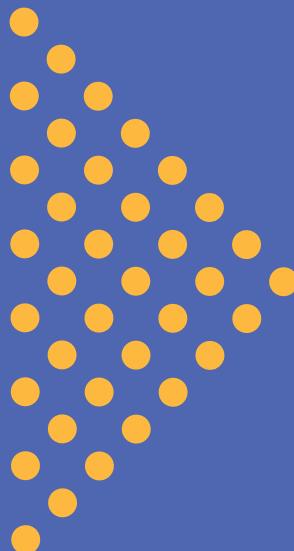




PROVISION OF  
**LGBTI+**  
**GROUPS & SERVICES**  
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE  
IN CORK CITY  
& COUNTY



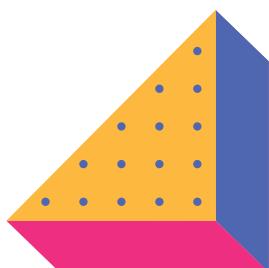
PROVISION OF  
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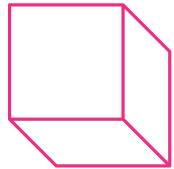
PREPARED FOR  
CORK EDUCATION  
& TRAINING BOARD  
**BY ROZI PEREZ-GOODBODY**  
**2019**

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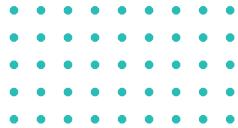
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## ACRONYMS

BOBF	BETTER OUTCOMES, BRIGHTER FUTURES
CETB	CORK EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD
CSO	CENTRAL STATISTICS OFFICE
DCYA	DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH AFFAIRS
ETB	EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD
FRC	FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE
HIV	HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS
LGBTI+	LESBIAN, GAY, BI, TRANS, INTERSEX AND OTHER
MSM	MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN
NEET	NOT IN EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION OR TRAINING
TENI	TRANSGENDER EQUALITY NETWORK IRELAND

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Information provided by youth groups and LGBTI+ groups and services in Cork has been invaluable in the preparation of this report.



Cork Education and Training Board was established under the 2013 Education and Training Board Act. Cork ETB supports education in many domains and is committed to inclusion. Cork ETB's mission is to provide a 'Pathway for every learner' and its primary function under legislation is to:

- Establish and maintain recognised schools, centres for education and education or training facilities in its functional areas.
- Resource education or training facilities in its functional area
- Plan, provide, coordinate and review the provision of education and training
- Enter into arrangements with, and provide support to, education or training providers
- Support the provision, co-ordination, administration and assessment of youth work services in its functional area
- To have regard to Government policy to the extent that it may relate to ETBs and shall comply with any policy direction as notified by the Minister to the Board.

Cork ETB has responsibility for the coordination and oversight of over 40 youth work projects and services funded by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.<sup>1</sup> Cork ETB welcomes the development of the LGBTI+ National Youth Strategy (the Strategy) and that it is a key commitment for the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) as part of the 2016 Programme for Partnership Government. Cork ETB works closely with the Dept. Children and Youth Affairs and welcomes investment in the provision of LGBTI+ services for young people as identified in the strategy benefitting youth services in Cork. Cork ETB is a member of, and works closely with, the Cork City LGBTI+ Interagency Group. This report aims to complement the youth strategy and provide information specific to the needs of young people in Cork.

## Ruth Griffin

Cork ETB Youth Officer

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<sup>1</sup> <http://cork.etb.ie/wp-content/uploads/sites/20/2019/08/Annual-Report.pdf>

# INTRODUCTION & METHODOLOGY

Education and Training Boards (ETBs) are statutory authorities that have a role in the planning and delivery of youth projects to young people at a local level. Cork Education and Training Board (CETB) has significant legislative responsibility in relation to youth work in the Cork City and County Administrative Area. Youth work plays a valuable role in the lives of young people as well as the community. The CETB, as with other ETBs, has a target age range for this work from between 10 and 24 years.

Ireland has made important advances in recent years with regard to equality and inclusion of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and other (LGBTI+) communities; most prominently on the international stage was the approval of same-sex marriage through public vote in 2015. However, despite these advances LGBTI+ young people have been identified in the National Youth Strategy 2015–2020 (Department of Children and Youth Affairs, 2015) as being a marginalised group in Irish society. As a result, the LGBTI+ National Youth Strategy 2018–2020 (Department of Children and Youth Affairs, 2018) was launched in June of 2018.

The LGBTI+ National Youth Strategy 2018–2020 is a cross-government strategy driven and co-ordinated by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) and aims to enhance the lives of LGBTI+ young people. It addresses key challenges that LGBTI+ young people face and aims to put in place additional measures to improve outcomes for this group. As part of the strategy the DCYA, in partnership with the Education and Training Board (ETB) sector, has committed to map existing LGBTI+ youth services and groups.

## YOUTH WORK

Youth work, according to the Youth Work Act 2001, is defined as “a planned programme of education designed for the purpose of aiding and enhancing the personal and social development of young persons through their voluntary participation, and which is –

- a) complementary to their formal, academic or vocational education and training; and
- b) provided primarily by voluntary youth work organisations”

(Irish Statute Book (2001) Youth Work Act, 2001, Section 3, p.71)



This report compiles data on the LGBTI+ groups and services currently available in Cork. Furthermore, it presents an overview of the challenges that LGBTI+ young people face and offers insights into how well provision is meeting the needs of the LGBTI+ young people.

