

LGBTQ+ spaces in Camden 1986–present

Ben Campkin and Lo Marshall

URBAN



Prepared for Camden with financial support from UCL Public Policy



LAB

© Ben Campkin and Lo Marshall, April 2020

ISBN 978-0-9956637-3-2

UCL Urban Laboratory
Gordon House
29 Gordon Square
London WC1H 0PP

www.ucl.ac.uk/urbanlab

@UCLurbanlab

urbanlaboratory@ucl.ac.uk

Key to cover images (clockwise from top left): Camden LGBT Advice and Safety Project logo; The Black Cap hat made by Thomas Kendall for Fabulous Façades; Gay's the Word logo; Photograph of First Out Café.

Ben Campkin is Professor of History and Theory of Architecture and Urbanism and Co-Director of UCL Urban Laboratory. He is the author of *Remaking London: Decline and Regeneration in Urban Culture* (2013), which won the Jane Jacobs Urban Communication Foundation Award.

Mx Lo Marshall researches urban geographies of gender and sexuality as a Research Fellow at the UCL Urban Laboratory and a PhD candidate in the Department of Geography and The Bartlett School of Architecture at UCL.



CONTENTS

1	Introduction: the value of LGBTQ+ spaces	1
2	LGBTQ+ spaces in Camden	4
2.1	Overview	4
2.2	Women-only and women-centred spaces	4
2.3	The Bell (c.1982 - c.1995)	5
2.4	Nightlife oriented towards or operated by BAME people	5
2.5	Venues with gender non-conforming clientele	5
2.6	Performance venues	5
2.7	Host spaces	6
2.8	Reasons for closure	6
2.9	Examples of day and non-nightlife evening spaces	6
3	LGBTQ+ roundtable on Camden venues	7
3.1	Key issues in approaching LGBTQ+ spaces and communities	7
3.2	Planning	7
4	Camden-based LGBTQ+ services	11
5	City-wide LGBTQ+ services	12
6	Acknowledgements	16

Research we have been undertaking since 2016 has provided evidence for the important role of lesbian, gay, bi, trans and queer (LGBTQ+) spaces to the wellbeing of these communities and to society more widely.¹ In their own right, and relative to other spaces that are perceived as less welcoming or safe, LGBTQ+ venues and events contribute to:

- Community building within and across different groups, including intergenerational exchange;
- Heritage, cultural production, education, tourism;
- Personal journeys of coming out, self-expression, esteem-building, development of kinship and support structures, and a sense of safety and belonging
- Commercial opportunities and employment

The possibilities for congregation and community that these spaces can offer should be seen alongside evidence of the experiences of LGBTQ+ individuals. For example, of those surveyed in the 2015 five-year RaRE study of LGBT mental health, risk and resilience, it was determined that 48% of trans young people had said that they had attempted suicide; and 34% of young LGB people had made at least one suicide attempt.² The *Unhealthy Attitudes* study highlighted a lack of understanding of LGBTQ+ individuals' health and social care needs.³ The 2017 Stonewall study *LGBT in Britain: Hate Crime and Discrimination* showed that the number of lesbian, gay and bisexual people who experienced a hate crime or incident in the past year rose 78% between 2013 and 2017; 41% of trans people had experienced a hate crime or incident because of their gender identity in the last twelve months; and 81% of the LGBT people surveyed who had experienced a hate crime or incident had not reported it.⁴ A recent Freedom of Information request made by the BBC showed that across 36 British police forces, the recorded number of hate crimes against trans people has risen 81%, from 1,073 in 2016-17, to 1,944 in 2018-19.⁵ Evidence also points to the ways that cis-heteronormative expectations and childhood shame experienced by LGBTQ+ people can manifest in adulthood through depression, drug and alcohol misuse, sex addiction and negative body image.⁶ A reported 24% of homeless young people identify as LGBT, according to The Albert Kennedy Trust.⁷

¹ B. Campkin and L. Marshall, [LGBTQ+ Cultural Infrastructure in London: Night Venues, 2006 - 2017](#). (London: UCL Urban Lab, 2017); B. Campkin and L. Marshall, [LGBTQI Nightlife in London from 1986 to the present: Interim findings](#) (London: UCL Urban Lab, 2016).

