The Forth Valley LGBT Development Group worked together to plan an evening to mark LGBT History Month 2014, share the developments of the group, showcase art work from the Falkirk, Clacks and Stirling LGBT youth groups and to engage with service providers and LGBT communities from across Forth Valley.

The LGBT Charter Mark was awarded to:
- Forth Valley College – Foundations
- Falkirk and District Women’s Aid - Bronze

74 people attended, 57 people completed evaluation forms
The majority of the people who attended had heard about the event via the Forth Valley LGBT Development Group, youth groups and e-mails.
Please tell us more

- Raffle and badges were great
- Really enjoyed the whole event & got to meet different people
- Fantastic to see young people having a voice
- Fab night, well done and big thanks to the young people
- Brilliant!
- Provost should know that gay men were getting treatment for their sexuality in Bellsdyke in 1984
- The LGBT Development Group members do a great job
- travel expenses for low income
- Excellent event - very well organised
- very good
- good food
- Great evening
- very relaxed evening - good speeches and band and food
- Good organisation
- While I know my son is bisexual and accept and still love him he had a very hard time accepting and loving himself. LGBT has really helped him to love himself. It was a fantastic opportunity to meet the people who have supported my 'little man' through this journey.
It was good to note that this event attracted 61% of people who had not previously attended an LGBT History Month event.

**What type of events would you be interested in attending? (mark all that apply)**

- Film
- Art/Exhibition
- Music
- Discussion/Debate
- Seminar/Lecture
- Book Readings
- Club/Bar
- Social Event
- Youth Event
- Online/Web
- All Other Responses

**Additional ideas included:**
- Training
- Staff training
- Be good to know about youth events
- Training
- Training
- Staff training

**What were your expectations? Were they met?**
- I wasn't sure what to expect but I found it interesting
- To have the opportunity to listen to young LGBT people views. Yes-photostories great, and also the personal stories
- To meet new people and see what is happening
- Didn't know - but had a good time
- Chance to network and meet people. Hear the band, celebrate
- To see a variety of achievements - yes
- Find out more about work in forth Valley
- Great event=relaxed and informative
- all met, but enjoyed it much more than I thought I would, only because I had such a long day
Did not come with any expectations
To learn what is happening. Yes
More people than expected and it was very relaxed
Yes it was amazing
I expected to learn about LGBT peoples experiences. Yes this was met
Yes, hearing the voices of young people and celebrating
yes and more
Yes, they were I feel. The event was very welcoming, fun and also quite formal
a relaxed enjoyable evening - yes to an extent
A fun evening, YES
I wasn't sure what to expect but I found it interesting
Not sure - so not sure
Meeting more LGBT - Yes 100%
To learn about LGBT History and culture-yes
To meet others engaged with LBT equality -yes
Mingle - yes
To see the college do LGBT stuff
Meeting people - yes
I didn’t know what to expect but it was really really good
To find out more about LGBT issues in the Forth Valley area & issues that need to be addressed - YES
To engage with young people & involve their say in health matters
To be informed and contact youths in order to ascertain their needs
yes - great night
yes they were met
a good event
Part of FV Development group
Wasn't sure what to expect, but thought it woul be good - and yes it was brillianr
an event and met lots of interesting people - YES
Expected a great evening and this was met
To learn and I did.
Yes - people here are friendly
Hoped it would be amazing and it was
Didn't know what to expect from tonight so had a really great time. Thank you
My expectations were met. I expected a social gathering. It had a great atmosphere
Links with other agencies. To learn about what others are doing to mark the month
See what the other groups have been doing
Yes
Find out more about LGBT History and accessible groups in my area - yes
Absolutely, and more