The report continues as follows:

### **Section 2 Policy Framework**

This section identifies key policy documents, reports and strategies, relating to the current policy context of children and young people and particularly of LGBTI+ young people.

### **Section 3 LGBTI+ Young People in Ireland today**

This section briefly discusses some of the realities of LGBTI+ young people in Ireland. It draws data from the CSO as well as findings from key studies which have been noted in the literature review.

### **Section 4 Survey of Youth Provision**

An online survey was designed to gain a better understanding of what provision is available to LGBTI+ young people, how LGBTI+ friendly and informed youth provision is in Cork, and how well provision is meeting the needs of the LGBTI+ young people.

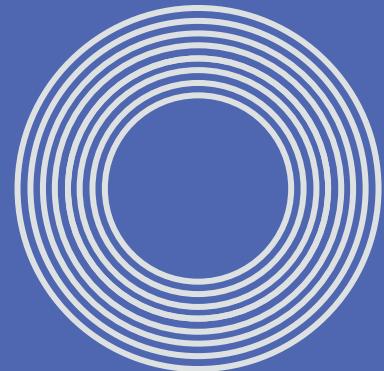
### **Section 5 Provision of LGBTI+ Groups and Services in Cork**

This section provides information on LGBTI+ groups and services (all ages) in Cork. A template was designed in order to standardise the data collected for each group/service. Various additional structures are in place in Cork which are noted in this section along with online and national level services and supports.

### **Section 6 Summary of Findings**

This section summarises the key findings from the study and identifies some initial recommendations and areas which merit additional exploration.

In addition, Appendix 1 provides a list of commonly used LGBTI+ terms and their corresponding definitions.



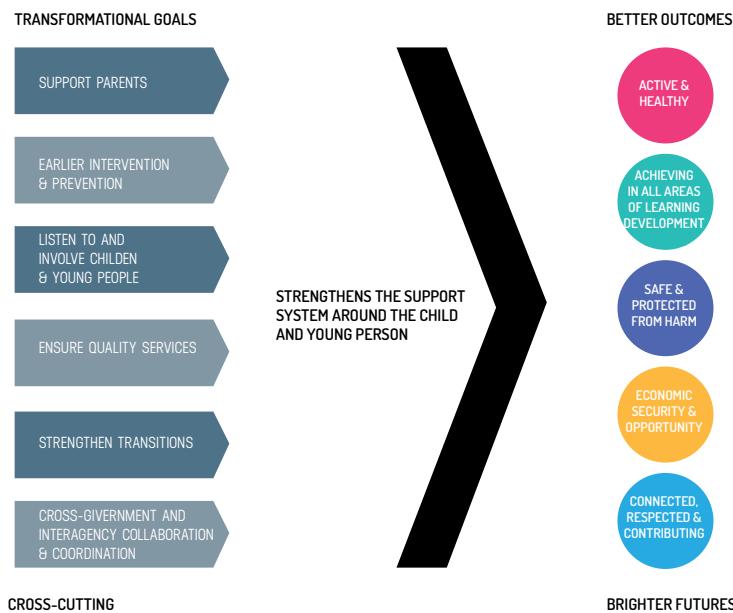
## POLICY FRAMEWORK

Within the national policy context of children and young people in Ireland, youthwork is largely driven and informed by the national framework document 'Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures; the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People, 2014-2020' (Department of Children and Youth Affairs, 2014). Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures (BOBF) is the first overarching national policy framework for children and young people (aged 0-24 years). The government's agenda and priorities with respect to children and young people is clearly set out, and a whole-of-government approach is advocated with the promotion of interconnections between organisations involved.

BOBF sets out five interconnected and reinforcing national outcomes for children and young people. In addition, six transformational goals are identified in order to achieve these outcomes (see Figure 2.1). Youth work provision within the Cork ETB is heavily informed by this framework.



**Figure 2.1. Goals and Outcomes as set out in Better Outcomes Brighter Futures**



Source: Department of Children and Youth Affairs, 2014.



NATIONAL YOUTH STRATEGY

**The National Youth Strategy 2015-2020 aims to “enable all young people to realise their maximum potential, by respecting their rights and hearing their voices, while protecting and supporting them as they transition from childhood to adulthood”**

**(Department of Children and Youth Affairs, 2015, p.2)**

The National Youth Strategy 2015-2020 (Department of Children and Youth Affairs, 2015), which is Ireland's first youth strategy, has its basis in Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures (Department of Children and Youth Affairs, 2014). It sets out priority actions to be undertaken by Government Departments, state agencies, youth sector and broader community and voluntary sectors. These actions address the needs of young people in relation to each of the five national outcome areas as set out in Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures. Although this is a universal strategy for 10 to 24 year olds, there is a particular focus on those experiencing, or at risk of experiencing the poorest outcomes due to marginalisation or disadvantage. This includes, but is not limited to Travellers; Roma; young people from ethnic or religious minorities; migrants; refugees and asylum seekers; young people with disabilities or with mental health issues; lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) young people; young carers; young people in conflict with the law; young people who are not in employment, education or training (NEET); young parents; those in care; those in direct provision; and lone parents under the age of 25 years; as well as young people who are marginalised by location, geography, or socioeconomic reasons.

As mentioned above, The National Youth Strategy 2015-2020 (Department of Children and Youth Affairs, 2015) identifies LGBTI+ young people as a marginalised group in Irish society. As a result, the LGBTI+ National Youth Strategy 2018-2020 (Department of Children and Youth Affairs, 2018) was developed. This is a cross-Government strategy driven and coordinated by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA). The strategy aims to put in place additional measures and address key challenges that LGBTI+ young people face with the purpose of enhancing their lives and improving outcomes for this group.



