

Supporting Stockport's LGBTQ+ Community

This council recognises:-

- **LGBTQ+ people have been part of Stockport for as long as it has existed. They are our family, our friends, our coworkers and members of our communities.**
~~There should be no conflict between improving the lives of LGBTQ+ people and improving anyone else's lives. Any attempt to suggest there must be a conflict between for instance women's rights and LGBTQ+ people's rights is false.~~
- **That improving the lives of LGBTQ+ people contributes to building a more inclusive, fair, and supportive society for everyone. Advancing equality, acceptance and inclusion for one group should strengthen the foundations of equality for all.**
~~LGBTQ+ people are facing rising levels of discrimination and hate crime. We should all be working together to eliminate all discrimination and hate crime.~~
- **That, according to official statistics, between March 2021 and March 2022, sexual orientation hate crimes rose by 41%, and transgender identity hate crimes increased by 56%. More recent official figures, ending March 2024, show that there has been a 4% reduction in sexual orientation hate crimes and a 5% reduction in transgender identity hate crimes. Whilst this decline is welcome, the overall number of sexual orientation and transgender identity hate crimes in 2023/24 remains significantly high at 29,000, compared to 4,500 in 2012/13. As such, we should be working together, particularly through the Safer Stockport Partnership, to eliminate all hate crime.**
~~Due to the systemic oppression they face LGBTQ+ people can often face significantly worse outcomes when it comes to healthcare, education, housing and work.~~
- **That, in particular, transgender people within our communities face severe challenges in accessing healthcare, work and education opportunities.**
- ~~That in the most recent iteration of the Safer Stockport Partnership there is a commitment to identify and work to eliminate the causes of hate crime.~~
- **That the council has already taken actions to support Stockport's LGBTQ+ community such as previously passing a motion condemning conversion therapy, supporting its own staff's LGBTQ+ network and currently funds Stockport's LGBTQ+ Network known as the RESPECT Network.**

This council calls on the government to:

- ~~Fully ban all forms of conversion therapy relating to gender and sexual orientation.~~
- **Fully enact its manifesto commitment to implement a comprehensive ban on conversion therapy, including protections for transgender individuals, and reform the Gender Recognition Act to simplify the process for transgender people to obtain legal recognition of their gender.**
- **Add a gender-neutral option on all forms of official documentation such as passports and remove the requirement for gender markers on such documentation.**

- Produce and fully fund a robust, community led and well researched plan to identify and eliminate the causes of discrimination and hate crime.
- Improve LGBTQ+ people's access to official documentation, healthcare, education, housing, government services and work.

This council resolves to:

Continue to support the LGBTQ+ community in Stockport by setting up a cross-party LGBTQ+ Working Group that:

- Fully considers the needs of all those within the LGBTQ+ community that face discrimination. Whilst we would not want to be prescriptive in the scope of issues addressed, we would like to ensure particular attention is given to:
 - The ability of the LGBTQ+ community, especially transpeople, to access adequate support for their physical and mental healthcare and how the council can provide practical support.
 - The issues faced by the LGBTQ+ community due to discrimination and bullying within educational settings and consider practical solutions to protect them from harm.
- Identifies how the council and its trusted partners can meaningfully embed diversity, equity and inclusion across all its work and policies.
- Offers help and advice to Stockport's LGBTQ+ groups to access funding and support to help with the good work they do.
- Considers the requirements for progress reports to include existing initiatives such as the Safer Stockport Partnership's aim to identify and eliminate the causes of hate crime.
- Reports back to the council with its recommendations for service improvement by May 2025 and at quarterly intervals thereafter.

~~• Provide quarterly updates, to the council and relevant stakeholders, on the progress of the Safer Stockport Partnership's aim to identify and work to eliminate the causes of hate crime.~~

~~• Fully progress its membership of Stonewall's Diversity scheme. Or a similar scheme that provides independent, external accreditation.~~

~~• Encourage Stockport's schools and colleges to sign up to programmes, such as those provided by The Proud Trust, aimed at improving LGBTQ+ students experience during education.~~

~~• Encourage more Stockport GP's to sign up to the Pride in Practice initiative offered by the LGBT Foundation which works to improve the experiences of LGBTQ+ people accessing primary care services.~~

~~• When creating and altering the council's constitution, policies and documentation to, where appropriate, use gender neutral language.~~

~~• Offer help and advice to Stockport's LGBTQ+ groups to access funding and support to help with the good work they do.~~

~~• Encourage councillors and council employees to, when they are able to, attend LGBTQ+ events and initiatives in Stockport.~~

~~Encourage council employees to make use of the Employee Volunteering Policy, using a proportion of their paid time to volunteer with local Stockport groups doing good work, including for the LGBTQ+ community.~~

Moved by: Councillor **Dena Ryness**

Seconded by: Councillor **David Sedgwick**

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