² N. Nodin, E. Peel, A. Tyler and I. Rivers, [The RaRE Research Report: LGB&T Mental Health – Risk and Resilience Explore](#) (London: PACE, 2015).

³ C. Somerville, [Unhealthy Attitudes: the Treatment of LGBT People Within Health and Social Care Services](#) (London: Stonewall, 2015).

⁴ C. L. Bachmann and B. Gooch, [LGBT in Britain: Hate Crime and Discrimination](#) (London: Stonewall, 2017)

⁵ BBC, [‘Transgender hate crimes recorded by police go up 81%’](#), BBC, 27 June 2019

⁶ E.g. M. Todd, *Straight Jacket: Over Coming Society's Legacy of Gay Shame* (London: Penguin, 2018).

⁷ Albert Kennedy Trust, [LGBT Youth Homelessness](#) (London: AKT, 2015).

In this context, LGBTQ+ venues and events are a vitally important social and cultural infrastructure within these communities, and as part of individuals' strategies of resilience. Of course, these spaces are not always inclusive for everybody and they can be exclusionary in direct and indirect ways (e.g. location, accessibility, expense, being centred around alcohol and/or drugs, dominance by white cis gay men, class, youth orientation, noise levels). LGBTQ+ spaces, particularly nightlife spaces, can therefore have complex relationships with, or reflect and reproduce common challenges faced by these populations.

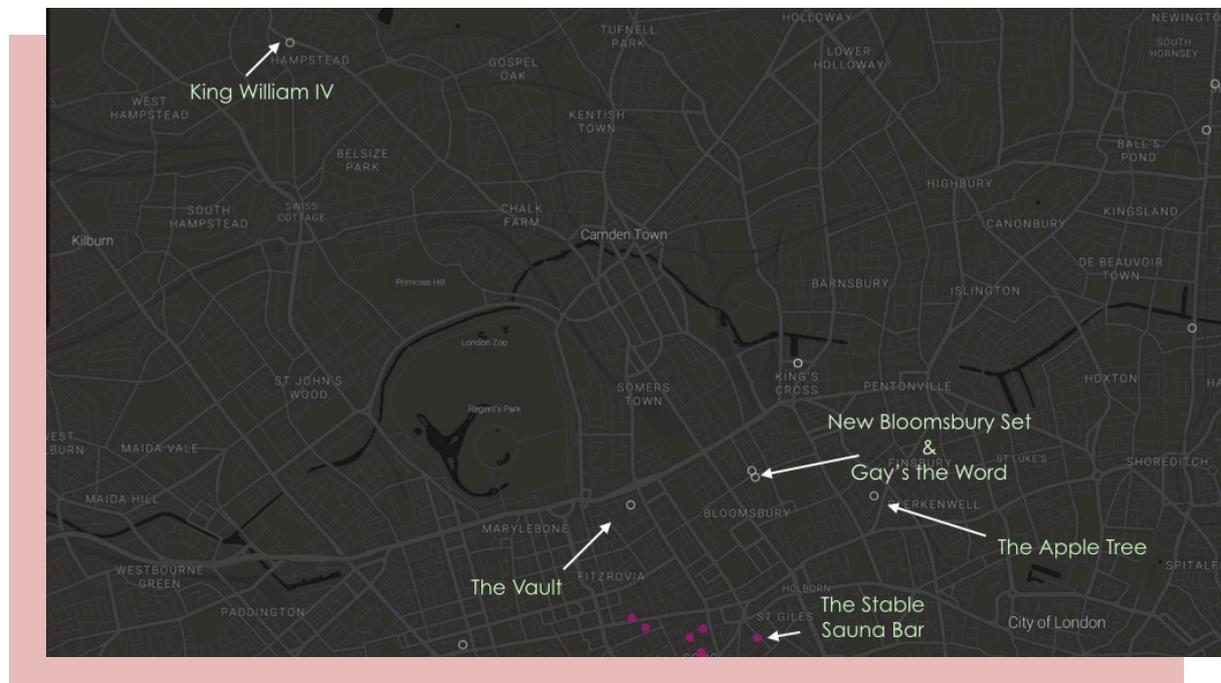
Camden has a long history as a borough with a large LGBTQ+ population and continues to be home to important spaces associated with these groups, despite notable closures of some of London's most inclusive and community-oriented venues. This briefing note gives an overview of spaces in Camden, from 1986 to the present. It highlights some of the most innovative LGBTQ+ day-time and night-spaces and the ways in which they have served different groups, and reports on a roundtable held at Camden Council in July 2019.⁸

