

York LGBT Forum  
Registered Charity Number: 1162234  
Registered Address: York LGBT Forum  
C/O York CVS, 15 Priory Street, York,  
YO1 6ET

City of York Council  
Address: Eco Depot, Hazel Court, York,  
YO10 3DS

Email:

Dear Licensing Committee,

**RE: Support for Licensing Application for Little J, an LGBTQ+ Community Centre, Address: North Street, York YO1 6JD, UK**

On behalf of the York LGBT Forum, we are writing to express our full support for the license application submitted by Little J, an LGBTQ+ community venue led by and for the LGBTQ+ community in York.

As a long-standing charity dedicated to supporting, celebrating and advocating for the rights and wellbeing of LGBTQ+ individuals in York and surrounding area, we understand the critical importance of safe, inclusive and welcoming spaces for our community. With hate crime on the rise and many trans and gender-diverse people feeling scared and isolated, venues such as Little J provide more than just a social environment – they are vital hubs for connection, visibility and support.

Little J has already demonstrated a clear commitment to inclusivity, community engagement and safety. Their proposed programming, will enrich our communities, by providing space for the communities to rehearse, have meetings, and create meaningful connections. This programming and ethos align closely with the values we champion as a charity. We are confident that not only Little J will adhere to licensing requirements but will also make a positive contribution to the local community, fostering diversity, acceptance and a vibrant social culture.

York is a Human Rights City, a City of Sanctuary, a trans-friendly city and an anti-racist city and we believe by approve the licensing for this venue, will help to demonstrate these values. As a city, that also has many visitors is essential that we continue to support spaces where members of the community can feel celebrated, in particular for those who are from countries where it can be illegal to be LGBTQ+, resulting in some cases in the death penalty.

We respectfully urge the Licensing Committee to approve this application and we offer our continued support and partnership to ensure its success.

Yours faithfully

York LGBT Forum



Generate  
Blake House,  
18 Blake Street,  
York,  
YO1 8QG

**City of York Council**

West Offices,  
Station Rise,  
York,  
YO1 6GA  
01904 551550  
ycc@york.gov.uk

[www.generate.org.uk](http://www.generate.org.uk)

2 Sept 2025

To the City of York Council,

Generate are writing to express our support for the application by Little J LGBTQI+ Community Centre for a permanent entertainment licence from City of York Council.

We believe Little J has the potential to play a vital role in York's LGBTQI+ community by providing an inclusive, safe and welcoming space where people of all identities and backgrounds can gather, celebrate and express themselves through a diverse range of cultural and social events. From live arts and film screenings to theatre, dance and community socials, Little J will offer programming that not only entertains but empowers our community, fostering visibility, solidarity and wellbeing among LGBTQI+ individuals in our city.

The need for a dedicated, licensed LGBTQI+ space in York has never been clearer. With hate crimes on the rise across the UK and queer venues disappearing at an alarming rate, permanent recognition and support from the City of York Council will help ensure that Little J can continue to provide safe, affirming experiences for all. A permanent entertainment licence would allow the centre to plan and promote events with greater consistency and confidence, enabling it to expand its impact and accessibility.

We would be incredibly grateful if the Council consider granting this licence, demonstrating York's commitment to diversity and inclusion by supporting a vibrant and secure space for the LGBTQI+ community.

Sincerely,



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City of York Council  
Address: Eco Depot, Hazel Court, York,  
YO10 3DS

2nd September 2025

QueerArts UK CIC  
Office 10  
Aspire House  
31 Bootham Row, York  
YO30 7BT

Email: \

To whom it may concern,

**RE: Little J, an LGBTQ+ Community Centre**  
Address: North Street, York YO1 6JD, UK

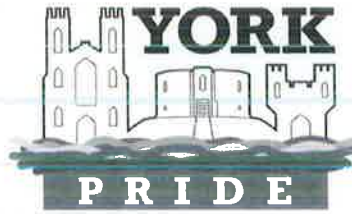
QueerArts UK CIC is a not-for-profit organisation that champions queer arts and culture in York and beyond. We put on events for and run by the community, including music, dance, creative writing and visual arts.

