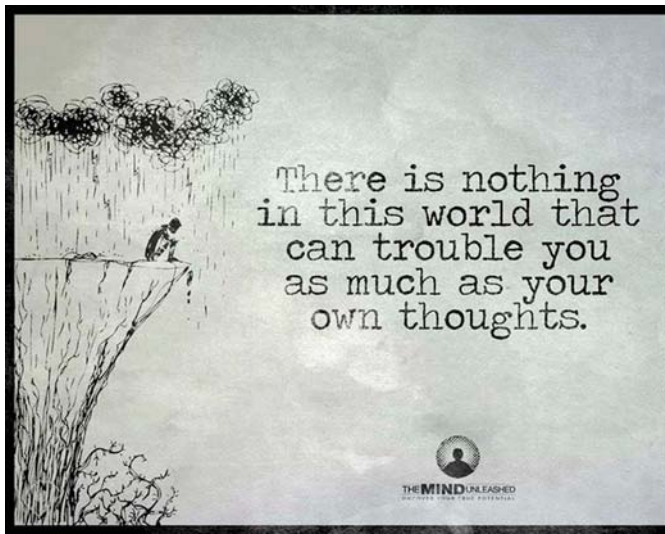


## The Aims of Transfigurations:

The group was set up with following specific aims

- To give support to all transgender or gender variant people before, during or after their transition, especially in the South Devon area (but not limited to it).
- To help educate others about transgender or gender variant people and promote a better understanding of the condition by ordinary people.
- To reduce and work towards the elimination of transphobia and transphobic bullying at work, at school and in society at large.
- To be fully inclusive of transgender or gender variant youth and children - with the permission of their parent(s) or guardian(s).
- To work with the Police, the NHS, Healthwatch and other agencies in promoting the rights and safety of transgender people.
- To work with other LGBT and Trans organisations for the betterment of the lives of transgender or gender variant people.
- To be intersectional in our support so that it is inclusive of all people regardless of their race, colour, religion or any other protected characteristic.
- To work with local and national government to make sure our voices are represented and listened to.

By working towards these aims it is hoped that Transfigurations can make a difference to the lives of the thousands of transgender people in the UK and in our region in particular.



Carol Steele is a transgender woman who transitioned over forty years ago. She was very active in the early 1970's and, with another transgender woman, set up one of the first groups in the UK specifically catering for all transgender people. On the emergence of other groups, the Manchester TV/TS Group actively campaigned with those other groups for better NHS treatment of transsexual people.

After transitioning and then in the late 1970's after obtaining her Gender Confirmation Surgery (GCS - previously referred to as an SRS) she concentrated more on building up the two successful businesses that she created.

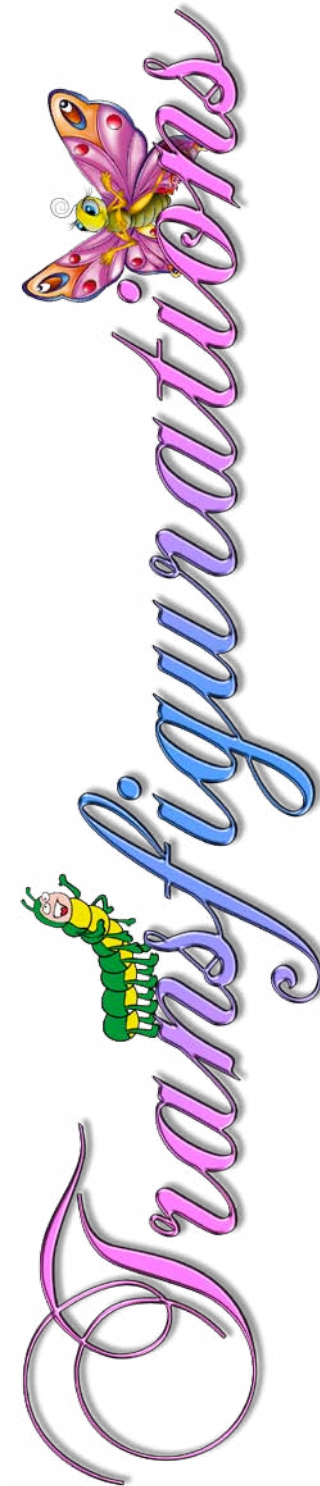
After retirement, Carol took up the cudgel once again to campaign for transgender rights and sat on the Independent Advisory Group of the Devon and Cornwall Police and also became a member of their Local Reference Group and the Vulnerable Persons group - working for a better understanding and treatment of transgender people. She was also invited onto the steering committee as an independent Advisor for the South Devon Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust's Transgender Policy document and also their LGBT committee. She has also made the shortlist in the "Lifetime Achiever" category of the National Diversity Awards 2015 .

Carol also worked for a national suicide helpline as a listening volunteer and used to work on a regional support helpline for all LGBT people. She now concentrates on the help and support line that Transfigurations runs as well as running and promoting the Transfigurations organisation.

### Meeting Venue of Transfigurations:

We currently have our fortnightly meetings at:-  
The Chelston Community Centre, off Old Mill Rd., Torquay.  
Please check our website at:-

<http://transfigurations.org.uk/meeting-venue/>  
for up to date details and a map showing the location.



