
David Budd
Mayor of Middlesbrough

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As Mayor, I am committed to creating a fairer Middlesbrough. Every citizen has the right to feel valued, respected and safe. As a care home which works with people in their later years, your organisation plays a vital part in ensuring this is the case.

A recent report from Stonewall indicated that nearly half of lesbian, gay or bisexual people would feel uncomfortable telling health and social care staff about their sexual orientation and 70% felt they would not be able to be themselves living in a care home. Many fear discrimination, either from other residents or staff. Added to this, LGBT people may have specific care needs - they are less likely to have family support in later life, and are more likely to have needs related to mental ill health, for example. It is vital that our care homes provide an inclusive environment for all residents, LGBT people included.

Middlesbrough Council is committed to ensure services meet the needs of recipients, and as part of this we are looking at how we can improve the lives of LGBT people with care needs. However, we lack a body of evidence around the experiences of LGBT people living in our care homes in Middlesbrough. We would really appreciate hearing about your thoughts on this issue. We are keen to hear any anecdotal evidence of your experiences with people in care homes who are LGBT. It would be also useful to hear what information is available in the home, what training staff receive and what monitoring is in place in your home.

We appreciate that older generations may be less open about issues of sexuality, making these issues difficult to identify – however, recent research into this topic from Stonewall, Age UK, The Alzheimer’s Society and various universities demonstrates this is an important issue.

We greatly appreciate any insight you and your colleagues are able to provide, comments can be sent to

Best wishes

Dave Budd,
The Elected Mayor of Middlesbrough