## POLICY FRAMEWORK

# LGBTI+ NATIONAL YOUTH STRATEGY GOALS

**The LGBTI+ National Youth Strategy 2018-2020 sets out three goals, each of which has various objectives. It is envisioned that these goals and objectives will be achieved through the delivery of time-scaled, precise and measurable actions which relate back to the goals.**

### **Goal 1**

Create a safe, supportive and inclusive environment for LGBTI+ young people

### **Goal 2**

Improve the physical, mental and sexual health of LGBTI+ young people

### **Goal 3**

Develop the research and data environment to better understand the lives of LGBTI+ young people

(Department of Children and Youth Affairs, 2018)



**The LGBTIreland Report** (Higgins, A. et al. 2016) was undertaken through partnership between Trinity College Dublin, BeLonG To, The National Office for Suicide Prevention and GLEN. It is considered one of the largest, most in-depth, studies of LGBTI people in Ireland to date, as well as the largest study of transgender people, and the first study with a sample of intersex people. Its emphasis is on LGBTI young people between 14 and 25 years of age. The LGBTIreland Report looks at the mental health and wellbeing of LGBTI people in Ireland and details the variety of lived experiences of this group.

**The Burning Issues 2 Report** (Ó hUltachain, C. et al. 2016) details the findings of research conducted by the National LGBT Federation. The study comprised of the second online, nationwide survey<sup>2</sup> as well as workshops across the country. It aims to identify the priorities of the LGBT community across a range of key issues, including ageing, children, education, health, migration, personal safety, politics, Pride, rural isolation and support for younger LGBT people.

**The Budding Burning Issues** (Noone, C., 2017) follows on from the Burning Issues 2 Report, this time focusing entirely on LGBTI+ young people aged between 13 and 24 years of age. This survey of LGBTI+ young people in Ireland was carried out as part of the 11th annual GCN Youth Issue,<sup>3</sup> and in association with BelongTo. It gives LGBTI+ young people the opportunity to voice the issues they believe are most pressing to them.

**The Cork City Profile** (Cork Healthy Cities, 2018) is a report which provides a statistical and geographical profile of Cork City Local Authority area focusing on Health and Social Inclusion. The main part of the report presents Cork City Local Authority area under 10 themes of Demography, Economy, Education, Diversity, Environment, Housing, Family & Living Arrangements, Deprivation, Community and Health. Within the theme of Diversity, there is a sub-section entitled Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity or LGBTI (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex). This sub-section provides useful information about the LGBTI+ community with a focus on Cork.

2 The first survey informs Burning Issues 1 Report

3 GCN stands for Gay Community News which is a magazine and online content published by the National LGBT Federation (NLF) who are also responsible for publishing Burning Issues 1 and Burning Issues 2.



## LGBTI+ YOUNG PEOPLE IN IRELAND TODAY

This section briefly discusses some of the realities of LGBTI+ young people in Ireland. As mentioned above, LGBTI+ young people have been identified in the National Youth Strategy 2015–2020 (Department of Children and Youth Affairs, 2015) as being a marginalised group in Irish society and as a result, the LGBTI+ National Youth Strategy 2018–2020 (Department of Children and Youth Affairs, 2018) was launched in June of 2018.

Although official data on LGBTI+ people is very limited, the CSO has started to make steps to record data on this group (CSO, 2016). At the time of the 2016 Census there were 6,034 same-sex couples in Ireland, this was an increase of almost 50% since 2011. Overall, 84% of same-sex couples were living in urban areas with almost half of these couples living in Dublin City and suburbs. However, this data does not cover transgender or non-binary people and doesn't count LGBTI people who are not in a relationship. Despite this lack of official data there have been a few key studies, as mentioned in the literature review above, which make important inroads into researching the LGBTI+ community and their needs.

According to the LGBTI+ National Youth Strategy 2018–2020, as well as other key studies there are still various challenges for LGBTI+ young people today that need to be addressed. The LGBT Ireland report (Higgins, A. et al., 2016), focuses on the mental health of LGBTI people in Ireland. It finds that while older LGBTI people (26 years and over) generally display positive overall mental health and wellbeing, less positive outcomes are found among their younger peers. When comparing the general population of young people with their LGBTI peers these poor outcomes in terms of mental health and wellbeing can be clearly identified. A comparison between LGBTI young people (19 to 25-year-olds) in the LGBT Ireland Report with the general population of young people (17 to 25-year-olds) in the My World Survey (Dooley, B. and Fitzgerald, A., 2012) shows that self-harm is two-times higher among LGBTI young people than young people in general, and that attempted suicide is three-times higher among LGBTI young people (Higgins, A. et al., 2016). In addition, within this cohort it is the younger age groups that are

more likely to report self-harm or attempted suicide than their older LGBTI peers. Likewise, levels of severe or extremely-severe stress, anxiety and depression are four-times higher among LGBTI young people (14 to 18-year-olds) when compared to their peers (12 to 19-year-olds) in the My World Survey.

Society's attitude towards LGBTI+ people can have a major impact on their lived experiences. Despite the positive changes in Ireland with regards LGBTI+ in the past decade, LGBTI+ victimisation and harassment in every-day life have not seen any significant reductions in recent years (Higgins, A. et al., 2016). These negative experiences permeate all aspects of life, including the educational sphere. According to the Burning Issues 2 Report (Ó hUltachain, C. et al, 2016) only 8% of respondents agree that schools are safe places and fully inclusive of LGBTI students. As such, attending school can be a negative experience for young LGBTI+ people (Higgins, A. et al., 2016).