⁸ This may include the reduction of social isolation and loneliness, which is a current focus for Camden. B. Campkin and L. Marshall [LGBTQ+ Cultural Infrastructure in London: Night Venues, 2006 – 2017](#), (London: UCL Urban Lab, 2017); B. Campkin and L. Marshall, [LGBTQI Nightlife in London from 1986 to the present: Interim findings](#) (London: UCL Urban Lab, 2016).

LGBTQ+ VENUES IN CAMDEN, 1986



LGBTQ+ VENUES IN CAMDEN, 2020



Maps of LGBTQ+ licensed venues in Camden using UCL Urban Laboratory data, 2019.

2.1 Overview

Indicatively, the evidence we have gathered suggests that the number of LGBTQ+ nightlife venues in Camden fell by 40% between 2006 and 2018. This is a lower fall than the 58% decrease across London as a whole.

In 2006, the number of LGBTQ+ venues in Camden peaked at 10, by the beginning of 2020 this number had decreased to 5 venues. These are:

1. The Apple Tree, an LGBTQ+ pub, inclusive to all;
2. New Bloomsbury Set, an independent cocktail bar, with LGBTQ+ identity markers;
3. King William IV, a former gay pub that now presents as gay friendly;
4. The Vault, bar for gay and bi men;
5. Sauna Bar, for gay and bi men.

While Camden has experienced a lower level of decline than other boroughs, and London as a whole, the venues that have closed in Camden represent some of the most inclusive spaces in London, which have been highly valued by Camden's LGBTQ+ communities and beyond. A closer look at our quantitative data, and considering this alongside qualitative data, gathered through case studies, interviews, archival research and a survey with LGBTQ+ Londoners, tells a more detailed story.

2.2 WOMEN-ONLY & WOMEN-CENTRED SPACES

Since 2006, a number of women-only and women-centred nightlife spaces have closed in London, with only two open lesbian venues, **She Bar** (2014-) in Soho and nightclub **LICK** (2019-) in Vauxhall. Our data also shows an absence of LGBTQ+ venues oriented towards QTPOC (queer, trans and intersex people of colour) and trans communities. Of course, these communities overlap with each other, and with other lesbian, gay and bi communities.

Camden has historically had a relatively high concentration of dedicated women's spaces: **Camden Lesbian Centre and Black Lesbian Group** (1982 – 1992), **The Glass Bar** (1995 – 2008), **Vespa Lounge** (1999 – 2006), and LGBTQ+ nightlife venues with consistently programmed women-centred nights (**First Out** [1986 – 2011], **Drill Hall** [1977 – 2012] and **Her Upstairs/Them Downstairs** [2016 – 2018]). On Wednesdays, **Gay's the Word** (1979-) host the Lesbian Discussion Group, which has been operating for nearly 40 years.

