



Consultation on Proposals for Carers Legislation

**LGBT Youth Scotland
April 2014**

About LGBT Youth Scotland

LGBT Youth Scotland's mission is to empower lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender young people and the wider LGBT community so that they are embraced as full members of the Scottish family at home, school and in every community. We provide a range of services and opportunities for young people, families and professionals, which aim to increase awareness and confidence, and reduce isolation and discrimination. We also work with and support LGBT adults through our Dumfries and Galloway LGBT Centre. LGBT Youth Scotland works towards this vision by mainstreaming LGBT equality into generic services, and through the provision of specialist services directly to LGBT people. Direct work including support groups, volunteering and outreach are key aspects of the organisation's activity as are policy, research and practice development work.

LGBT Youth Scotland is both a third sector youth work organisation and a LGBT equality organisation and welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Scottish Government's consultation on the current proposals for Carers Legislation.

Issues Affecting LGBT People

There are some key issues impacting on LGBT carers that are relevant to this consultation:

- Many LGBT carers or the LGBT people they are caring for may have reduced social networks, due to a lack of acceptance by family and friends of their sexual orientation or gender identity¹.

¹ Roch, Amy, Graham Ritchie, and James Morton (2010). *Out of Sight, Out of Mind? Transgender People's Experiences of Domestic Abuse*. LGBT Youth Scotland, Scottish Transgender Alliance and Equality Network, page 28. http://www.scottishtrans.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/trans_domestic_abuse.pdf

See also: footnote 2 below.

- If LGBT carers experience these reduced social networks, they may have less support than other carers and rely more heavily on support from agencies².
- Many LGBT people fear potentially experiencing homophobia, biphobia and transphobia from services or have previous experience of discrimination from a service³.
- There is often a lack of visibility of LGBT identities within services (such as staff knowledge of the issues affecting LGBT people, promotion of inclusive posters or websites, and explicitly stating that the service is LGBT-inclusive), which are necessary to counter LGBT people's expectations of discrimination or a lack of confidence that services are able to meet their needs.

With reference to the *Getting it Right for Young Carers* strategy, LGBT Youth Scotland would be happy to assist with the development of the proposed information, advice and support for LGBT young carers.

² Musingarimi, Primrose (2008) *Social Care Issues Affecting Older Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual People in the UK: A Policy Brief*. International Longevity Centre, page 4.
www.ilcuk.org.uk/files/pdf_pdf_71.pdf;

Stonewall (2011) *Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual People in Later Life*.
www.stonewall.org.uk/documents/lgb_in_later_life_final.pdf

³ LGBT Youth Scotland (2011) *Voices Unheard. Domestic Abuse: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Young People's Perspectives*, pages 5, 25.
www.lgbtyouth.org.uk/files/documents/02_Voices_Unheard/Reports/Voices_Unheard_nationa_report.pdf;

Lough Dennell, Brandi Lee and Caitlin Logan (2013) *Life in Scotland for LGBT Young People: Health Report*. LGBT Youth Scotland.
www.lgbtyouth.org.uk/files/documents/Life_in_Scotland_for_LGBT_Young_People_Health_Report.pdf