**A support group for transgender and/or gender variant people,  
their parents and wider family and their partners**

**Telephone Support Line 07476 15 17 17**

**Open Sunday, Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6pm - midnight**



A support group for transgender and/or gender variant people



Carol Steele - Administrator

We are a transgender support group based in the South West of the UK which was set up to help all transgender people (transsexual, transvestite, intersex, genderqueer, trans youth etc.) come to terms with their gender identity and provide a safe meeting place where they can explore their feelings about themselves. We meet twice a month at Chelston Community Centre, off Old Mill

Road, Chelston, Torquay, Devon - on the first Wednesday and third Tuesday evenings of each month. You can find a map of our meeting venue on our website here:-

<http://transfigurations.org.uk/meeting-venue/>

Our calendar of events can also be found here:-

<http://transfigurations.org.uk/filestore/calendar.pdf>

We now have some online forums where you can discuss in safety aspects of your transition and we might have the solution to any problems that you might be having. There are forums for general chat and also separate forums for trans men and trans women. There are also special sections purely for the partners of transgender people where you can discuss your feelings with other partners in complete privacy, ordinary members do not have access to this section. We also have special sections for the parents of transgender children and trans youth and also for trans youth and their parents. These latter forums are solely for the use of people in these special categories, nobody else will be allowed to join these sub-forums (see separate sections about these).

The group will enable you to discuss any problems which you might be experiencing - whether it is work related, problems with neighbours or concerns about your medical treatment - or any of the other myriad problems which can affect people who are thinking of, or going through, transition.

We have discussions which will be led both by members of the group and by outside agencies (for example, by officers from

the Devon and Cornwall Police's diversity team - with whom I am in close contact as I serve on several Police committees, Healthwatch Torbay and others) and demonstrations by people such as beauty/make-up experts. For transgender or transsexual men, we hope to get discussions led by a few trans men who have been transitioned for many years and will be able to guide you with their considerable experience. The group is run by an experienced trans woman (who has been transitioned for over 40 years and so has plenty of experience).

The group is open to trans men and women - and all who fall under the transgender umbrella, so if you are a transvestite or cross-dresser, you will still be welcome to attend. Supporters of transgender people are also welcome to attend meetings. Trans youth can also attend, but please contact Carol, the administrator, first before attending by email (via our Contact Page on the website).

#### **Transgender Youth/Transgender Children:**

We now have a trans youth group for under 19's. Whilst we welcome trans children and trans youth attending, in the case of children under the age of 13, we would only allow you to attend meetings if at least one of your parents attends those meetings with you. For trans youth between the ages of 13 to 16, then we would insist that a parent comes with you to your first and second meetings and then, subject to your parent's written permission, you may attend on your own.

#### **Parents:**

I would very much welcome parents coming along to meetings or joining the forum. There is a special sub-forum for you, and provided that you have a child who is transgender and who is a member of the forums, you will then be granted access to the trans youth forum as well as all the other forums. This is for your own reassurance of your child's safety.

All voluntary workers have been DBS checked at advanced level. You are welcome to ask to view the DBS check for your satisfaction. If you would like to attend a group meeting on your own first, then we would welcome this too - or, should you prefer to meet up first for an informal chat over a cup of coffee, then I would be happy to do this.

#### **Partners of transgender people:**

We recognise that this must be an exceedingly difficult and emotional time for you as well, so we have a special sub-forum in our forums where you can discuss with other partners of transgender people the emotional stress and difficulties which you will have to face. We have a partner as a valued member of our Management Team.

#### **Forums for Trans Youth:**

We have an age restriction of 13 before you can join the forums without first obtaining permission from a parent or guardian. If you are under 13 then you will be able to download a consent form which you must get one of your parents or guardians to sign which they must then post off to me.

Alternatively you can download the form from the web site (there is a link to the form on the front page of the website), fill it in with your name, the username that you would like to use on the forum, your date of birth and any other relevant information and then get a parent or guardian to sign the form and post it back to me. I will email you with your password and the relevant link to get into the forums - once everything has been checked and verified.

Once I have received the signed consent form, I will validate your forum account - but you will be restricted to just the youth forum until you are 16 years old. If your parents would like to speak to me about this, please use the Contact Form on the website to email me with their telephone number (and a convenient time to call) and I will then phone them back to discuss the situation.

#### **Telephone Support Line:**

Thanks to the generous funding by Devon and Cornwall Police, the Devon Community Foundation and the Allen Lane Foundation we have been able to open up our telephone support line on:-

**07476 15 17 17**

**(restricted times)**

which will be open for calls on Sunday, Monday and Wednesday evenings (except the first Wednesday of every month when we hold one of our group meetings) from 6pm until midnight.

Outside these times you may send us a text message and we will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible - if you have not withheld your number.

Any information which you divulge to the support line worker is held in the strictest of confidence - but, in the event where your life or safety is considered to be in danger, then we reserve the right to notify the relevant authorities as we have a Duty of Care to abide by. This would only be done after consultation with other members of our Management Team and then only if you had revealed contact information about yourself. This is in line with Childline's policy and other national guidelines on safeguarding vulnerable people.