LonGBoaT

Wakefield CIO

ANNUAL REPORT 25/26

DRIVING COMMUNITY AND COHESION

Prepared By
DAVID SWYER
CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

Date
4 MAY 2026



LonGBoaT
Wakefield CIO

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LonGBoaT Wakefield CIO

Executive Summary



This Annual Report sets out LonGBoaT Wakefield's activities, achievements, and financial performance for the 2025/26 reporting period, highlighting a year of significant delivery, strengthened profile, and growing influence within Wakefield, despite a challenging funding environment.

Financially, income for the year was lower than anticipated, primarily due to limited success in securing larger grant funding and reduced fundraising activity. However, expenditure was managed responsibly, with total spend of £8,647.71 aligned closely to strategic priorities. The organisation has maintained a positive approach to financial stewardship, ensuring that available resources were directed toward delivery, inclusion, and visible community impact.

Operationally, the year has seen substantial progress in raising the profile of LonGBoaT Wakefield across the district. The organisation is now actively engaged with a wide range of partners, positioning itself as a trusted and credible representative of the LGBT+ community. This has included advocacy, partnership working, and participation in forums where LGBT+ voices had been largely absent in previous years.

A key highlight has been the Kirkgate Station Mural, commissioned by Grand Central and facilitated by LonGBoaT Wakefield. The installation of a large-scale LGBT+ artwork in a major transport gateway represents a highly visible commitment to inclusion within Wakefield and strongly aligns with the charity's place-based aims for Kirkgate Station and the wider city. Alongside this, the Wakefield Kirkgate Station Adoption Project has continued to grow, combining horticulture, art, and community activity to create a welcoming, shared space with tangible community benefit.

The LGBT+ Safe Space Scheme, supported by Wakefield Council's Neighbourhood Investment Fund, has been launched as a significant new initiative. With 18 accredited Safe Spaces already in place and further applications in progress, the scheme is building trust, visibility, and safety for LGBT+ people across the WF postcode area.

Volunteering has remained central to the organisation's success. During the year, 22 new volunteers were welcomed, volunteer inductions were delivered, and work began on a refreshed induction programme. Volunteers contributed across a wide range of activities, providing 338 recorded hours, and played a vital role in delivering events, community engagement, Kirkgate Station activity, and operational support.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) continues to underpin LonGBoaT Wakefield's work. Available data demonstrates a diverse volunteer and service-user base, while also highlighting areas where data collection and monitoring will be strengthened to support accountability and continuous improvement.

Looking ahead, the organisation's priorities include increasing income through funding and sales, expanding and better supporting volunteers, developing support groups (particularly within health-related strategic aims), and continuing to strengthen the organisation's visibility and representative role for LGBT+ people in Wakefield.

Overall, 2025/26 has been a year of strong delivery, growing recognition, and clear progress against core objectives. LonGBoaT Wakefield enters the next period with a solid foundation, clear strategic direction, and an increasingly trusted role within the city.



David Swyer
Chair of Trustees

It has been a year of both challenge and progress for LonGBoaT Wakefield. While income fell short of our ambitions, careful financial management and the dedication of our volunteers and partners have ensured we continued to deliver meaningful impact.

I am particularly proud of the way we have strengthened its profile and voice. From the highly visible Kirkgate Station mural to the growing Safe Space Scheme and our expanding partnership work, LonGBoaT Wakefield is now recognised as a trusted advocate and representative for LGBT+ people in Wakefield. These achievements reflect years of commitment to make LonGBoaT Wakefield something for the community by the community.

Our volunteers remain at the heart of everything we do, giving their time, skills, and passion to create welcoming spaces and deliver real change. On behalf of the Trustees, I would like to thank our volunteers, funders, partners, and supporters for their continued belief in our work. Together, we have laid strong foundations for the year ahead and for the continued growth of LGBT+ representation and inclusion in Wakefield.

Now more than ever, a community that once felt faded is returning with renewed purpose, ensuring that we remain strong, visible, and united in delivering the support and care our community deserves.