2.3 THE BELL

An important historic space in Camden was **The Bell** (c.1982-c.1995), which was a key venue for alternative lesbian and gay nightlife in 1980s and early 1990s King's Cross. The Bell has been positively remembered in recent qualitative research, including our own, and community participatory cultural and oral history projects (e.g. *Queer Encounters King's Cross*, *King's Cross Story Palace*, Tom Marshman's *King's Cross Remixes*, and popular Facebook Group, 'Remember the Bell, King's Cross?'). The Bell began as a women-only night and became a mixed lesbian and gay venue seven nights per week. It hosted *Icebreakers*, a weekly disco that was linked into local services, including London Lesbian and Gay Switchboard.

2.4 NIGHTLIFE ORIENTED TOWARD OR OPERATED BY BAME PEOPLE

Since the 1980s Camden has had two licensed premises oriented towards LGBTQ+ people who are black, asian and/or members of other ethnic minority groups in Britain. **Camden Lesbian Centre and Black Lesbian Group** (1982 - c.1992) and **G-Lounge** (2005 - 2006). More recently **Her Upstairs/Them Downstairs** (2016 - 2018) hosted the **Cocoa Butter Club**, a night showcasing cabaret performers of colour. **The Glass Bar** (1995 - 2008), which held specific events for women of colour, was operated by Elaine McKenzie, one of very few women of colour to have leased and operated an LGBTQ+ venue in London.

2.5 VENUES WITH GENDER NON-CONFORMING CLIENTELE

Transformations, was a longstanding shop with feminine clothing, accessories and makeover services for trans women, and trans-feminine and cross-dressing people. **Adam as Eve TV [Transvestite] Centre** was open during the mid-1990s. **The Glass Bar** (1995 - 2008) was open to all self-identified women. **Her Upstairs/Them Downstairs** (2016 - 2018) was a venue that actively programmed for and welcomed trans and non-binary performers and clientele.

2.6 PERFORMANCE VENUES

Camden has been a home to a number of LGBTQ+ venues that have played a vital role in London's LGBTQ+ performance scenes. **The Apple Tree** (2018 -) is the only remaining LGBTQ+ venue with regular LGBTQ+ performance programming in Camden. Closed spaces that have contributed to creating and sustaining strong connections between Camden venues and LGBTQ+ performance include the **The Black Cap** (operating as a drag pub by 1965, closed in 2015), **Drill Hall** (1977 - 2012), and **Her Upstairs/Them Downstairs** (2016 - 2018). Three further spaces that regularly host LGBTQ+ performance but have not been classified in our research as dedicated

LGBTQ+ venues remain open: **Camden People's Theatre** (1995 -), **Phoenix Arts Club** (1988 -) and **The Horse Hospital** (1993 -). However, The Horse Hospital is currently threatened with closure due to development.

2.7 HOST SPACES

Night spaces that are not primarily LGBTQ+ but sometimes host LGBTQ+ events include **Egg** (2004 -) and **Scala** (1999 -). Scala, formerly **The Scala Cinema** (1978 - 1993), is an important landmark in the area's LGBTQ+ history and remembered positively from this earlier period. Along with LGBTQ+ venues in Islington, two large capacity Camden venues that regularly held LGBTQ+ events, including club nights and performance, closed as part of the King's Cross regeneration: **The Cross** (1993 - 2007) and **Bagley's Studios** (1993 - 2008). In Westminster, **London Astoria** (1976 - 2009), and its sister venue **LA2**, which hosted numerous popular LGBTQ+ club nights, including **Bang!** (1976 - 1993) and **G-A-Y** (1993 - 2008), closed as part of the Crossrail redevelopment. G-A-Y took up new premises in **Heaven** (1979 -).

2.8 REASONS FOR CLOSURE

In many cases the reasons for closure are unknown because this information is not in the public domain and would require further detailed research to ascertain. However, where reasons have been ascertained through the research and/or are public knowledge, these include:

- Transport infrastructure redevelopment, including direct and indirect impacts of King's Cross Central redevelopment; and Crossrail Tottenham Court Road Station redevelopment, where the loss of one LGBTQ+ space was considered in equalities impact assessments, yet multiple venues closed;
- Conversion or partial conversion to residential;
- Sale of property;
- Lease expiration and failure to renegotiate viable terms/rent increases, including rent spikes;
- Financial issues/business viability.

