

# LGBTQ+ Youth Services



## LGBTQ+ History Month

February 2024 marks the 19<sup>th</sup> celebration of UK LGBTQ+ history month. Every year there is a different theme to help focus on the historical accomplishments of LGBTQ+ people and this year's theme **#UnderTheScope - focuses on healthcare and medicine.**



The LGBTQ+ team will be highlighting the work and profiles of 4 UK pioneers of health and medicine throughout the month, so you can be more aware of the LGBT people who have made our country a better place.

1 in 7 LGBTQ+ people avoid seeking medical treatment due to fear of discrimination—Stonewall 2018

### Why does LGBTQ+ history month matter?

LGBT history month was founded in 2004 by schools OUT UK co-chairs Paul Patrick and professor Emeritus Sue Sanders. It was recognised that many LGBTQ+ historical figures were erased or marginalised within historical records. Legislation such as section 28 meant LGBTQ+ identities were not discussed in school curriculum between 1988 and 2003 as this could be seen to be 'promoting homosexuality'. LGBTQ+ people have a rich history of achievements, and much can still be learnt from their struggles and triumphs leading to greater acceptance and inclusivity. For this reason, the month of February is dedicated to reclaiming Queer history and celebrating diversity in sexuality and gender of those who have shaped our world.

### What happens during LGBTQ+ history month?

LGBTQ+ history month is not just observed in schools and colleges, any organisation can get involved. This may look like; hosting events with guest speakers; displaying posters and materials profiling important contributors to history; partnering with LGBTQ+ organisations; providing training or adopting policies and practices to support the LGBTQ+ community. This is an important opportunity to learn and acknowledge the vast contributions of LGBT people in the past, and present to better understand our future.

### Where can I find out more about LGBTQ+ History Month?

You can visit the [LGBTQ+ History Month 2024 Website](#) for free resources and ideas on to mark LGBTQ+ History month.

Follow the hashtag [#underTheScope](#) to see what others are doing.

### LGBTQ+ History Month Calander of Events

There is a long list of LGBTQ+ History events at [Event Calendar - LGBT+ History Month](#)

Including online events such as:

**7th Feb.** The Fights That Make Us: Online Book Launch and Q&A

**11th Feb.** Fighting Back With Queer Histories: A Global Overview

**21st Feb.** That Which Can Never Be Supressed—LGBTQ+ History In the Royal College of Physicians.

**26th Feb.** Neurodiversity in the LGBTQ+ Community

## Sand Jars



Towards the end of last year, we invited the young people to take part in a group creative project and put together this sand jar! The young people coloured, poured, and chose the pattern for the jar. We wanted this jar to represent group and what it means to them, so we asked them to think of a word for each colour that reflects group. They worked together and produced 7 words and then designed a key to show what each colour represents. We now display this jar on our shelf for all to see, and as a beautiful reminder of what group means to our young people. And as you can see, we're overflowing with fun!

This was an incredible session and something the young people had a lot of fun with. While reflecting on the activity the team thought it would be great to do a similar task but give the young people their own jars and ask them to use words that reflect themselves. Giving them the freedom to design the jars as they please and choose the colours and words they want. But in order to do this, we're going to need a lot of jars! We want the individual ones to be smaller so the young people can take them home and keep them as a reminder of what's important to them. We're looking for about the size of spice jars or similar and with lids please, we need around 20-30. If anyone has any spare or you use up all your paprika in the coming weeks then please keep hold of them and pass them along!

Drop them into any family hub or send an email to [LGBTYoungPeople@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:LGBTYoungPeople@portsmouthcc.gov.uk) and we might be able to collect

## Gender Questioning Children: Non-statutory guidance for schools and colleges in England' - Update

Reminder the consultation for this closes on the **12th March 2024**. Last month we shared Portsmouth City Council's statement to schools following the initial release of the consultation documents.

We are already seeing children, young people, parents and carers who are concerned about what this guidance would mean for them. We encourage all professionals working with Young People to respond to the consultation.

Gendered Intelligence, LGBT Foundation, Mermaids, Stonewall, and the Trans Learning Partnership have released their guidance which can be found [here](#).

We would advise that you:

- Make your response **individual and unique**, using your own words where possible.
- **Include examples** of how the guidance would negatively impact trans young people.
- Share your own experiences of being trans at school or supporting trans pupils.



### National News

[Proposal to improve LGBTQ+ inclusion in Care Homes](#)

### International News

[Kenya's discreet church set up to welcome LGBTQ+ Worshippers](#)

### Volunteer Event

The team are hoping to recruit some new Volunteers to support in our groups. We are holding a volunteer event on the **9th February 2024**.

To register your interest email

[Lgbtyoungpeople](mailto:Lgbtyoungpeople@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)

[@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)

### Referrals

A reminder that we continue to accept referrals for both one-to-one work with Young People or for our groups. Our under 13s and Parent & Carer groups in particular have capacity.

Referrals can be made [here](#)