Throughout the year, our expenditure supported the running of our offices in Dumfries and Stranraer, the expansion of our staff team, volunteer expenses, and the enhancement of our services across Dumfries and Galloway. These investments were essential as we navigated rising operational costs, increased National Insurance Contributions, and a more challenging funding landscape.

Our staff team has been remarkable, often giving many additional hours as volunteers to ensure we can meet growing demand. Their dedication, combined with the tireless efforts of our volunteers and Charity Trustees, strengthens our capacity and enables us to continue delivering high-quality support across the region.

Thank you to everyone involved, your commitment, passion, and hard work ensure we can continue providing a wide range of vital services to our community across Dumfries and Galloway.

Reserves Policy

Dumfries and Galloway LGBT Plus will seek to build reserves the aim of which will be to:

- Allow us to meet our financial obligations for a minimum of 3 months
- Save for capital expenditure
- Invest in key projects or activities as agreed by the Board

DECLARATION

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Charity Trustees Report for
2025 – 2026

Signed on behalf of the Dumfries and Galloway LGBT Plus Charity Trustees

Tracy Barron

Jo McKellar



Chair

Trustee

18 May 2026

18 May 2026

Follow us at www.lgbtplus.org.uk or at our Twitter and Facebook pages



@DNGLGBTPLUS
dnglgbtplus



@DGLGBTPLUS