We would like to offer our support for the development of an LGBTQ+ space by Little J, at a time when creativity and expression are more important than ever for our community.

Many trans and non-binary people, and allies, are extremely worried by the shift in public discourse since the recent Supreme Court ruling. Safe spaces are invaluable, and Little J will give the additional benefit of allowing the LGBTQ+ community a community space. There are few opportunities for this locally, so this space could help provide a valuable place for both visitors and the local community and contribute to the City being viewed as inclusive.

We would like to record our support for the creation of this LGBTQ+ space in York.

On behalf of the Board of Directors



02/09/2025

**Re: Support for Little j @ Chapel House – Premises Licence Application**

To Whom It May Concern,

YorkPride is pleased to offer our support to Little j @ Chapel House in their application for a premises licence with City of York Council.

As York's official LGBT+ charity and organiser of the annual YorkPride parade and festival, we strongly value and support inclusive, accessible community venues that champion LGBT+ arts, culture, and social engagement.

Little j has shown clear intent to provide a welcoming space for LGBT+ individuals and groups, with plans to host a diverse range of live events, including music, theatre, film, and social activities. These events play a vital role in enhancing the visibility, wellbeing and cohesion of our community and contribute meaningfully to the cultural fabric of York.

Having a dedicated LGBT+ venue in the city where we could host events that would support the running costs of York LGBT Pride would also help ensure the long term sustainability of our charity and event.

We believe a permanent premises licence would enable Little j to further its positive contribution to the city's LGBT+ scene and community development. We therefore encourage City of York Council to look favourably upon this application.

Yours sincerely,

York LGBT Pride

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**From:**

**Date:** 02 Sept 2025

**Subject:** Support for Little j @ Chapel House - Premises Licence Application

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you today to extend our overwhelming support for the new LGBT+ community venue, Little J @ Chapel House in their application for a premises licence with City of York Council.


On behalf of all LGBT+ students at York St John University, we understand the importance of a dedicated LGBT+ Venue, where accessible and inclusive events are able to be held, in order to foster a strong, thriving and safe community.

This is why we support Little J, as they have shown clear intent to provide York with an LGBT+ safe space where a multitude of live events can be hosted, such as music, theatre, film and much more! These events will enhance the LGBT+ communities' visibility and wellbeing, as creating a community space allows people to feel included and valued by society.

By having a dedicated LGBT+ Venue, York St John's LGBTQ+ Network would have a space to hold its events, increasing collaboration across the city.

By granting Little J a permanent premises licence, we believe invaluable change, improvement and cohesion would be brought to the LGBT+ community, and the City of York. We therefore kindly ask for you to look favourably upon their application.

Yours sincerely,

  
Little J @ Chapel House  
LGBTQ+ Network  
York St John University  
Lord Mayor's Walk  
York  
YO31 7EX

2/9/25



To whom it may concern,

On behalf of The Family Shambles, I am pleased to offer our support to Little j in the application for a premises license with City of York Council.

The Family Shambles is a community lead entertainment group focused on highlighting and uplifting marginalised, LGBTQIA+ and intersectional groups and individuals. Inclusive of entertainers, performers and audience members respectively. As we are heavily drag focused and visibly LGBTQIA+, it has often been a mix of good and bad experiences with venues around the city. None of which has lead to consistent, supportive and inclusive continued events. The worst of which includes instances of abuse, both verbal and physical, from the general public and a continued struggle to have venues and managers understand the needs and concerns of creating a safe community space.

Little j would mean for us, and other similar groups and individuals a continued, meaningful and inclusive space where we can perform, create a safe space for entertainers and their audiences. In the current climate of the world and LGBTQIA+ rights being questioned, it is integral to the wider community in York that we have a safe space, not only 9-5, but also for nightlife.

I ask that City of York Council consider the vast benefits and contributions Little j would offer our wider community and add to the vibrant and inclusive city we live and work in.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. J. J.', is written over a faint, circular stamp.

