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‘Condom and lube partnership to end – but scheme will continue’

The partnership between LGBT Foundation and Manchester Pride to fund Greater Manchester's ground-breaking condom and lube distribution scheme is coming to an end, but LGBT Foundation pledges the scheme will continue.

LGBT Foundation's condom and lube distribution scheme is the longest running of its kind in the world and led a pioneering approach to sexual health at the height of the HIV epidemic. Since it began in 1994, more than 31 million safer sex packs have been distributed across Greater Manchester, helping countless LGBTQ+ people have happier, healthier, and safer sex.

Manchester Pride has supported the scheme since the beginning but will no longer be in a position to continue funding it in the future. The scheme itself will continue as LGBT Foundation will identify other ways to fund it and secure its future. Manchester Pride has pledged to continue to partner with LGBT Foundation on other projects.

Paul Martin OBE, Chief Executive of LGBT Foundation said:

“For 27 years the scheme has provided free and accessible Safer Sex packs, first to gay and bisexual men, and now to all LGBTQ+ people living, working and visiting Greater Manchester. Throughout that time, the scheme has been run for the community, by the community and I pledge to the community that it will continue in the future. Condoms remain one of the key ways that we can reduce HIV and other sexually transmitted infections.

“We’re sorry to see the partnership with Manchester Pride is ending, but we are grateful for their support over the last quarter of a century and look forward to many more years of working with Manchester Pride in support of LGBTQ+ people in Greater Manchester.”

Mark Fletcher, Chief Executive of Manchester Pride added:

“The condom and lube distribution scheme has done absolutely vital work over the past 27 years and we have been proud to support it.



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Sadly, the Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on Manchester Pride. Not being able to deliver in person events had a detrimental effect on our ability to generate income and raise funds in the way that we had planned. And, like many other charities we have had to take some tough decisions as we focus on recovering.

We encourage other organisations to support this pioneering scheme and we look forward to working with LGBT Foundation in the future as we aim to improve lives for LGBTQ+ people throughout Greater Manchester and beyond.”

LGBT Foundation will announce how the condom and lube scheme will be funded in the autumn, but if anyone has any ideas or offers of support, please contact Debra Nixon our Deputy Director of Self-Generated Income on debra.nixon@lgbt.foundation

Notes to Editors

LGBT Foundation is a national charity delivering advice, support and information services to lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans communities. With a history dating back to 1975, they campaign for a fair and equal society where all LGBT people can achieve their full potential. Through their services, they reduce isolation amongst LGBT communities, help people feel more confident and in control of their lives and enable people to flourish. Together with LGBT communities and their supporters, LGBT Foundation are working to secure a safe, healthy and equal future for all LGBT people.

Since the scheme's inception we have distributed over **30 million condoms and sachets of lube** and helped tens of thousands of people have happier and healthier sex since it launched.

Volunteers packed condom and lube packs every week and by 1999 they were packing 9,000 every Wednesday night to be distributed across 55 locations including saunas, shops and Manchester Gay Village venues. Condom packs were redesigned as wallets and boxes produced to both store and display them. By 2002 over half a million condoms had been distributed and volunteers could no longer keep up with demand so packing was outsourced.

In 2014 **78.4% of users said that they're more likely to use condoms and lube during anal sex** thanks to our scheme.

Today, the scheme distributes over **90,000 safer sex packs across Greater Manchester** every year.

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