2.9 EXAMPLES OF DAY & NON-NIGHTLIFE EVENING SPACES

- **Gay's the Word**, an LGBTQ+ bookshop, running events, and hosting networks, including Trans London, and the Lesbian Discussion Group.
- **Forum +** (monthly drop-in service in Union Chapel).
- **LGBTQ+ Community Hub**, Castle Haven Community Centre.
- **Mosaic LGBT Youth Centre**.
- **Camden London Action Sexual Health** (CLASH).
- **42 Beans**, an LGBTQ+ friendly cafe.

The roundtable noted many areas where Camden Council had taken specific positive actions in their support for LGBTQ+ spaces and communities including:

- Support for Forum+;
- Advocating for a late license at Her Upstairs;
- Support for The Black Cap campaign;
- Openness to collaborative working with communities, organisations and researchers.

3.1 KEY ISSUE IN APPROACHING LGBTQ+ SPACES & COMMUNITIES

- Issues around accessibility came up in relation to age and the provision of spaces for diverse groups who may not be catered for in commercial nightlife spaces, e.g. if they are noisy, inaccessible, alcohol-oriented.
- Engaging with LGBTQ+ heritage can productively involve acknowledging past heritage and established venues as well as recognising more transitory culture and events. This requires sensitivity to particular histories and intra-community dynamics – for example public discussions on commemorating those who died during the AIDS epidemic of the 1980s and 1990s; or discussions around the inclusivity/exclusivity of particular venues to specific groups today.

3.2 PLANNING

Asset of Community Value (ACV) status has been used in Camden and across London by campaigns seeking to protect LGBTQ venues. As a planning mechanism, there are limits to ACVs. For example:

- Applications demand high levels of voluntary labour by communities to gather supporting evidence (e.g. The Black Cap campaign).
- ACV is oriented around a strongly localised idea of community (Localism Act 2011, Part 5, Chapter 3, Sections 76-103). This does not reflect the clientele of LGBTQ+ venues in Camden, although these are vital community assets. This adds to the labour entailed in ACV applications, which require that residents of Camden or neighbouring boroughs affirm a venue's community value.
- If the asset has already closed, then the requirement for an ACV is that it needs to have 'furthered the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community in the recent past.'⁹ There is no statutory time period, so local authorities have the power to decide what length of use qualifies an asset for consideration. Community value has tended to be associated with longevity, whereas relatively recent and short-lived venues have provided vital cultural

⁹Department for Communities and Local Government, [Community Right to Bid: Non-statutory advice note for local authorities](#) (London: HM Government, 2012); Mark Sandford, Section 2.2, [Assets of community value, Briefing Paper No. 06366](#) (London: UK Parliament, 2017); HM Government, Section 88(2), [Localism Act 2011](#) (London: HM Government, 2012)

infrastructure (e.g. Her Upstairs). How can these spaces be better recognised as assets

- Compulsory Purchase powers include possible use for ACVs, subject to public interest tests, as well as internal council decision-making processes. This is therefore an opportunity for local authorities to consider in supporting listed LGBTQ+ venues, such as The Black Cap.

Interpretations of and changes to **use class** have become implicated in the closures of and threats to LGBTQ spaces. Sui Generis status is used to identify sites that in the local planning authority's view fall outside a use class and has been attained by a number of LGBTQ+ venue campaigns in London, as part of wider approaches seeking to protect under-threat venues. In the case of The Black Cap, Camden Council has provided the landowner with a detailed description of the Black Cap's planning use, consistent with its view that the Black Cap is 'sui generis'. However this is subject to an ongoing appeal that will be fundamental to establishing the lawful use of The Black Cap. The outcome will be known later in 2020. Establishing the use class of a building depends on the provision of detailed evidence and assessment.