Thank you



Chris Hughes
Vice Chair

I want to take this opportunity say a heartfelt thank you to Northern Trains Limited and Grand Central for backing what we do and believing in the value of this work. Your support has made a real difference and helped us turn ideas into something tangible. Thank you as well to Groundwork Yorkshire for walking alongside us, sharing your knowledge, and helping us grow something that will last.

Most of all, I want to thank our volunteers. Every bit of progress with LonGBoaT Wakefield comes back to you. The time you give, the care you show, and the pride you take in the space does not go unnoticed. Whether you have been planting, painting, setting up events, or simply turning up and being part of it, you have shaped what our charity has become. We could not do any of this without you, and I mean that sincerely. You have made us what we are today and will shape the future in 2026 and beyond.

LonGBoaT Wakefield CIO

Financial Performance

During the 2025/26 financial year, LonGBoaT Wakefield recorded lower-than-anticipated income, primarily due to limited applications for securing larger grant funding and reduced fundraising activity. Despite this, financial management throughout the year was prudent and well controlled.

- Total income: approximately £10,257
- Total expenditure: £8,647.71
- Overall position: expenditure remained within available resources, with spend closely aligned to strategic priorities

Expenditure was appropriately focused on core delivery, with Events & Activities and Marketing accounting for around 70% of total costs, reflecting the organisation's emphasis on community engagement, Pride delivery, visibility, and the Safe Space Scheme. Costs relating to administration, training, and overheads remained proportionate and well managed.

While the funding environment remains challenging, the organisation has maintained financial stability through careful management and targeted use of resources. Strengthening income diversity and increasing unrestricted funding remain key priorities for the year ahead.

Income

Equipment	£ 45.76
Events & Activities	£ 2,664.05
Funding/Donation	£ 7,136.78
Marketing	£ 21.59
Professional Fee	£ 18.98
Sales/Merch	£ 370.41
Grand Total	**£ 10,257.57**

Bank BFW	£ 1,457.36
Grand Total	**£ 1,457.36**

The above shows the income over the year for a range of categories.

