

Creative solidarity- shaping older LGBTQ+ support in Arts & Wellbeing Services

A discussion facilitated by LGBT Consortium



CONSORTIUM
for stronger lgbt+ communities

Order of the day

- Housekeeping
- Background on Consortium and the Roundtable
- Outlining key issues and our work so far
- Holding space for a discussion
- Breakout rooms- what will you bring into your practice? What would you like to see?
- Come back, summary and conclusion

Housekeeping

- We'll have a discussion- everyone is welcome to bring their thoughts and experiences. But we are centring LGBTQ+ people over 50.
- Disagreement is important and healthy- challenge is welcome
- However, be respectful & stay on topic
- Act in and assume good faith
- Raise hands to speak (online or physical) & mute if not speaking
- Space for feelings, for different histories, abilities, bodies, processing styles. Prioritise your wellbeing, take breaks.
- Please be patient with tech :)

The 50+ Londoners' Roundtable

- Consortium convenes a roundtable of organisations that support LGBTQ+ Londoners over 50
- Established after closure of Opening Doors
- Support each other, share intel, strategize together
- What we want to do next: creative campaigns, policy change, a unified voice
- Limited/no funding, many volunteer and small orgs, not prioritised, organisations closing, institutional gatekeeping

Key issues identified

LGBTQ+ people over 50 face:

- The impact of historical discrimination
- Unsafe social care services
- Loneliness & social isolation
- Housing and financial strain
- Digital exclusion

We want to see:

- Investment in groups and peer support by/for LGBTQ+ people over 50
- Commitment to the inclusion of LGBTQ+ people over 50 in strategy & policy
- Collaboration across sectors & groups
- Clear pathways to safer care & housing

Justice for LGBTQ+ Elders

- We had an event in May to discuss some of the key issues Older LGBTQ+ people face, inviting key stakeholders in health, care, local govt
- During this, we shared some of the key issues, covering housing and financial hardship, social care advocacy and access, and the experiences of LGBTQ+ People of Colour over 50.

Key points: panel

- “we realised our rights were hard fought for and could be easily lost”- value of advocacy and support across generations
- More is needed than to avoid abuse in social care.
- For Black and brown LGBTQ+ older people, experiences are informed by a context of intergenerational trauma and systemic disadvantage as well as trauma and shame.
- It's essential for trans people to be involved in this discussion
- There's a need for an awareness that leads to change- for that we need to plan and organise
- There's lots of good work, but it needs to be connected. Moving in solidarity with LGBTQ+ groups, older people's groups, and others.

Key points: discussion

- Working together across sectors and generations means we need to be prepared to educate each other
- Collaboration will help us use different approaches to bring in different kinds of allies across sectors.
- Facing up to racism within our community
- Rewriting narratives about LGBTQ+ older people and the benefits of chosen family
- Understanding older LGBTQ+ people as a resource and valuing the richness of queer culture and political expertise, instead of activities that can be condescending
- Creative approaches to awareness campaigns, e.g film, movement, arts approaches.
- Starting with reaching out to our own communities, raising awareness. Then using research to reach policy makers, to inform a campaign.
- Using the distinct histories of LGBTQ+ people to shape a different and creative approach to campaigning
- Importance of taking a wider perspective and understanding ageism as a broader issue, and the value of intergenerational work in this

Creative solidarity

- Creative action subgroup

Creativity can

- Build self-advocacy skills
- Reflect political history – respects existing knowledge & power
- Be an awareness & advocacy tool- internal & external
- Change and create narratives, connect people

What does creative solidarity mean to you? How does creativity allow for greater solidarity?

Discussion

- Older LGBTQ+ people speak first- reflections, questions, additions, corrections
- Responses from arts and wellbeing organisations- reflections, questions, clarifications, thoughts and feelings

Breakout rooms

Here are my questions

- What does creative solidarity mean?
- How will you bring our discussion into your practice?
- What do you want to see more of?

Reflect together & close

- Feedback from each group
- What stood out?
- What actions will you take?
- What will stay with you?

Further reading, reports, research

- Precarious lives- TONIC and Opening Doors
- Ageing on our Own Terms- Furzedown Project
- Centre for Ageing Better- Spotlight on LGBTQ+ Ageing
- Being Ready- hospice UK
- Creative methodology