The **Public Sector Equality Duty** provides a further tool to ensure the protection of LGBTQ+ venues and community assets.

Lease negotiations are periods of particular vulnerability for venue operators looking to open or continue the running of an LGBTQ+ space. This vulnerability is heightened by the recent economic climate in London and patterns of regeneration and gentrification that have intensified rent rises. Rent hikes and lease renegotiations have been a main driver of LGBTQ+ venue closures, including The Glass Bar and Drill Hall in Camden, and potentially threaten the future of existing LGBTQ+ spaces, including Gay's the Word, where Camden is the landlord, as well as a currently threatened venue that has frequently hosted LGBTQ+ communities and events, The Horse Hospital. In terms of opening new venues, previous Camden-based LGBTQ+ venue First Out (1985-2011) was able to open due to the Council's capacity and willingness to act as guarantors on the venue's lease. This kind of under-writing support was highlighted as being potentially helpful to initiatives currently being planned, such as Tonic Housing, whose work is oriented around the social welfare of older LGBTQ people.

Meanwhile use could offer affordable fixed-term, temporary space to LGBTQ+ organisations and businesses. This could potentially counter the negative impact of large-scale regeneration projects – especially the redevelopment of transport infrastructure projects, such as King's Cross, Crossrail and HS2 - upon LGBTQ+

spaces and communities. Section 106 agreements and planning conditions can operate as a mechanism for achieving provision of space to LGBTQ+ communities/operators. The Council's initiatives on workspaces could be aligned with planning for future provision of LGBTQ+ venues and cultural assets, in that many of Camden's LGBTQ+ venues have been spaces of cultural production, performance and other kinds of artistic activity. Planning Out's [LGBT+ Placemaking Toolkit](#) is an excellent resource to work with developers and to inform planners and other professionals involved in development.

Existing Camden Council policy guidance on 'Community uses, leisure facilities and pubs' (2018) specifically references the benefit of accessing community, cultural, and leisure facilities for members of LGBTQ+ communities, the young, the elderly and ethnic and religious minorities. This guidance contains commitments to seeking the retention of spaces that support protected groups (including LGBTQ+ people) with strong planning protection for pubs (including those serving protected groups) written into the Local Plan (2017).

Camden acknowledge 'protected groups' in Policy C2(g) 'Community facilities': 'ensure existing community facilities are retained recognising their benefit to the community, including protected groups...' and Policy C3 'Cultural and leisure facilities' para. 4.58: 'the users of a leisure or cultural facility will be drawn from a catchment unique to the particular venue and therefore we will consider the value a facility provides to Londoners, including protected groups' (as set out in the Equality Act 2010). Camden also recognise the benefit of providing and re-providing spaces for community and cultural activities within major development and regeneration schemes.

Camden intend to expand on LGBTQ+ social and cultural infrastructure within their Community Uses Supplementary Planning Guidance drawing both on this Briefing note and Urban Lab's 2017 report, *LGBTQ+ Cultural Infrastructure in London: Night Venues, 2006-present*. This aligns Camden with other London borough councils - including Westminster City Council and Tower Hamlets - and the Greater London Authority. These authorities are recognising and responding to a need to protect, re-provide and create new spaces for LGBTQ+ communities in guidance, including through policies that increasingly make specific reference to these groups. This includes the GLA's Cultural Infrastructure Plan, Culture and Night-time Economy Supplementary Planning Guidance and LGBT Venues Charter, as well as Westminster City Council's Soho Special Policy Area.¹⁰

¹⁰ B. Campkin and L. Marshall (2017) [LGBTQ+ Cultural Infrastructure in London: Night Venues, 2006 - 2017](#) (London: UCL Urban Lab, 2017); GLA, [Culture and Night-time Economy Supplementary Planning Guidance](#) (London: GLA, 2017); GLA, [Cultural Infrastructure Plan](#) (London: GLA, 2019); GLA, [LGBTQ+ Venue Charter](#) (London: GLA, 2017); Westminster City Council, [City Plan 2019-2040](#), Publication Draft (London: Westminster City Council, 2019).

