



Open Hearts Open Minds

Sharing Tools Tips & News for a more inclusive Devon

DID you KNOW ? about good practice communication regarding Lesbian, Gay Bisexual & Trans issues?

- **Negative stereotypes cause harm:** Stereotypes are misleading and they empower the small minority who embrace prejudice and discrimination.
- **Challenge negative language:** If you hear or see someone use language in a way that will cause offence, say that you think it's inappropriate. It's not OK for example for someone to say "I'm not listening to that music, it's too *gay*".
- **Don't sensationalise:** 1 in 10 of the population are LGBT. It's not a choice or a disorder. Replace prejudiced talk and headlines with the everyday good news stories that LGBT people – young and old - want to celebrate. Ask Intercom.
- **Use thoughtful terminology:** It's important to use terms which people feel comfortable with: E.g. 'gay' shows respect, whereas 'homosexual' has a long history of derogatory use. www.intercomtrust.org.uk/resources/terminology
- **Be interested, not nosy:** Talk to your LGBT friends about their lives respectfully, as you would to straight friends. Don't pry into someone's sexual orientation: they'll tell you if they want

Field Code Changed

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