Equipment and Marketing are credits due to returns or refunds

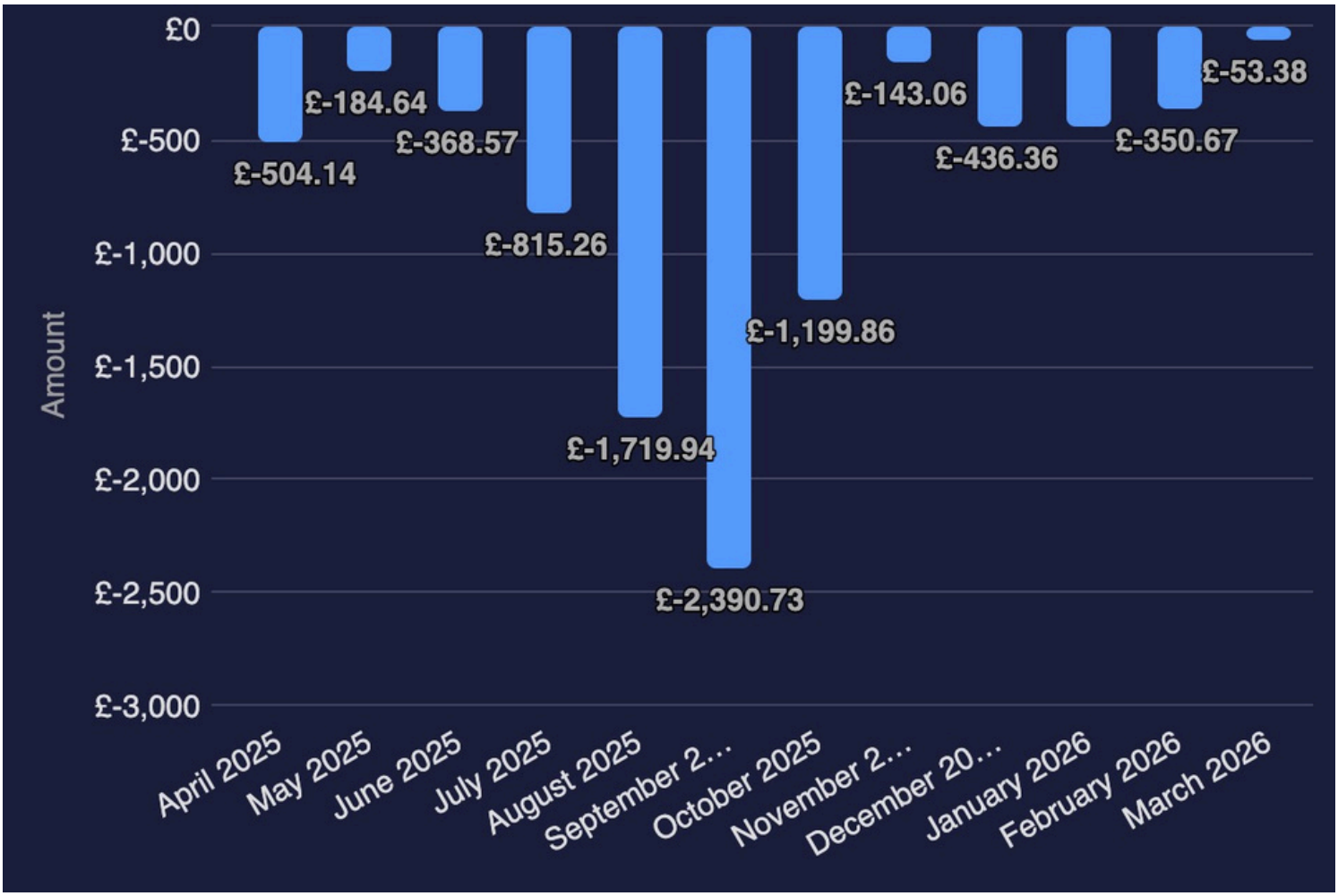
Funding and donations equates for both funding for specific pieces of work or activities and incoming donations received. Donations are from buckets and direct via Sumup.

Income by Month



Expenditure

Equipment	£ (550.81)
Event Refreshment	£ (285.58)
Events & Activities	£ (4,290.98)
Expenses	£ (445.28)
Funding/Donation	£ (9.99)
Marketing	£ (1,760.99)
Professional Fee	£ (542.91)
Sales/Merch	£ (628.95)
Stationery	£ (102.22)
Training	£ (30.00)
Grand Total	**£ (8,647.71)**



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Operational Report



Kirkgate Mural

While the mural has been commissioned by Grand Central, it strongly aligns with LonGBoaT Wakefield's longstanding aims and advocacy for Kirkgate Station and the wider city.

The project reflects shared values around creating welcoming, inclusive public spaces and ensuring that LGBT+ communities are visibly recognised within the urban environment.

Profile

LonGBoaT Wakefield has significantly strengthened its profile and presence across the city during the reporting period.

We are now actively engaged with a wide range of organisations, working in partnership on multiple initiatives that span community development, inclusion, advocacy, and events. These partnerships have enhanced our reach, enabled more coordinated delivery, and ensured that LGBT+ voices are better represented within wider strategic and operational discussions across the city.

Critically, LonGBoaT Wakefield has taken on a leadership role in representing the LGBT+ community locally, providing advocacy and visibility in spaces where such representation had been largely absent for many years. By consistently championing inclusion and equality, the organisation has helped to ensure that lived experiences, concerns, and aspirations of LGBT+ residents are recognised and considered by decision-makers and stakeholders.

As a result, LonGBoaT Wakefield is now regarded as a trusted partner and point of reference for LGBT+ engagement within Wakefield. This progress marks a significant step forward in rebuilding representation, increasing community confidence, and laying the foundations for longer-term influence and impact.

