Gay Men’s Health is being forced to shed staff and close its Glasgow office after NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde withdrew funding. The office will close at the end of September along with all services including the counselling service.

Bruce Fraser, GMC Chief Executive, said, “Community involvement with the gay and bisexual communities is central to the approach taken by Gay Men’s Health. We are very surprised that the decision has been taken by NHSGGC to bring all services into the NHS rather than to the voluntary sector, particularly as research, including recent research commissioned by NHSGGC and NHS Lothian, consistently shows that the most effective way of preventing HIV transmission is by engaging with gay and bisexual men.”

*Indeed, the current Scottish Government Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus Framework states that “multi agency partners should be working together to ensure targeted provision of sexual health and HIV prevention services to support MSM (men who have sex with men). This work should be delivered in partnership through both the statutory and third sector”. The most recent HIV Prevention Needs Assessment of Men who Have sex with men (June 2014) jointly commissioned by NHSGGC AND NHS Lothian states “All health boards should consider including targeted and evidence based emotional and mental health interventions in non-clinical settings”.*

*“We are gravely concerned that NHSGGC are going against current research, choosing to take all services into the NHS, and we are anxious that this could lead to disengagement with the gay and bisexual communities in Glasgow and could result in higher incidence of HIV transmissions and acquisition of STIs, putting the health of gay and bisexual men at increased risk.”*  

“The decision of NHSGGC and cuts in the levels of funding from NHS Lothian, means GMH are having to go through a process of restructuring and a change to services we deliver. Our Edinburgh and Aberdeen offices will remain open and our counselling service in Edinburgh will continue at the same level it is currently at.”

*“Our community approach has galvanised a large number of volunteers who we hope will continue to help us fight for the prominence of gay and bisexual men’s health in Scotland.”*  

If you’d like to join ScotsGay’s team of Fringe Reviewers, get in touch!  
E-mail: fringeteam@scotsgay.co.uk  
or phone 0131-539 0666.
Brett Herriot
edinburgh@scotsgay.co.uk

W
hat a wonderful day Sat 6th July saw the parade! As the crowds came out together we enjoyed a celebration of our diversity. By the end of the day, so many people from across the LGBT community had joined in and made our voices heard! As you can see throughout the month planning and putting this event together and enjoying the entertainment on offer. Scotsgay works closely with the Pride Scotia team and Pride would like to pass on a few additional thanks, in particular to Kevin Donge who was our volunteer co-ordinator and worked tremendously hard throughout the six month planning stage and on pride day itself. To and to everybody who joined in the Pride Fringe Festival in any way - it’s still not too late) and for join - Pride Fringe Festival in any way - it’s still not too late - sponsors and partners for their in - be hard to find a replacement! Also a massive thanks once again to all our sponsors and partners for their in - together and enjoying the entertainment. It was humbling to see everyone is getting geared up for this - Lucero’s to - the Impossible. Of course I - Marcus Collins

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Helsby - in the North West.

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Inverness - in the North West.

Government House - in the South East.

Thetford - in the South East.

Sunderland - in the North East.

Stockport - in the North West.

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HOMES

Countryside - in the South East.

Sheffield - in the South West.

Bexleyheath - in the South East.

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tel: 0141 552 0112

GMH ABERDEEN
246 George Street
Aberdeen, AB25 1HN
tel: 01224 930 355

mail@gmh.org.uk
www.gmh.org.uk

Gay Men’s Health is a charity registered in Scotland, No. SC023479.

- free condoms and lubricant
- work with young gay & bisexual men
- leaflets, posters, magazines & campaigns
- information and advice on safer sex
- remote reporting of crimes to the police
- peer education on the gay scene, online & in cruising areas
- information and support around HIV testing
- groupwork for gay & bisexual men
- research on health-related issues
- challenging HIV stigma & discrimination
- volunteering opportunities
- training for professionals
- information on Sexually Transmitted Infections
- groups for gay & bi men aged 40+
- awareness raising events
- free, confidential and professional counselling
- community building
- video & podcasts