**A Brief History of the Organisation**

**Summary**

SAYiT is a well-established youth charity which has supported LGBTQ+ young people in Sheffield for 25 years. We are well recognised with referrals received from across the Voluntary and Community Sector and statutory health and education services.

SAYiT is the only LGBTQ+ youth organisation in Sheffield and the largest in the region. We offer a range of groups where young people can access peer support alongside one-to-one and counselling and hardship provision to be able to support the individual needs and mental wellbeing of the young people who access our services.

Our work with parents and carers, in schools and other agencies, works to improve the wider environments in which our young people experience their lives. We also offer a range of training to professionals across the region to enable them to better support LGBTQ+ young people accessing their services.

**History**

SAYiT is a registered charity (no: 1177477) which has a long history of working with young people in Sheffield. In 1999, it was set up as the Sheena Amos Youth Trust in recognition of a local NHS manager who worked tirelessly to provide sexual health care to those under 20. Sheena died of breast cancer five years earlier, but her legacy lives on through SAYiT’s efforts to carry her vision forward. It was originally established to work with all young people in supporting them with their sexual health and in negotiating safer sexual relationships. Today, SAYiT provides support and social opportunities for LGBTQ+ young people aged from 8 to 25, including those who are most vulnerable or marginalised.

SAYiT’s primary function is to offer direct support through group work or one-to-one interventions with young people. Increasingly, SAYiT has recognised the need to empower young LGBTQ+ people to negotiate some of the barriers and hurdles placed in front of them, recognising that it is institutions and communities that need to change and accommodate greater diversity and difference in terms of sexuality, gender and identity. As well as offering direct emotional support to young LGBTQ+ people, SAYiT increasingly works with parents, carers, schools, colleges, universities and a variety of other institutions – improving the environment and cultures in which young LGBTQ+ people experience their lives.

We are one of the few organisations in the region (and nationally) offering the type of expert and specialist support we do. Our excellent reputation is recognised at a local, regional, national and even European level.