Networks and communication were raised as an area for improvement. The roundtable raised discrepancies between Camden and external organisations' and individuals' views of the Council's support for LGBTQ+ communities, and their responses to specific campaigns to protect and re-open venues. A network could be established to continue the conversation between LGBTQ+ businesses and organisations running LGBTQ+ spaces of various kinds in Camden, with council representatives working on planning, regeneration, licensing and social well-being. The Night Czar's LGBT Venues Forum is an interesting model.

An ombudsperson could be a useful post to create since there is a need to convene conversations between the council, developers and communities to find and realise opportunities, e.g. matching meanwhile space with organisations, and assisting in planning and licensing procedures. There is precedent for this role in New Orleans, whose ombudsman sits within the council.

Central London Action Sexual Health (CLASH)

CLASH provides free and confidential sexual health outreach services for sex workers, homeless people, drug users, Black Asian and Minority Ethnic people and men who have sex with men living or working in Camden and Islington.

1st floor, Orange Zone, Margaret Pyke Centre, Capper Street, London, WC1E 6JB.
cnwl.nhs.uk/service/clash-and-shoc-at-mortimer-market-centre

Forum+

Case work/advocacy, Schools/youth work, Policy/Advisory Work, Mapping/Crime analysis, Training, LGBTQ+ Awareness, Project, Events and Outreach. inc, monthly LGBT+ drop in at Union Chapel.

camdenlgbtforum.org.uk

Older Lesbian Network

A space for older lesbians to meet socially in central London for discussion, support and fun. The group meet on the 3rd Saturday of each month at The Resource Centre, 50 Millman Street, London WC1N 3EW.

olderlesbiannetwork.btck.co.uk

Outside Project Drop-ins

Identities responsive service and advice for homeless LGBTQ+ people and community spaces for all members of the LGBTIQ+ community. All services are free and confidential and all the venues are accessible for people with disabilities.

Monday: 18:00 – 21:00 at The Outside Project Camden Hub. Castlehaven Community Association, 23 Castlehaven Road NW1 8RU. Hosted by The Outside Project, in solidarity with Castlehaven Community Association, Stonewall Housing, Camden LGBT Forum, CLASH and a community of volunteers, creatives, activists and friends. A weekly Monday hub for all members of the LGBTIQ+ community and friends. 6pm-9pm every week. Wednesday: 14:00 – 15:30 at Origin Housing, St Richards House, 110 Eversholt Street, London, NW1 1BS.

lgbtiqoutside.org

Mosaic LGBT Youth Centre

Mosaic LGBT Youth Centre supports, educates and inspires young lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans community of London age thirteen to nineteen. Services includes youth clubs, mentoring, camping trips, LGBT library, workshops in schools.

info@mosaicyouth.org.uk

mosaicyouth.org.uk

Alternative Care Services

An expert service in LGBT+ adult care including services for dementia and Alzheimers Disease, live-in care, overnight care, post-discharge care, respite and holiday care and care for young adults.

alternativecareservices.co.uk

cliniQ

A Community Interest Company, holistic sexual health and well-being service for all trans people, partners and friends. This trans-led team offer a safe, confidential space for those who may not feel comfortable accessing mainstream services.

Counselling is based at Judd Street, London, WC1H 9NS. Email for details:

counselling@cliniq.org.uk

Clinical and wellbeing services operate between 16.00 - 19.00 on Tuesdays at King's College Hospital, Caldecot Centre, 15-22 Caldecot Road, London, SE5 9RS.

admin@cliniq.org.uk

cliniq.org.uk

GALOP

LGBT+ anti-violence charity, supporting people who have experienced hate crime, sexual violence or domestic abuse. They also support lesbian, gay, bi, trans and queer people who have had problems with the police or have questions about the criminal justice system.

