

Ramsbottom Group Practice strikes **GOLD!**



Ramsbottom Group Practice receives their **GOLD** *Pride in Practice* award for delivering fully inclusive healthcare services to their patients.

Pride in Practice is a quality assurance support service delivered by LGBT Foundation that strengthens and develops a GP Practice's relationship with their lesbian, gay and bisexual patients. *Pride in Practice* has been funded by Bury CCG to work with 33 GP practices across Greater Manchester. You can find out more at: www.lgbt.foundation/prideinpractice

There was a real sense of celebration as practice staff from Ramsbottom Group Practice gathered to be presented with their Gold Award for excellence in lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) healthcare.

The whole practice took part in an interactive training session that covered LGB awareness, how to encourage LGB people to engage with health promotion activities like routine screening and vaccination programmes and health inequalities experienced by LGB people. Staff were keen to take full advantage of the learning opportunity, asking additional questions about encouraging more lesbian



and bisexual women to attend cervical screening and routes to parenting for people in same sex relationships.

Mary Sharkey, Practice Manager, said, *“The session was very educational and informative. Thank you so much for everything you’ve done! You’ve been so helpful!”*

Laurence Webb, **Pride in Practice** Coordinator, said, *“You could tell that the practice was invested in making a real difference and passionate about their service being fully inclusive for their LGB patients. They were keen to take on new information and learn about things that can be difficult for LGB people to navigate, like making sure to ask about the gender of someone’s partners when taking a sexual history to avoid assumptions of heterosexuality. I was delighted to be able to present them with a **GOLD** award – they definitely earned it!”*

The practice now receives regular LGB resources such as posters and safer sex packs, as well as information on specialist services, including LGBT Foundation’s sexual health and wellbeing services, LGBT domestic abuse services and LGBT cancer support groups.