However, on a more positive note, and perhaps reflective of the changing societal views in Ireland with regards LGBTI+ in the past decade, The LGBT Ireland Report (Higgins, A. et al., 2016) finds that LGBTI+ people are continuously 'coming out' at a younger age. For example, LGBTI+ young people between the ages of 19 and 25 had most commonly told someone about their LGBTI+ identity at age 16, while LGBTI+ young people between the ages of 14 and 18 had most commonly told someone about their LGBTI+ identity at age 14 or 15. The age of knowing ones LGBTI+ identity has stayed relatively consistent over time at around 12 to 13 years. As such, the gap between the ages of knowing about ones LGBTI+ identity and telling someone about it is reducing.

The Budding Burning Issues Study (Noone, C., 2017) identifies the most highlighted issues for LGBTI+ young people in Ireland. This clearly summarises the main issues of concern for LGBTI+ young people in Ireland which would also very much reflect the issues relevant to LGBTI+ young people in Cork City and County.

# ISSUES IDENTIFIED

- 01 There is a lack of acceptance & understanding and most LGBTI+ young people don't feel fully accepted in society.
- 02 There is a need for inclusive sex education. It was also noted that LGBTI+ issues could be incorporated into other subjects such as English and History.
- 03 More safe spaces and youth-focused support groups. There is a particular lack of resources outside Dublin. Young people are looking for fun places to meet others like them not just structured supports.
- 04 Bullying and homophobia is a pressing issue for many young people. More needs to be done to ensure the safety of young LGBT+ people, such as the introduction of hate crime legislation.
- 05 Trans & Non-Binary People's Rights were mentioned as an important issue for some LGBTI+ young people. Some particular suggestions were noted, such as:  
Gender recognition for under 18s;  
The need for gender-neutral bathrooms;  
Access to medical pathways for people who wish to transition;  
Use of correct name and pronouns, especially in schools;  
Employment for trans people;  
Recognition of non-binary identities.
- 06 Mental health difficulties are often linked to the stigmatisation of LGBT+ identities as well as difficulties in coming to terms with one's own identity and the lack of access to inclusive mental health services. The cost of these services can also be prohibitive.
- 07 Overall health was also on the list. The main areas of concern noted were: sexual health; Repeal of the Eighth Amendment; drug and alcohol abuse; PrEP; and blood donations.
- 08 There was a call for increased inclusivity and awareness of diversity within the LGBTI+ community itself. Bisexual young people often report not feeling fully accepted while a general lack of understanding of gender diversity and trans issues were also identified.
- 09 The fear of coming out was listed within the most highlighted issues for LGBTI+ young people. This was largely characterised by a fear of rejection by family and friends, discrimination and feeling uncomfortable in expressing their sexuality in public.
- 10 Finally, according to the LGBTI+ young people there aren't enough role models in daily life or in the media.

Source: Noone, C., 2017

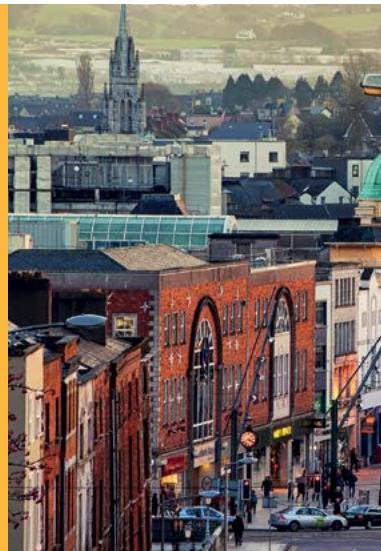
**Table 3.1.  
The most  
highlighted Issues  
as identified by  
LGBTI+  
Young People.**



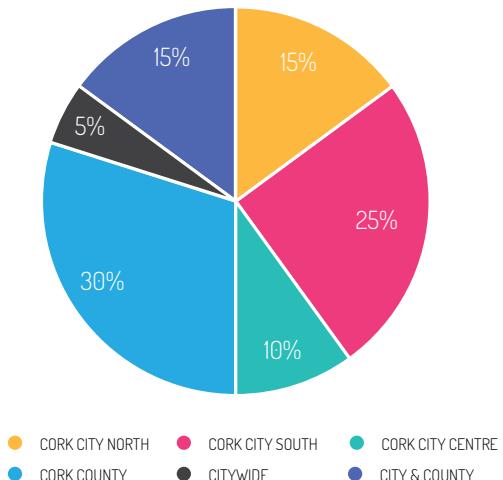
# SURVEY OF YOUTH PROVISION IN CORK

To gain a better understanding of what provision is available to LGBTI+ young people in Cork an online survey was designed. The online survey was sent to each of the DCYA funded youth projects in Cork City and County. It was also posted on social media to gain broader coverage. Overall, 21 responses were collected. However, two of these responses related to the same group so these responses were merged leaving a total of 20 responses. The survey consisted of 15 questions. These included basic contact details of the project as well as LGBTI+ specific questions. The complete survey can be seen in Appendix 2 Online Survey.