What did you learn?
I learned more about the community work being done to promote equality
We learn so much from young people if we are prepared to listen. To ensure LGBT badges are highlighted across the service (for young people) Consider training opportunities for staff
Leant about opportunities available. Lots of great converstaions. Very good to see Domestic violence organisations moving to include same sex violence.
That we are going forward in a good way
Whats going on in Forth Valley. Took 2 wristbands
Charter Mark clients-excellent work underway. Groups available for young people
That our work makes a difference but that there is always more we can do.
Loved the words from the local groups
Really interesting to hear views of the young people who spoke
A good understanding as to whats available
The Charter, history. What organisations are doing to make things better
That lots of people can come together to make a difference
I have learned that young peoples views and concerns must be heard and addressed
Charter orgs work & what groups are achieving
I have never been to a LGBT event before but I think that this event has been a pleasant
experience
I learnt the extent of community work that goes on
Personal experiences
I learned more about the community work being done to promote equality
That diversity matters in Forth Valley
History
Met College Principal and made other good contacts
Sense of purpose for the future
There's a lot more support than I thought
met new people
I learned about what the colours of the LGBT flag meant and I met new people
Life experiences of many people and their journeys
The local developments. Some of the personal experiences
Interesting info and history of LGBT
lots
more about services
More awareness raised
More about the LGBT Charter of Rights, friendships and information
interesting
I learnt that there is a lot more activity in Falkirk than I realised
Great work by LGBT youth groups
was interesting
There is lots of support
Triangle
Community concerns
The positive message must be carried forward
I have learned quite a lot about LGBT safe spaces and information
Resources from local services and work done
Networking
HUMILITY
Available resources
I learnt about the experiences of LGBT YP in Forth Valley
Realised I can get support

Additional comments
Good resources. I like the bands, badges and other resources
Very good-very diverse people and love it
Great to see such a diverse attendance
Well done to the people who organised tonight
Well organised-informative and emotive, but presented in a light enjoyable way
Excellent work - keep it up
Great food and music
Keep up the good work
A real mixture - great demonstrations of partnership working
here as Chair of FDWA who are recieving their Charter award
really good night - well done
was a good event I met lots of interesting people
Really enjoyed listening to the young people
Twas amazing
The Charter Mark makes me think we should do this
The Charter seems like a very good thing to do
Well organised event - well done
Great venue - and food

Male 37.5% / Female 62.5%
Identified as transgender 15%
protestant
Buddhist x 3
Pagan/Pict of this land
Scottish Episcopal
Christian
Baptist
Agnostic
Anglican
Sexual Orientation

- Lesbian/gay woman
- Gay man
- Bisexual
- Heterosexual/Straight

- pansexual
- none of these
Falkirk Council
- Falkirk Council has helped me through my childhood, and still do when it's needed
- Good representation
- Seems like they are very supportive
- The Provost being here makes me think that they must be supportive. He seemed like he really cared.
- I got my photo taken with the Provost—he obviously wants to do more for Equality
- Falkirk Youth Services helped the group to be set up—brilliant. Hope they have ongoing funding for youth work

Stirling Council
- They help to support Triangle LGBT Youth Group—They need to make sure that ALL staff (especially youth services) have up to date LGBT training
- In terms of community care if Stirling provide agency care I have found this service to be poor. They need to cater for individuals needs
- I was with Falkirk and Stirling and got help from both. Need to be able to negotiate with other Councils
- Work for them

Clacks Council
- Never been but heard they are doing a good job from members
- They support our group which is great
- Need to do more about LGBT Equality. Maybe they should have an event like this?
- Doesn’t seem like they do much apart from the youth group
Forth Valley NHS
- Put LGBT in their Policy's which is good.
- Need to continually develop frontline staff.
- Knowing they have the LGBT Charter is really helpful. Great work
- Good service. Be useful for more people to know how accessible they are for LGBT people
- They have done a lot of work for LGBT Equality
- Lynn is an ambassador for Equality

Central Sexual Health
- no centre in my area
- Learnt about them tonight. Will def go along
- not heard of this - but would be useful
- Have referred young people to them
- Got information from them. They have good LGBT links
- Hazel has been brilliant keeping the development Group going. Keep up the good work
- Knowing they have the Charter makes me know I can come out and get the service I need
- After meeting them tonight and know they are nice I will go and see them