Abbey Street  
Clifton Green  
York  
YO30 6BG

York RI RUFC  
New Lane  
York  
YO24 4NT

y

2nd September 2025

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing as captain of York RI Templars in support of Little Js application for late licencing. York RI Templars is an LGBTQ+ inclusive rugby team based in the city made up of primarily gay/bi/trans male players and other allies that support our mission.

We believe the addition of an LGBT venue in the city would benefit our community enormously.

Our team plays as part of a league of LGBTQ+ teams arranged with mainly one team per city around the UK. That means we visit and host teams from cities across the north of England. We have also put on special events and tournaments that attracted teams from London and Scotland. Teams often stay in York to socialise after matches and events, as we do with them. However, York is unique in not having any dedicated space for LGBTQ+ people - a conversation that comes up every time teams visit us. Adding this venue would massively improve the scope of the offer we could make to visitors so that more would stay and support the city's hospitality.

As a team that provides community and fitness away from the usual Pride events we have a number of accessibility issues with venues that Little Js can solve. First and foremost is to be able to guarantee the safety of our players and their freedom to express themselves fully. York venues are overwhelmingly supportive in their policy but experiences with security staff and customers can still put off some of our players. We are also not well known outside of York's LGBTQ+ community so being able to get into venues to socialise as a large group can be difficult and restricts our ability to provide quality group occasions. Finally, a central event space for meetings and other organising events would greatly widen participation from our community.

I would like to emphasise the extra value associated with late opening for this venue to live up to its potential as a focal point of the LGBTQ+ community. We have a vested interest in this given the late hours that our socials typically involve (post match, post dinner, post getting everyone back in one place in town.) It is also a core part of the tradition of such venues that people can congregate there after their own evenings to unwind. The potential must exist to relax and dance at late hours in order to serve the most diverse range of our community and be a place to celebrate.

We are excited to see Little Js deliver as a long overdue focal point for our York community and to see it add value to other nightlife and the experience of being out in York.

Yours Sincerely,

York RI Templars





## Support permanent Safe Space entertainment licensing for York LGBTQI+ Community Centre

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### The Issue

As a proud member of York's LGBTQI+ community, I am deeply concerned by the recent Supreme Court ruling, which failed to properly recognise trans, non-binary and intersex people, including trans people with gender recognition certificates. This decision undermines the rights and identities of many, making safe spaces for marginalised LGBTQI+ individuals even more critical. As York is a Human Rights City, a City of



Sanctuary and a trans-friendly city, fully inclusive LGBTQI+ spaces are needed within York more than ever.

This petition calls for support to urge the City of York Council Licensing Committee to grant a **permanent** late entertainment and alcohol licence for the LGBTQI+ community centre on North Street (Little j), in the heart of York, until 4am. Without this licence, the centre struggles to create an inclusive and celebratory environment where people can freely express themselves and feel safe, particularly late at night.

While York has a reputation for being a diverse and welcoming city, the lack of officially designated LGBTQI+ venues limits our community's ability to come together, celebrate, and host events like performances, cultural activities, and social gatherings. Granting this licence until 4am would allow the centre to provide a much needed late opening, long-term safe space always with fully Inclusive facilities to hold events such as music, dancing, singing, poetry readings, theatre, films, practises, performances and more, while providing refreshments for attendees.

This licence would also send a powerful message, showing that York stands in solidarity with its LGBTQI+ citizens. It would demonstrate that York is a progressive city that values diversity and inclusivity, providing a vibrant and secure space for the LGBTQI+ community.

Join me in supporting this important cause. Sign the petition to encourage the York Council to take action for the well-being and empowerment of the LGBTQI+ community in York. Let's make the City of York a model of equality and inclusion.

Follow Little j at:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/15wm6LTWv8/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

[www.littlej.co.uk](http://www.littlej.co.uk)

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**Little j**

Petition Starter

LGBTQI+ community centre safe space in the heart of York

**Media enquiries**

