

Dear Colleagues,

The Gender Identity Research and Education Society (GIRES) fully endorses the comments on the Green Paper that the Lesbian and Gay Foundation is submitting on behalf of the National LGB&T Partnership.

In addition, GIRES submits the following brief responses with regard the four main questions posed by the Paper:

**1 - Create new opportunities:** The need for public services to support transgender people is growing <http://www.gires.org.uk/prevalence.php> Gender variant people are especially vulnerable to hate crime. The 125 largely voluntary organisations that offer support are thinly spread and under resourced [http://gires.org.uk/tranzwiki/index.php/Main\\_Page](http://gires.org.uk/tranzwiki/index.php/Main_Page) Local commissioners should actively seek opportunities to engage with and develop local support groups.

**2 - Make existing markets more accessible:** Local commissioners should budget for providing services to gender variant people within their existing support framework and procure those services from local groups by means of small-scale and non-bureaucratic processes.

**3 - Use assessments of value:** Monitoring with regard to trans issues should focus on the attitudes of employers, service providers and the general public, rather than trying to count people who for good reason wish, as of now, to be undetected. Hence, in assessing the value of services for gender variant people, commissioners should take into account the potential for future take up as users become more confident in seeking support. That confidence will be greatly increased if gender variant people are engaged in service delivery.

**4 - Support greater involvement:** Commissioners should seek out and engage with existing support groups and help to establish them where they do not exist.

Kind regards, Bernard Reed OBE, MA, MBA  
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