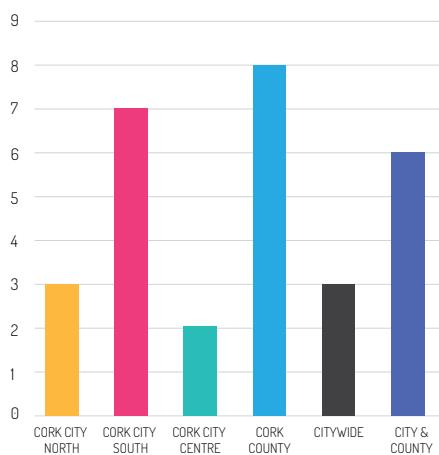
The majority of respondents were from projects based in the city (55%). This figure can be disaggregated by area within the city as follows: Cork City South (25%), Cork City North (15%) Cork City Centre (10%) or Citywide (5%). Overall, 30% were from Cork County and a further 15% cover city and county. Figure 4.1 illustrates the breakdown of project location. In addition, respondents were asked where the participants who attend their project come from. Again, most participants come from the various areas of the city, particularly Cork City South (35%). Overall, 40% of participants were said to come from the county. Figure 4.2 shows the distribution of answers relating to where participants of the projects come from.

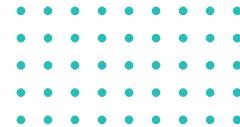


**Figure 4.1. Project Location**



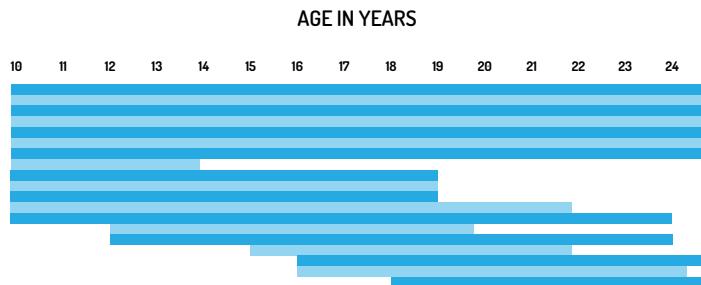
**Figure 4.2. Areas where participants come from to attend the project**



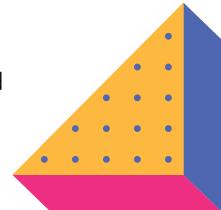


A few of the projects that responded to the online survey cater for a wide range of age groups. In fact, seven of the 20 projects cater for all ages within the remit of Cork ETB youth work. Other projects focus on the younger cohort of young people while fewer projects which took part in the survey focus on the older cohort of young people. Figure 4.3 illustrates the age brackets that the projects cater for. Some of the projects cater for children under 10 years of age and some cater for people over 24 years of age. However, to facilitate a better focus, only ages within the remit of Cork ETB (10 to 24 years of age) are shown in this figure. Each line represents a project. It should be noted that this is not a representation of all youth work projects in Cork.

Figure 4.2. Age group that the project caters for within the Cork ETB age remit



The grand majority of projects that took part in the survey have LGBTI+ young people attending their project. In fact, 90% of projects have LGBTI+ young people in attendance. Half of these projects have less than five LGBTI+ young people and the other half have over five LGBTI+ young people in attendance. An additional 5% of respondents were unsure if there were any LGBTI+ young people in attendance. This leaves just one project (5% of respondents) which was not aware of any LGBTI+ young people in attendance. This data is illustrated in Table 4.1



# SURVEY OF YOUTH PROVISION IN CORK

Table 4.1. Number of youth projects that have LGBTI+ young people in attendance

QUESTION: ARE YOU AWARE OF ANY LGBTI+ YOUNG PEOPLE IN YOUR GROUP/PROJECT/SERVICE?	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
No, I am not aware of any	1	5%
I am unsure	1	5%
Yes, there is a small number (under five) of young LGBTI+ young people who attend our group/project/service	9	45%
There are more than five LGBTI+ young people in our service	9	45%

Within the online survey youth projects were asked to self-categorise the type of service that they provide. They were given three statements and were asked to choose the one which best suits their service. The statements and the number of projects which chose each statement is presented in Table 4.2 below. On a positive note all services see themselves as LGBTI+ friendly with many having LGBTI+ young people well integrated into the group. However, only one service is actively LGBTI+ inclusive with its main target group being LGBTI+ young people.

Table 4.2. Youth project Categorisation

STATEMENT	NUMBER
Our service could be more LGBTI+ friendly and would benefit from becoming more LGBTI+ aware	0
Our service is LGBTI+ friendly. We may have LGBTI+ young people well integrated in the group but the focus of the service is not LGBTI+.	19
Our service is actively LGBTI+ inclusive. LGBTI+ young people are a main target group for us. We take part in LGBTI+ events/awareness weeks and we display LGBTI+ information/resources.	1

Following on from this, respondents were asked to briefly provide reasons for their choice of categorisation. The service which categorised itself as actively LGBTI+ inclusive is Youth Work Ireland Cork which runs UP Cork, an LGBTI+ youth group in the city centre. In addition, the Gurranabraher Youth centre (also a Youth Work Ireland Cork project) displays LGBTI+ posters and participates in various LGBTI+ events such as Stand Up Week. Furthermore, LGBTI+ issues and topics are covered in the general personal development work which is done with all groups, for example, a Youth Work Ireland Cork soccer group is taking part in a workshop on homophobia in soccer.

The remaining respondents categorised their project/service as LGBTI+ friendly but that the main focus of the service is not LGBTI+. The reasons provided for this can broadly be divided into three areas. These are outlined here.