School
- Experience of schools is that they are very unsupportive, especially for young people wanting to 'come out' The need TRAINING and to develop an understanding
- No support in school. No teachers know how to deal with bullying. Teachers need training
- awful - need more training
- see the impact of discriminatory experiences in school when students come to college
- Sounds like they still have a long way to go
- In school I was bullied and the teachers never helped
- The information from young people made me realise that school is still not a good place to be
- School is not a safe place to be out
- I was bullied but didn’t feel supported by teachers
- Much more needs to happen to improve school services
- Not sure what it's like here

Police
- 3rd party reporting - need to know more
- Good to hear about 3rd party reporting - more information about this needed
- I work in a voluntary capacity with the police
- Great to have Mike playing tonight – they were BRILLIANT
- The Police have been really valued in attending the Development group. Now feel we need to work on developing materials for 3rd Party reporting
- Was nervous when I saw the Police there tonight – but they were lovely. Think it helps to meet Police when they are nice and trying to help us

LGBT Youth Scotland
- They support a massive variety of young people and great partnership working
- Great - keep up the good work
- great service
- Have received excellent training from them which has helped change attitudes in my work place
- Ann was really helpful in providing information
- Mostly heard how great they are and would like to investigate further
- it doesn't seem like all the groups are accessible and I heard that one young woman from Stirling had to go to Falkirk Youth group due to accessibility issues and no wheelchair access. I was surprised to hear this as I though LGBT Youth was an accessible organisation.
They have been very present in this area and I have benefited from learning from Ann
   Through my son accessing services
   They are really helpful
   Excellent support through the Charter Process
   Really helpful. The LGBT Development group has enabled us to really develop in the area.
   Great organisation and staff

**Triangle**
   Need consistency in workers and time to promote the group and to get new members
   should reach out to more young people
   need more people to attend the group
   I have been a member of Triangle and thoroughly enjoyed since the first time
   Great organisation and YP
   Venue not suitable for everyone
   Need to make sure people know about the group – schools etc.

**FKInclude**
   not in my area-wish it was
   Would have liked to see the fashion show?
   Give great support
   A friend of mine goes here and is so much happier now.
   Great organisation and YP

**Clacks LGBT Youth**
   Brilliant
   Seems like a great group especially the generational work WOW - keep it up
   Loved the banner!
   Nice people

**THT**
   Not sure what they do
   Lots of resources tonight-but not come across them in the community

**Forth Valley College**
   Good that the college held this event. Looks like they are doing loads of work. Will look at
   applying for here in September
   Delighted they have the Charter - hope this work continues
   College was helpful with me learning about LGBT
   I was a student Union member and helped organise events with LGBT Youth. Would like to
   think it made a difference
   Having FV College Principal tonight shows how dedicated they are in relation to LGBT
   equality.
   Loved being a student here

**Barnardos**
   Spoke to some lovely people from Barnardos

**Central Scotland Regional Equality Council**
   they should do LGBT work
   They need to do LGBT work
   As a Regional Equality Council there is still no wider LGBT Equality work
   Never heard of them
Any other comments?

- Still a long way to go. More events would help
- Well done to all involved—you are obviously making a difference
- Falkirk and District Women’s Aid were lovely to talk to. Some great organisations tonight and would be good to see them advertised a lot more. Well done for an enjoyable evening
- The organisations that were here are doing a great job. The question is how to get the other orgs doing such good work?
- Well done to everyone who has kept pushing for LGBT equality. The organisations tonight were fantastic. Still needs lots more to make this work. Particularly schools.
- Be useful to see more information across the area as to where to go for support and information
- Well done
- Good night. Thanks for all the hard work
- The development group has done a great job
- The organisations that were here were very good and approachable. Seems like a lot of work is being carried out which is hopeful for the future. Needs everyone to make things better.
- FV college has done amazing
- The organisations that were here tonight made me realise there is lots of support out there which I never realised. Events like this help us know who we can go to for support. I met lovely people and it made me feel better about myself :)
- Was fun
- I have increased confidence with the organisations represented tonight. Good to see so much work happening in the area. The Charter seems like a good way forward
- Can only comment on the services represented here tonight. They appear to be doing a lot of work to ensure LGBT people are supported which is really heartening. Also very good to see Domestic Abuse services being inclusive
- The FV Development group means I am aware of the great LGBT work that happens across Forth Valley. This means I am more confident about their services. School is still a bad place for LGBT young people and more needs to be done to improve this. Stirling and Clacks has less representation and more needs to be done to integrate them in to more LGBT inclusion.
- Keep up the good work
- Great relaxed event
- The posters around the college are a good way to get students to know it is okay to be LGBT. More posters and information—everywhere. And website links
- Fantastic event
- The young people were great. They didn’t seem very prepared though. Hope they enjoyed the night.
- Enjoyed tonight, met some great people and learnt a lot. Thank you