Safe Space Scheme

The launch of the LonGBoaT Wakefield Safe Space scheme has been a real step forward; building trust across Wakefield so LGBT+ people know where they can go and feel respected.

There are currently 18 organisations that are approved safe spaces across the WF postcode. There is also a further 10 that waiting for the full assessment to be completed.

This has the potential to grow significantly and in the current climate may be even more necessary.

Kirkgate Station

The Wakefield Kirkgate Station Adoption Project has been at the heart of so much of our work this year, and it is something I am incredibly proud of. What started as a simple idea to care for a station has grown into something surprisingly bigger.

With the joint project with Groundwork to deliver artwork and the horticulture, this has had a greatly positive effect on our delivery of making Kirkgate Station better for the community.

LonGBoaT Wakefield have been welcomed wholeheartedly into the community rail family. It has become a place where people come together, learn new skills, share stories, and take pride in a space that belongs to everyone.

Our programme at Wakefield Kirkgate shows what can happen when people come together with a shared purpose. It reflects our wider work as a charity, creating spaces where LGBT+ people and the wider community can feel welcome and valued.

Community Gallery

The Community Gallery has gone from strength to strength, showcasing work from local artists and groups and giving people a platform they might not otherwise have.

The rotating programme of displays and exhibitions has turned the station into a living creative space. Even the smaller elements like incorporating Horbury Victoria Brass Band festive music have brought a real sense of life and warmth into the station.

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Volunteer Report



Compiled by:
Taylor Maddison, Volunteer & Training Officer

New Volunteers : 22
Active Volunteers : 10
Resigned/Cancelled Volunteers : 17
Volunteer Hours recorded : 338 Hours

Volunteering remains central to the delivery and development of LonGBoaT Wakefield's activities. This year has seen significant progress made in strengthening volunteer engagement, improving induction processes, and broadening the range of opportunities available to volunteers. This work has supported both organisational resilience and community participation.

LonGBoaT Wakefield welcomed 22 new volunteers this year, reflecting continued interest in and commitment to the organisation's aims. To support this growth, work began on the development of a new volunteer induction programme, incorporating updated information to ensure clarity around roles, expectations, safeguarding, and organisational values.

Volunteer inductions were successfully delivered, ensuring new volunteers were appropriately supported and equipped to contribute effectively from an early stage.

Volunteer Engagement

Volunteers were also actively engaged across a wide range of regular and one-off activities, including:

- Facilitating and supporting coffee mornings
- Supporting Queer Social activities
- Contributing to the horticulture group
- Assisting with art installations
- Acting as active volunteers within the Wakefield Kirkgate Station Adoption
- Undertaking station reports to support stewardship and oversight

These activities have contributed both to visible community impact and to the creation of inclusive, welcoming spaces within the city.

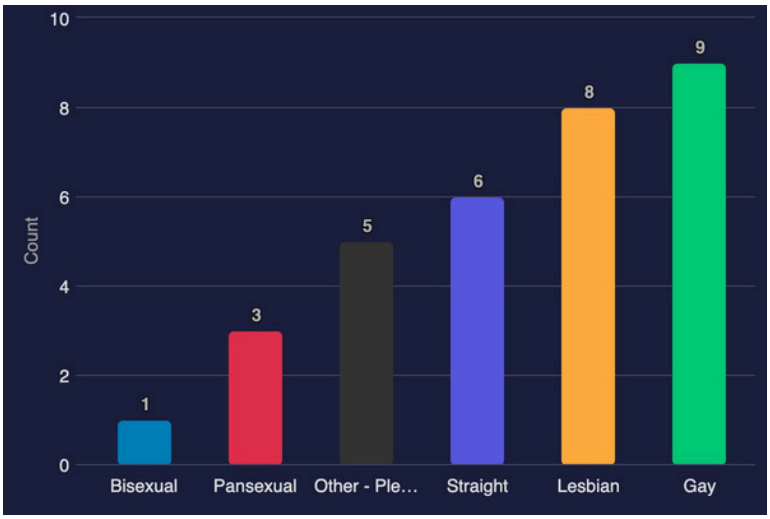
The breadth of volunteer involvement has enabled LonGBoaT Wakefield to deliver a diverse programme of activity and maintain a strong presence across multiple community settings. Volunteers have played a key role in enhancing visibility, supporting partnerships, and reinforcing LGBT+ inclusion within public and community spaces.