### **The service is welcoming and inclusive and may have LGBTI+ young people in attendance.**

Many of the respondents mentioned that there are LGBTI+ young people or an LGBTI+ youth worker participating in their service. The respondents also noted that the LGBTI+ young people are well integrated into the existing groups. There is a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere and the Youth Officers are LGBTI+ friendly and aware.

### **Provision of support but not specific support.**

Although services do not have specific LGBTI+ support systems in place, it was noted by respondents that support for young people in their service was needs-led and the service would support the young person as best as possible according to the support that they require. They may also try to refer the young person on to LGBTI+ specific projects if it was thought to be beneficial. Another respondent mentioned that sexuality and gender are discussed within the groups or one to one.

### **Provision of training and/or information to staff, volunteers and young people.**

Some respondents mentioned that their staff/volunteers had attended, or were due to attend, LGBT awareness training. One respondent mentioned that staff had attended a ShoutOut workshop which was very beneficial and it is hoped that volunteers would attend it in the coming months. One respondent, from the Sexual Health Centre in Cork, runs sexual health workshops, including the RealU programme, that include broad sexual health information and cover sexuality and gender identity. They also run an outreach and community based MSM rapid HIV testing service in Cork City. In addition, information and resources are displayed on their premises.

CONT>

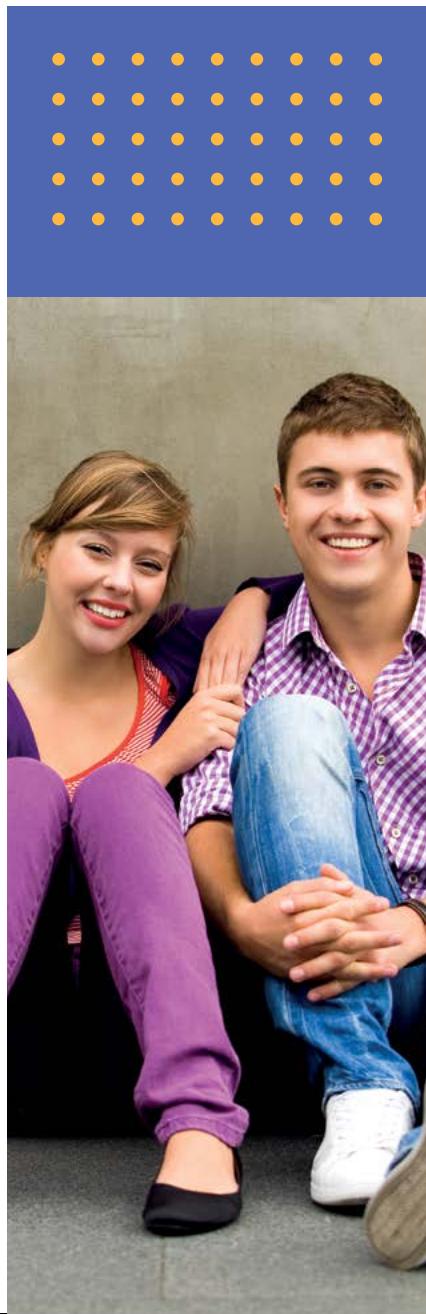


## SURVEY OF YOUTH PROVISION IN CORK

However, some respondents also mentioned that there is a need for better understanding and awareness. For example, there is a need for more comprehensive LGBTI+ sexual health information both in the city and the county as well as capacity building for staff dealing with youth in all areas. It was also noted that youth provision policies could be more specific in acknowledging LGBTI+ issues and addressing them, as well as having accessible and specific groups for LGBTI+ young people.

To gain an understanding of how well LGBTI+ services and supports are signposted and how aware youth provision is of these, the respondents were asked if they were aware of any LGBTI+ groups/services for young people. Overall, 85% of respondents said they were aware of LGBTI+ groups/services for young people while 15% said they were not aware of any. The respondents that were aware of LGBTI+ groups/services for young people were asked to list them. LINC is the most well-known service followed by UP Cork Youth Project and The Gay Project.

Importantly, the majority of respondents (75% or 15 respondents) thought that there should be more groups which actively target LGBTI+ young people. One respondent (5%) thought there were just the right number of groups and four respondents (20%) were unsure whether the number of groups cater well for the needs of LGBTI+ young people. No respondent thought that there should be less groups.



Respondents were asked what additional supports or training, if any, that they think would be beneficial for the young people or the staff/volunteers in their service. Four areas of support were identified. These are outlined here.



## TRAINING

The most commonly mentioned response was that there is a need for more training and more regular training, for example annual training. This would enable volunteers/staff to better support LGBTI+ young people within youth provision. Some themes and types of training were mentioned. These included: LGBTI+ mental health, Transgender and Transitioning, StandUp Training, how to support young people to come out, and what it's like for an LGBTI Young person. There was also a call for training in order to be able to facilitate a programme especially for LGBTI+ young people. It was noted that there should be workshops for young people who identify as LGBTI+ as well as workshops for all young people on inclusion and how to support their LGBTI+ peers. Finally, increased availability of information was called for, particularly relating to transgender issues.

## AWARENESS RAISING

Respondents called for increased awareness raising in relation to LGBTI+. It was mentioned that while there are improved supports and acceptance in some groups in recent years, discrimination is still present. There should be increased awareness raising among professionals, volunteers and more open discourse in schools. Campaigns and promotion of more positive role models for LBGTI young people and the normalisation of gay relationships in the media would also be beneficial.

