



## **Objects and Activities:**

The charity's objects are restricted to the following:

To promote equality and diversity for the public benefit and in particular the elimination of discrimination in relation to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people, particularly (but not exclusively) by:

- a. Advancing education of the public with regard to all aspects of discrimination in relation to LGBT people, including raising awareness of the extent and impact of hate crime relating to LGBT people;
- b. Relieving the mental and physical sickness of persons living in, working in, or visiting the Merseyside area who are affected by homophobic and transphobic hate crime by the provision of counselling and support for such persons, particularly, but not exclusively, through the establishment of emergency accommodation for vulnerable LGBT people, and support for the victims of LGBT hate crime and their families;
- c. Associating with voluntary organisations, governmental, public and private bodies to develop and maximise the effectiveness of voluntary organisations run by and for LGBT people.

## **Activities**

Michael Causer, from Whiston, Merseyside, died on 2nd August 2008 aged 18 after being brutally assaulted and left for dead. The parents of the murdered gay teenager have set up the Michael Causer Foundation to provide safe accommodation and support for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) young people who are homeless or at risk in the north-west of England. Research shows that 2 in 5 young LGBT people have been made homeless and between 1 in 3 and 1 in 4 young homeless people are LGBT. The Stormbreak Report (2006) on the safety of the LGBT population of Liverpool showed that a significant proportion of the LGBT community in the city, especially younger people, did not plan to remain here in the long-term, specifically due to the perceived lack of safety and opportunity for them. We aim to prevent or alleviate the risk of homelessness in this vulnerable group through education, the provision of safe places to meet, receive support and live, and by working with the wider community to promote equality of opportunity. This will build a

stronger, more diverse community by supporting LGBT young people to remain within their home area as active citizens. In addition, since the Equality Act 2010 protects people against discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity by businesses and public services, we aim to deliver a high standard of housing and support services to LGBT young people, and to enable other service providers to deliver quality inclusive services that comply with this legislation.

**We will promote the objects of the Foundation through:**

**Object a)**

- an annual public lecture by a high profile national figure on issues of equality and anti-discriminatory practice, as the region lacks a public education platform on these issues.
- taking a lead role in the Liverpool Pride annual LGBT community festival, the date of which is set to fall on the Saturday after the date of Michael's death.
- working in partnership with registered social landlords in the region to raise awareness of housing and related inequalities affecting LGBT youth, specifically through staff training and service level agreements to support young LGBT tenants in supported accommodation towards independent living.
- coordinating and sharing a pool of educational resources to raise awareness of sexual orientation, gender identity, homophobia, transphobia and hate crime those who work with children and young people.
- visits to schools and youth centres to raise awareness of sexual orientation, gender identity, homophobia, transphobia and hate crime with children and young people.
- promoting examples of good practice in LGBT equality and social inclusion on the Foundation's website.

**Object b)**

- providing supported accommodation for LGBT young people at risk, with approved and trained carers and support staff. This may include emergency hostel accommodation.
- empowering LGBT young people in supported accommodation to move towards independent living in their home area where it is safe to do so, enabling them to move to a new area where it is not.
- working in partnership with other LGBT housing specialists such as Stonewall Housing and Albert Kennedy Trust to share expertise and offer alternative supported accommodation for those who cannot, or choose not to, remain in the region.

- working in partnership with other housing and social care agencies to promote clear referral pathways for LGBT young people at risk and in need of accommodation and support.
- Training for counsellors and other professionals working with young people in needs specific to LGBT youth.
- A support group for victims of homophobic and transphobic hate crime, their partners and families, in partnership with Merseyside Police Sigma Hate Crime Team and Victim Support Merseyside.

### **Object c)**

- developing a Memorandum of Understanding with key partners for the benefit of our service users to provide clear, consistent and holistic support.
- Active membership of Liverpool's LGBT Network to advocate for vulnerable LGBT youth and to empower them to participate in decision making processes which affect their safety and opportunities.
- Research into the needs of the LGBT population in Merseyside and the north-west of England in association with the region's universities.
- Joint fundraising and strategic planning with other service providers in the region's LGBT community to promote equality of opportunity, continuity of care and sustainability of support for young LGBT people.
- Joint campaigning with other LGBT organisations such as the Lesbian and Gay Foundation and Albert Kennedy Trust on LGBT equality and anti-discriminatory practice, especially on issues affecting LGBT young people.
- Training and consultancy to enable other service providers to deliver quality inclusive services to LGBT young people that comply with the Equality Act 2010.