In addition to operational benefits, volunteering has provided meaningful opportunities for individuals to connect, build confidence, and contribute to positive change within Wakefield.

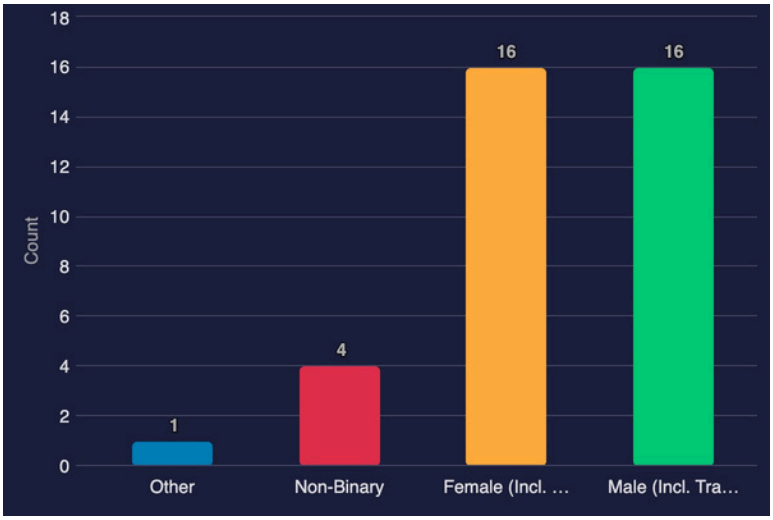
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EDI Report