## INCREASED RESOURCES

There was a call for increased resources. More funding is needed to grow the current LGBT groups as there is a high demand from young people. It was also noted that sexual health is an integral part of every human being and it is vital that all organisations dealing with young people put sexual health on their agenda. This may require additional resources to do so effectively. Finally, it was mentioned by one respondent that staff can feel overwhelmed when dealing with LGBTI+ young people.

## BETTER SIGNPOSTING AND INFORMATION

Some respondents noted that it would be useful to have information on what services are available in the area and where they can refer a LGBTI+ young person. Increased availability of information was called for, particularly, as mentioned above, relating to transgender issues. It was also noted that more leaflets and posters could be beneficial

Finally, respondents were asked if they had any additional comments. These were varied and are briefly summarised below:

- There should be more training available for youth & community workers.
- There should be more resources available in order to better support LGBTI+ young people.
- There is a demand for more LGBTI+ youth groups.
- Better signposting and having a map of all current provision available would be useful.
- LGBTI+ individuals often need more education, insight and supports to enable them to have good healthy relationships and healthy sexual practices and protections.
- Often in rural areas LGBTI+ young people only come out when they leave for college or work. Although it more socially accepted now, there is still stigma attached.

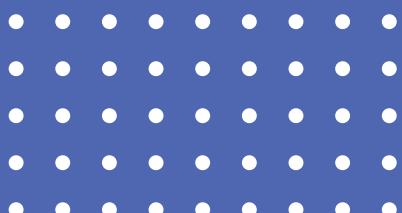
## PROVISION OF LGBTI+ GROUPS AND SERVICES IN CORK

The LGBTI+ Youth Strategy (Department of Children and Youth Affairs, 2018) found that youth groups have a hugely positive impact on the lives of young LGBTI+ people. The current provision of LGBTI+ groups/services in Cork is outlined below in Section 5.1. These groups/services were identified through an internet search, literature review as well as through consultation with Cork Youth Services and other stakeholders. All leads were followed up with telephone calls and/or email correspondence. Each group is listed with a table of information pertaining to it. Many of the groups/services are aimed at adults from 18 years and over. While these are accessible to the older cohort of young people, not all of the groups/services are available to LGBTI+ people under the age of 18. In addition to the basic contact information that was collected, each group/service was asked if they had any recommendations or suggestions to add with regard to LGBTI+ provision.

Within the recommendations it was noted by one stakeholder that there is an urgent and pressing need for the full implementation of the national LGBTI Youth Strategy in order to meet the needs of LGBTI young people. Being part of a gender or sexual minority will pose challenges for young people regardless of legislative or social changes and therefore beyond the full implementation of the strategy there is a need to look at how resources are being allocated. It was recommended that the allocation of current streams of state funding should be revised as there is disproportionate investment in the capital and an unbalanced spread thereafter. This is a cause for concern as funding doesn't reach the regions in volumes proportionate to the population. For example, approximately 11% of the population of Ireland live in Cork however only 1% of the total funds given to the national LGBT youth organisation was invested in LGBTI+ youth services in Cork last year. Furthermore, the funds provided for LGBT Youth Services in Cork (to Youth Work Ireland Cork) was lower than the funds provided for Donegal, a county with a third of the population. It is unclear as to why this would be the case. It was noted that this is also the case regarding funds for supports for the trans community.

Most suggestions centred around the need for additional resources and funding with the objective of being able to provide additional groups, services, spaces, training or awareness raising. It was specifically mentioned that there should be funding for a full-time youth worker for the LGBT youth group. There is a high demand for this group and due to a lack of funding provision cannot be increased to meet the demands. In addition, it was suggested that raising awareness about LGBTI+ issues and encouraging an inclusive community could enable LGBTI+ young people to make meaningful connections to grow into the best individuals they can be. Safe spaces to make those connections are important to young people all over Ireland and not just in the larger cities. There is also a particular need for increased awareness raising in schools and among school-aged children. It was mentioned that gaining increased visibility, particularly with more positive role models, would be beneficial for the LGBTI+ community.

It was also mentioned that there is a gap in provision for those young people who do not go to Third Level education and cannot access the LGBTI+ Societies in the colleges and universities. It was noted that often for young people the main place to socialise with other LGBTI+ people is in an alcohol-centred setting. Resources should be used to create a wider variety of groups and spaces. Services could explore the provision of less 'typical' LGBTI+ groups and activities. A greater variety and diversity of events and activities are required to cater for the diversity within the LGBTI+ community.



## INFORMATION ON LGBTI+ GROUPS/SERVICES IN CORK

### LINC (Lesbians in Cork)

**Phone:** 021 480 86 00  
**Email:** info@linc.ie  
**Address:** 11a White Street, Cork.  
**Website:** www.linc.ie  
**Social:** <https://twitter.com/LINCWomen>  
<https://www.facebook.com/LINCCork/>

**Age Group:** The organisation is for all ages although it mostly works with over 18s. It does run activities for all ages and host family events. It also hosts 'UP Cork' LGBTI Youth group.

LINC aims to improve the quality of life, health and well-being of all women who identify as lesbian or bisexual in Ireland. It hopes to build a safe, accessible and vibrant community centre (actual and virtual) for lesbians, bisexual and trans (LBT) women; to provide information and support for LBT women and their families; to promote the mental, physical, emotional and sexual health of LBT women; to inform and contribute to relevant policy development at local, regional and national level; and to be a model of best practice rooted in feminist, social justice and community development principles. It is the only community development organisation working exclusively with Lesbian and Bisexual women in the Republic of Ireland.