Feedback from staff involved with the event
Forth Valley LGBT Development Group – History Month Event.

Questions
What was your role?

- Coordinating some of the youth groups input at the event.
- Chairing the event
- Largely to network, represent LGBT Youth Scotland and generally pitch-in as necessary.
- I facilitated the venue/catering/internal FVC invites/opened the curtains(!)
- I was there as the worker with Clacks LGBT Youth Group.
- Volunteer youth worker supporting the FK1nclude group.
- I supported Triangle to be there
What do you feel went well? Why?

- I felt that overall the on the night the youth groups did really well, last minute as always but it came together in the end and the young people presented really well. Never enough time!!
- relaxed nature of the event; people mixing and chatting during the start of the session and the break
- The atmosphere was really relaxed and I think this really worked for young people in particular, often if events are overly ‘professional’ or stuffy it can be really daunting for young people.
- The turn-out was fantastic, 74 people – amazing!
- It was generally really good to see such passionate people coming together in Forth Valley
- Time to Network
- The young people were amazing...so diverse in presentations, but the passion they all spoke with highlights exactly why we do what we do!
- The Band!!
- I felt the Young People’s presentations went really well and they really showed that the impact that the groups can have on the young people who access them. Everything from the Triangle group in Stirling speaking about the work they have been doing in order to promote the services more widely, to the personal stories of the Falkirk group were really great and fit in really well with the theme of the event. Having spoken to other attendees after the presentations, they also thought that our youth work really has an impact and hearing the stories of the young people really brought this home. The food was also delicious! 😋
- I think it all went really well, it was a very positive celebration and relaxed event which hit the right tone in terms of celebration and also recognition of the Forth Valley young people’s group work. I think the slots given to the young people themselves worked well because it came from the heart and a truly personal message was conveyed.
- Other than the YP’s presentations, I really enjoyed the Charter Mark awards. I have recently attended Charter training and been allocated my first client. Hearing Ann speak about the Charter in such a positive way and the speeches from organisations receiving it really shows that there are others who really do want to make their services more accessible to LGBT young people and the wider community which is vital in the work that we do.

What were the challenges? Why?

- Trying to ensure that all the groups were ready for the night, presentations sorted and all ready with IT such as USB’s at hand. Trying to get a hold of other partners proved a bit of a challenge, but it did all come together in the end.
- Nothing I can think of.
- I didn't have any challenges on the night, the Triangle guys sorted out their IT issues no problem!
- Unfortunately I was late in arriving for the event so missed the beginning. From when I arrived to the end, the event went extremely well and there were no issues that I was aware of. Overall, it was a great event and I feel I really benefited from attending.
- For me none but I was aware that changes had to be made to the programme due to lateness. One of the presentations and the charter certificates didn’t arrive till ten to 6 when it was meant to start at 5.20. I think everyone dealt with this really well though and it didn’t come across to the audience at all!
- The challenges that I faced along with colleagues, was the young people from the group had decided that they did not want to go ahead with the fashion show which had originally been planned due to various reasons. Annie was amazing and dealt with this by working with the YP’s, who were still wanting to take part, to discuss their journey with LGBT Youth Scotland and the impact it had on them.
Young people also seemed a little unprepared. It’s not that they should be overly professional – it’s just so that they feel as confident as they can when they speak. They were still fantastic though and it was definitely worthwhile. For those that completely winged - they did phenomenally well. I don’t think I could do that...
The only challenge was bringing together the different groups on the night – the situation was quite fluid but actually I think the beauty of it was that this worked well and the flexibility meant that everything looked very seamless.
The event had been in the pipeline since December, so it was frustrating that slides and young people’s input did not happen until the very last minute. I felt that young people were not fully prepped for the evening, and that there was not buy in from all the staff.