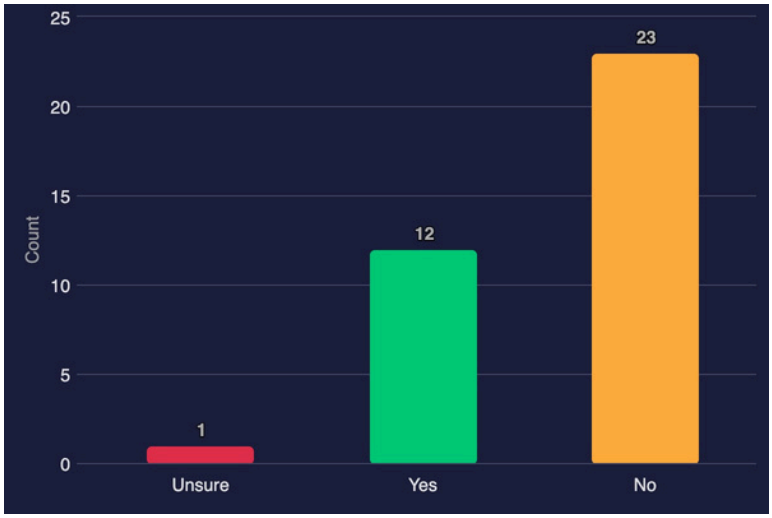
Volunteer Sexuality



Volunteer Gender



Volunteer Transgender+





Volunteer Age Profile

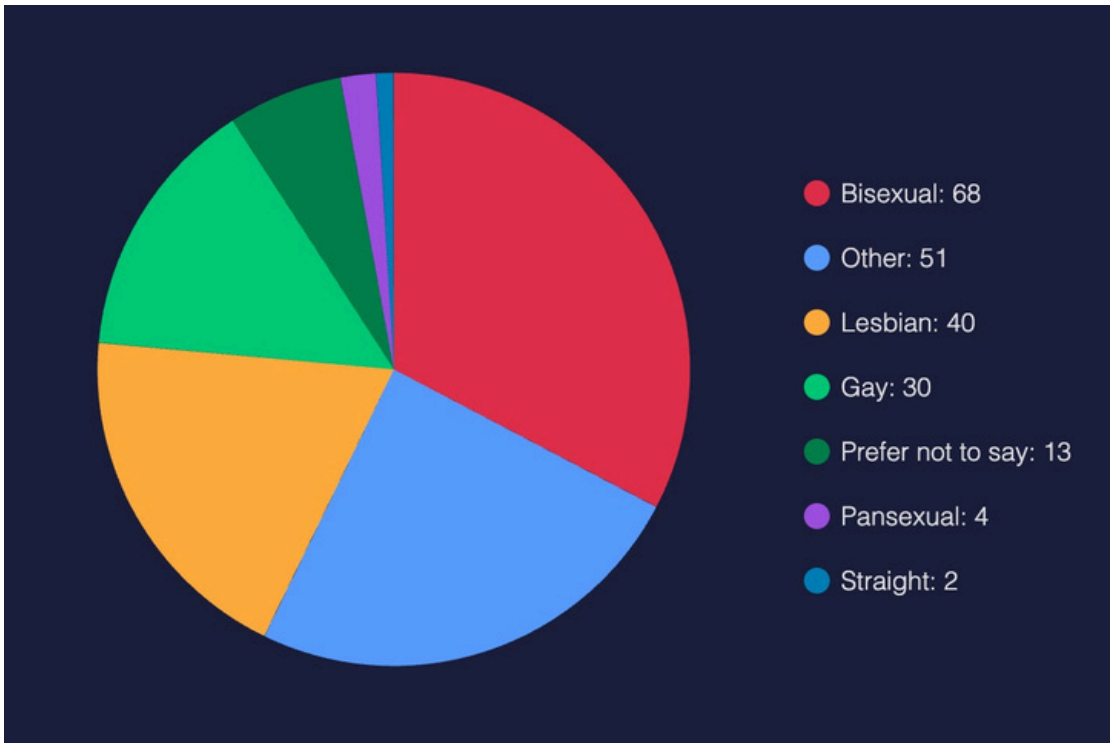
4 volunteers are aged 18-25
9 volunteers are aged 26-35
5 volunteers are aged 36-45
2 volunteers are aged 46-55
2 volunteers are aged 56-65
3 volunteers are aged 66+

Service User EDI Data

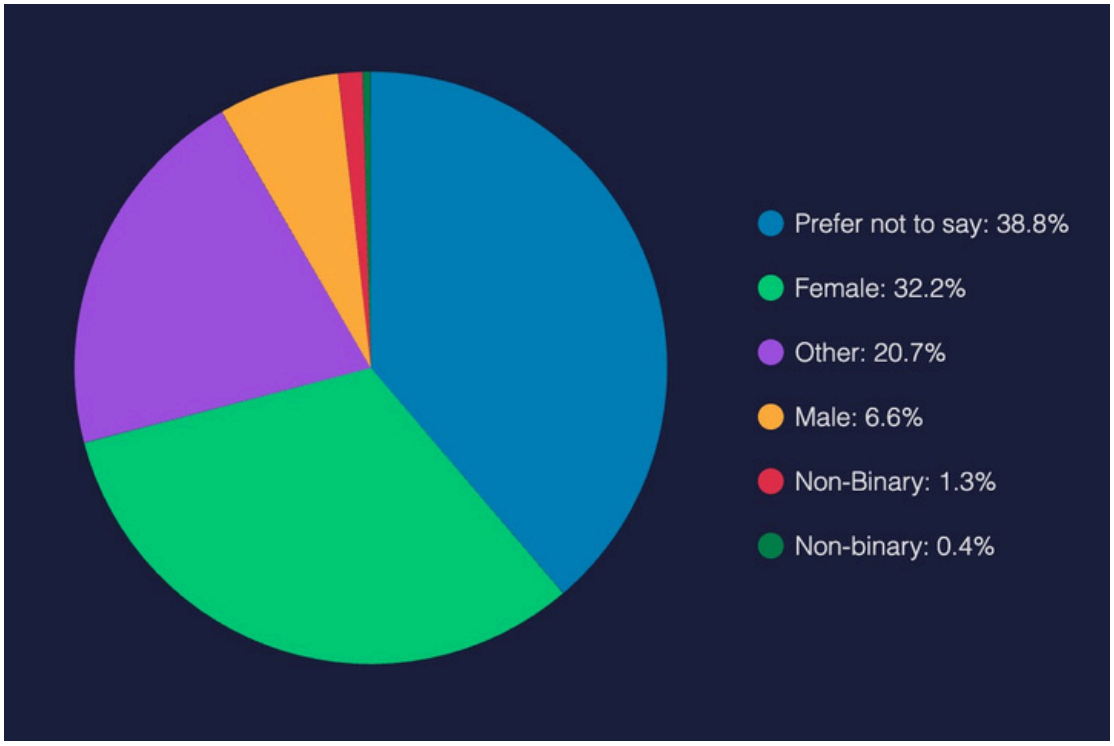
There are 248 recorded interactions with service users on Monday during the 25/26 financial year. The data captures each service user interaction, not unique service user data.

