Voices of Clients

Because GADD provided support and understanding at a time my life had become very uncertain and frightening. They became not only councillors when I needed them badly, but friends. I'm a volunteer with them now because I know what they do is worthwhile; I want to be able to help them to help someone the way they helped me. If GADD closes a fantastic asset for doing good not only for Darlington but much further afield will be lost. It doesn't deserve that, and neither do the people it stands ready to help.

GADD is important because

* it provides training on LGBTQI issues to those who know nothing about it, locally, regionally, nationally
* it advocates on behalf of individuals who are not able to access/trust other agencies
* it provides a safety net for those who can't cope with the hate crime, the abuse, the snide comments, the discrimination of the main community
* it provides a free counselling service
* it provides a listening ear
* it provides actual physical concrete help to people in need ... whether that is coping with a diagnosis (HIV, STI's etc), homelessness, debt, bullying or dealing with the health system or the benefits system
* it advocates nationally, regionally and locally for human rights for the LGBTQI community
* it is, well, the best LGBTQI organisation in the UK!

GADD gave me a breath of life in a very difficult and dark time.  I couldn’t see a way through the situation i was in and thanks to Emma and the team of volunteers i am now in a better place. They have continued to support me via counselling and i am now a volunteer with the charity.  GADD gives me  somewhere to go where i can feel safe and have people to talk to. I live on my own and it can be very lonely, going to GADD gives me somewhere to socialise with similar minded people. It has also helped to improve my confidence, self worth and self esteem and i have made numerous friends through the organisation.  Without GADD i would be stuck at home marginalised and my confidence and self esteem would be seriously affected.  I love helping people and GADD gives me that opportunity without expecting too much with me being unable to go into full time work.

GADD is a place where I feel safe and I can talk openly about how I feel without fearing a stigma. GADD is my home and my family and without it my life wouldn’t be the same. I met my girlfriend through GADD so it holds a special place to me.

Counselling is an integral part of my life. While studying my degree GADD entitles me to practice, learn and grow. Also I have the opportunity to offer my skills as a volunteer, counselling members of the LGBT community. The LGBT community is massively underrepresented in just about every aspect of society. GADD helps to fill this void. As well as being a place of education and learning for me, GADD also provides a safe space for myself and other LGBT people within the community to come together. As well as the above services, GADD also helps to reduce the pressure on both the acute and priority NHS services, by effectively picking up members of the LGBT community before they reach crisis point. To lose such a valuable space would be nothing short of criminal.

Hey my name is Ethinathon and GADD means the world to me to go and understand my sister and my brother of their sexuality. If GADD goes there will not be anywhere for advice about their sexuality. If the capitalism tales away our GADD there is no safe zone for men or women to express themselves. If you Disable the funding then LGBT people can’t go for advice and support, we need to keep this place open to the public.

GADD means a lot to me, I may not have been going here for a while but I have met new people and made friends with them. It’s somewhere we can all come to and hang out and talk to each other about stuff I am normally uncomfortable talking about. To lose GADD would be a devastation because this is my safe zone where I can be myself.

GADD provides a safe place for me to be me, I feel like I can be myself in a world that frowns on anything different. It also provides us a place to eat our dinner so that we don’t get kicked out of the Cornmill for being loud or an unconveiniance to the security staff(which we never are).  GADD has shown me that I am not the only one who sometimes feels excluded because of something I cannot help.

GADD is a place where I feel most comfortable, it’s a place that I can openly be who I am and not feel judged. Without GADD I’d feel lost as this is my safe place, the place I come to when everything gets too much and I need someone to talk to. GADD is my family and I’ve met some amazing people, without I wouldn’t feel as confident.