

The National LGB&T Partnership's response to Making Open Data Real

October 2011

Introduction

- i. This document provides feedback from the National LGB&T (lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans) Partnership, a member of the Department of Health Strategic Partner Programme. The National LGB&T Partnership is an England-wide group of LGB&T voluntary and community service delivery organisations that are committed to reducing health inequalities and challenging homophobia and transphobia within public services.
- ii. The National LGB&T Partnership members intend to positively influence the policy, practice and actions of Government and statutory bodies, in particular the Department of Health, for the benefit of all LGB&T people and communities across England. The member organisations of the National LGB&T Partnership are:

The Lesbian & Gay Foundation (LGF)

East London Out Project (ELOP)

Gay Advice Darlington and Durham (GADD)

Gender Identity Research and Education Society (GIRES)

GMFA

Consortium of LGB&T Voluntary and Community Organisations

London Friend

PACE

Stonewall Housing

Trans Resource and Empowerment Centre (TREC)

Yorkshire MESMAC

- iii. The National LGB&T Partnership will ensure that health inequalities experienced by LGB&T people are kept high on the Government's agenda and that best use is made of the experience and expertise found within the LGB&T voluntary and community sector. The National LGB&T Partnership is also establishing a National LGB&T Stakeholder Group which is open to interested groups, organisations, service providers and individuals, giving a direct voice to the LGB&T sector. See <http://www.lgf.org.uk/Your-rights/The-National-LGB-T-Partnership/> for more information.

1. The National LGBT&T Partnership supports the principles of Open Data, especially the enhanced right to data, higher cost barriers for Freedom of Information Act requests and more useful data collection especially the sexual orientation and gender identity of the users of public services. Better collection of gender identity and sexual orientation and good use of the resulting data will give invaluable information about the needs, experiences and outcomes of LGBT&T people who use public services. Attached are two documents which give more information on this topic. The Lesbian & Gay Foundation was commissioned by NHS NW to write a guide on how to approach sexual orientation monitoring in public services. The Gender Identity Research and Education Society (GIRES) has also published a paper on monitoring gender identity.
2. Information around LGBT&T people's needs, outcomes and experiences of public services must not be classed as unnecessary. The current relative lack of information relating to these communities needs to be addressed urgently. Updating equality monitoring guides for all Departments and public bodies to include a commitment to begin sexual orientation and gender identity monitoring is essential.
3. Outcomes frameworks for public bodies should be able to be disaggregated by equality groups. Governance and quality assurance arrangements for data collection and reporting systems must be robust and inclusive of all protected characteristic groups.
4. The role of voluntary & community organisations is also important, to support communities to analyse data and to gather and cascade information. This role should be valued and supported by public bodies and Government.