020 7704 2040

referrals@galop.org.uk

galop.org.uk

Gendered Intelligence

Gendered Intelligence (GI) runs a range of youth groups in London for trans, non-binary and questioning young people aged under 21. GI run a group for young trans, non-binary and questioning people of colour and a peer-led support group in London for those aged 18-30.

0207 832 5848

admin@genderedintelligence.co.uk

genderedintelligence.co.uk

LGBTQ+ Homeless Shelter and Community Centre, The Outside Project

The Outside Project is a homeless/crisis shelter & Community Centre in response to those within the LGBTIQ+ community who feel endangered, who are homeless, 'hidden' homeless & feel that they are on the outside of services due to historical & present prejudice in society & in their homes.

Clerkenwell Fire Station, 42-44 Rosebery Ave, Farringdon, London EC1R 4RX

Community@LGBTIQoutside.org

lgbtiqoutside.org

London Friend

Support the health and mental well-being of the LGBT community in and around London. Offering counselling and support, and promoting personal growth and self-confidence. London Friend is also home to Antidote - the UK's only LGBT drug and alcohol service. Their social groups provide a space to socialise as an alternative to the bar and club scene.

86 Caledonian Road, Kings Cross, London, N1 9DN.

020 7833 1674

office@londonfriend.org.uk

londonfriend.org.uk

London Older Lesbian Cohousing

A group of lesbians aged fifty plus who are trying to create a new way of living together as they grow older. They are building a caring, supportive and vibrant community, run on democratic and feminist principles. They plan to set up a mixed tenure cohousing project of 25 dwellings in north-east London.

lolcohousing.co.uk

Opening Doors London (ODL)

ODL provides information, support services and social spaces specifically for LGBT+ people age 50+.

020 7239 0400

info@openingdoorslondon.org.uk

openingdoorslondon.org.uk

Outcome, Mind

Outcome run a range of groups that aim to provide a sanctuary for LGBTQ+ people – somewhere safe where they can be themselves, socialise free from discrimination, receive therapies to improve their mental health, learn new skills and acquire knowledge to improve their quality of life.

sigal.avni@islingtonmind.org.uk

islingtonmind.org.uk/our-services/outcome

020 7272 5038

Outside Project Drop-ins

Identities responsive services and advice for homeless LGBTQ+ people and community spaces for all members of the LGBTQI+ community. All services are free and confidential and all the venues are accessible for people with disabilities.

Friday: 14:00 – 15:30 at London Friend, 86 Caledonian Road, London, N1 9DN.

Second Wednesday of every month: 12:00 – 14:00 at Camden LGBT Forum Hub at Union Chapel, Compton Terrace, London, N1 2UN.

Community@LGBTIQoutside.org

lgbtiqoutside.org

Stonewall Housing

Stonewall Housing works to ensure lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people live in safer homes, free from fear, and where we can celebrate our identity and support each other to achieve our full potential.

020 7359 5767

info@stonewallhousing.org

stonewallhousing.org

Tonic

Creates inclusive urban LGBT+ affirmative retirement communities where people can share common experiences, find mutual support and enjoy their later life.

Tonic Living CIC, 8 Berwick Street, London, W1F 0PH.

0207 971 1091

tonicliving.org.uk

6. Acknowledgements

Special thanks to the following for their contributions to and support for the research:

Fionnuala Crean-Murphy

Sharon Dunn

Ben Farrant

Lucy Fenton

Alex Green

Tessa Hauke

Chryssy Hunter

Philip Kolvin QC

Dragana Krsic

Jim MacSweeney

Clare Melhuish

Vilhelm Oberg

Joe Parslow

Rob Pateman

Kym Shaen-Carter

Olivia Stevenson

Chrispher Storey

Andrew Triggs

Ben Walters

Yohana Weber



ISBN 978-0-9956637-3-2