What were the best bits? Why?
The overall organisation was excellent. The young people’s presentations were great, true real life stories as told by the young people themselves. Everyone involved worked hard to make it a good night.

discussion from young people
Again, the young people were fab. But the buffet, band and general atmosphere was great.
Young people’s contribution generally. It’s always good to hear their words. Very powerful!
For me networking and being able to put a face to some names.
The best bits were hearing from the young people and seeing them enjoy the event. My group loved it.
I think apart from the comments above, I wouldn't have done anything differently.
Thanks Ann, you are a star. We wouldn’t have been here without you.
The band was good too.
I think the best bits were the youth groups presentations – very personal and confident and great to see how coming together as a group has empowered them and given them confidence

What would you have done differently?
Persist with ensuring ahead of time that everyone one involved knew what their role was.
Maybe less time at the end as people wanted to get away sharp. So maybe just 20 mins at the end for final discussions and clearing up.
Hard to say really. I don’t think there was anything I could have done differently.
Made me think that we need to do some sort of training or seminar on events and trips with staff and vols. Just things to consider: early planning, prepping young people, consents and risk management. Sometimes things are out with our control though and it’s how you deal with it that counts.
For future events it would be good if everyone involved took ownership of their roles.
Nothing as I felt it was very successful and positive
If it was done, then brief those that are asked to give a speech.

Please feel free to add any additional comments.
Overall I thought the night went really well, it brought a diverse range of people together and the young people’s stories had a positive impact in demonstrating why we all work to ensure that services work for everyone.
Great event: haven’t we moved on a lot in the past few years.
Maybe next time we could get the young peoples groups to take ownership of the event and set the agenda, chair it etc.
It was clear the development group worked really hard, Lynne Waddell and Ann Marriott were fabulous hosts!
The feedback from the group on the way home was that it was really enjoyable and great to see and meet up with other young people. they talked about seeing differences in some of the people they know, increase in confidence etc. Thought the music was really good and perhaps we look at trying to get young people to play next year?
I think the event went very well and a good range of partners participated. This allowed the young people to see that there are a broader range of people and services involved in the work across Forth Valley and hopefully gives them some confidence that when they come into contact with Health, Further Education etc they will be treated in the right way.

Our LGBT History Month Extravaganza was a great success. Our celebration of LGBT history month marked the achievements of the LGBT community here in Forth Valley.

Thanks for the opportunity to attend.

Please feel free to add any additional comments.

I can’t say enough about how positive the event was. It was a great opportunity for us as a college to see some of the work done in the community for LGBT young people. It is always brilliant to get an opportunity to talk first hand to people who are stakeholders and get their views of issues they face and how we can overcome these. Congratulations to all the team who organised the event – Ann especially and the youth workers – it was good to see the dynamics of the team and how you all worked together to bring about a lovely celebration.

I think the biggest issue for me is probably that the people who were there were (in a nice way) the ‘usual suspects’. We are already sold on the benefits of the development group and the work of the youth groups and I guess I feel we maybe need to communicate outward a wee bit more. Events like this one could be a vehicle to engage a broader range of people in the great work we have going on.

As Chairperson of the LGBT development group, I’m truly thankful to everyone who volunteered their time. It was so inspiring to see that everyone attending the event is committed to supporting the development of services for the LGBT population across Forth Valley.

Listening to the experiences of the young people were truly remarkable, thank you to everyone from FK1, Triangle & Clacks group for sharing your work and keeping us entertained.

We were so fortunate to have Severence play for us, thank you to Mike Parsons and his band members.

Congratulations to Falkirk & District Women’s Aid and Forth Valley College on achieving your Charter Mark.