



Reference: FOI1489

**Request:**

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request the following:

A full total and breakdown of money spent by this council/authority supporting and/or endorsing LGBT+ foundations/causes/awareness/charities/training days in the past five financial years.

A specification of any relevant LGBT+ events or training (dates/where they were held/who money was paid to) within that time period.

A full total and breakdown of money spent on LGBT+ paraphernalia by the council in the past five financial years.

**Response:**

Library staff attended the following training. This was provided free:

- LGBT 27th February 2017 Whitley Bay Customer First Centre
- Transgender 28th February 2019 Langdale Centre
- Transgender 2nd April 2019 North Shields Customer First Centre

Libraries worked in partnership with Barnardos Hidden Histories Project - this was funded by Heritage Lottery Fund and no financial payments were made from the Council to the project:

- Library awareness sessions for the project participants 5th and 19th March 2018 3pm to 6pm on each date.
- Local History Day the participants had a stall at this event on Saturday 12th May 2018 10am to 3pm
- One member of library staff attended the Showcase Event at Jam Jar on Friday 7th September 2018 10am to midday.
- The Hidden Histories display circulated the following sites during 2019:

October – Whitley Bay Customer First Centre

November – Wallsend Customer First Centre

December – John Willie Sams Centre

January – Oxford Centre

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February –North Shields Customer First Centre

March –White Swan Centre

There isn't a specific corporate budget for LGBT+ activities. Our awareness raising activities cover all equality characteristics. Any promotional materials produced are generic equality materials that are arranged and paid for by individual services. Partners e.g. Engie, VODA, local businesses have also previously donated items. Likewise our training covers all equality characteristics, however in 2018 and 2019 Unison provided free trans awareness sessions during LGBT History Month.

The only specific items funded by the Authority between 2014-2019 were:

Costs in 2019

- Hire of stall at Pride in Newcastle in July- £336

Costs in 2018

- Hire of stall at Pride in Newcastle in July - £280

Costs in 2017

- Hire of stall at Pride in Newcastle in July - £300
- Purchase of Rainbow flag - £149