It is acknowledged that attendance registers are not regularly updated or complied with. This is an ongoing issue that Trustees and volunteers are currently working to rectify.

Attendance Sexuality



Attendance Gender



Age

We have changed how age is recorded for service users from April 2026. Previous data does not calculate age from date of birth inputted.

Findings and Learning Opportunities

The EDI data that has been collected shows that LonGBoaT have a diverse range of volunteers as service users in terms of sexuality, gender, and age.

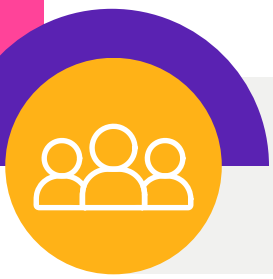
In order to ensure that LonGBoaT is achieving EDI values across our service, it would be beneficial for us to collect the following data going forward:

- Trustee EDI data
- Ethnicity
- Religion
- Disability

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Key Achievements

01



Community Engagement

Developed relationships and partnerships with organisations across Wakefield and surrounding areas to further deliver and support our objectives

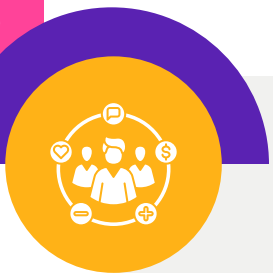
02



Kirkgate Station

Delivered pieces of work that improve the look and feel of the station making a positive impact to the community and the people who live and work there.

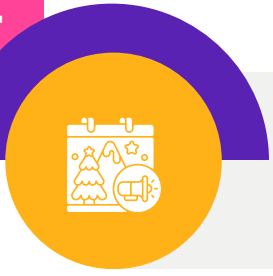
03



Community Gallery

The gallery has become a fundamental part of LonGBoaT to showcase artists and works from across the area

04



Pride

After a change to delivery of our Pride events this has been welcomed and successful and enables us deliver something for everyone and be more inclusive.

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Future Goals & Strategy



01. Increase Income

Deliver more funding opportunities and seek more funding to deliver our objectives. Sales from activities to be increased.

02. Volunteers

Increase number volunteers and the engagement with project and LonGBoaT as a whole. Ensuring that volunteers receive the appropriate training, guidance and development to deliver their role.

03. Strategic Themes

Increase activity and its recording for the strategic aims. In particular to start work on the Health strategic aim.

04. Support Groups

To review the support that is currently available and look to expand these. To include youth groups and groups for 40+. Support groups need to be supported with volunteers and have a clear aim.

05. Profile

Continue with work for increasing our profile both with the community we serve and in providing representation for the LGBT+ community.



Reporting Sign Off

By signing the below you are signing to confirm that the information outlines in this report and its finances are an accurate record for the period stated.

David Swyer
Chair of Trustees



Chris Hughes
Vice Chair



David Hallows
Treasurer



Thank You!

Our Contact Information :

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