LINC provides a Community Health and Education Programme, a Peer Support Group, Low-cost Counselling, and an Alcohol and Drugs Support group. In addition, the LGBTI Youth group 'UP Cork' uses the LINC facilities once a week. LINC also runs social events, day trips, sports groups and takes part in Pride.

LINC is open from Monday to Wednesday 11am to 3pm and Thurs 11am to 8pm.

Participants come from Cork City and County but also further afield, mainly within Munster.

### Gay Project

(formerly Cork Gay Project)

**Phone:** 021 430 04 30  
**Email:** info@gayprojectcork.com  
**Address:** 4 South Terrace, Cork City.  
**Website:** [www.gayproject.ie](http://www.gayproject.ie)  
**Social:** <https://www.facebook.com/GayProjectIRL>  
<https://twitter.com/GayProjectIRL>  
<https://www.instagram.com/gayprojectirl/>

**Age Group:** All ages

**The Gay Project:**

- + Supports gay, bi, queer, trans men.
- + Celebrates gender and sexuality diversity.
- + Advocates for LGBT human rights and policy protections.

The Gay Project is a non-governmental organisation which is aimed at influencing national policy and promoting the wellbeing and inclusion of Gay, Bi, Men who have sex with men (MSM), Queer and Trans men. The project aims to ensure that this community of men is enabled to fully participate in the social, economic, cultural, political and artistic life.

The Gay Project organises events and social groups, it offers information resources and supports, it hosts workshops and talks and campaigns for LGBTQI+ human rights and policy protection. It also takes part in Pride. In addition, the LGBTI Youth group 'UP Cork' uses the Gay Project facilities once a week.

Most participants come from Cork City and County however some come from further afield.

The Gay Project is open Monday to Friday from 10.00am to 6.00pm.



## PROVISION OF LGBTI+ GROUPS AND SERVICES IN CORK

### Choral Con Fusion

**Email:** info@choralconfusion.com  
 choralconfusioncork@gmail.com  
 secretary@choralconfusion.com  
**Address:** Blarney Street, Cork.  
**Website:** <http://www.choralconfusion.com/>  
**Social:** <https://www.facebook.com/choralconfusion>  
<https://twitter.com/choralconfusion>

**Age Group:** 18+

Choral Con Fusion was established in late 2010. From the beginning, the choir has aimed not only to make musical progress but also to be a bridge between communities and to be an organisation that would welcome everyone equally, regardless of musical experience, sexual orientation, gender or background. As such, the choir has modelled itself variously as "Inclusive" and "LGBT+" in an effort to convey this philosophy. The choir has grown consistently since its first rehearsal (which consisted of just eight people) and has performed in a wide variety of venues and contexts, recorded music, and participated in Pride and Choral Festivals alike.

Coral Con Fusion takes part in Pride and sometimes does fundraisers for different charities. They sing at GLOW every year as well as the annual launch of Cork LGBT week.

Most participants live in Cork City and County but come from all over Ireland and the world. It is a diverse, inclusive and welcoming space.

### Cork Transgender Peer Support Group

**Phone:** 085 1935461  
**Address:** Inniscarrig house (HSE day centre), Western Road, Cork

**Age Group:** 18 years and over

Cork Transgender Peer Support Group meets once a month. It offers peer support for those preparing to transition or those that have transitioned. The focus is on a medical transition. Most participants come from Cork City. The group advertises in the Echo and an LGBT magazine as well as having a few posters in various locations.

### The Cork Rebels

**Email:** corkrebelsfc@gmail.com  
 join@corkrebelsfc.com  
**Address:** c/o The Gay Project, 4 South Terrace, Cork  
**Website:** <http://corkrebelsfc.com/>  
**Social:** <https://twitter.com/corkrebelsfc>  
<https://www.facebook.com/corkrebelsfc>  
<https://www.instagram.com/corkrebelsfc/>

**Age Group:** All ages welcome. No under 18s have shown interest of yet and the group does not have the relevant safeguards in place to be able to accept under 18s. However, it would be open to looking into this if the opportunity presented itself.

### Cork Frontrunners

**Phone:** 087 3647901  
**Email:** frontrunnerscork@gmail.com  
**Address:** 4 South Terrace, Cork City  
**Social:** <https://www.facebook.com/Frontrunners-Cork>

**Age Group:** 18 years and over

Cork Frontrunners is an LGBT+ running club and is a member of the Frontrunners International movement. Their goal is to improve the health of all members of the LGBT+ community through running, walking and socialising.

The Cork Rebels is a community team set up in Cork aimed at the LGBT community. It's about 'Football for All'. It offers a weekly 5-aside football kick-about. Participants also take part in warmups, football training and friendly matches throughout the year. The focus is on creating a safe, fun space to play football, gain fitness and well-being through new friendships outside the usual club scene. This strengthens the LGBT community spirit in Cork. The Cork Rebels is a group for anyone regardless of gender, sexual orientation, background, age, or ability. Participants come from Cork City and County and sometimes from further afield. There is also a variety of nationalities in the group.

## Gender Rebels

**Phone:** 086 8565799  
**Email:** genderrebelscork@gmail.com  
**Social:** <https://www.facebook.com/genderrebelscork/>

**Age Group:** Over 18s

Gender Rebels Cork is a group based in Cork City which advocates and supports all transgender, non-binary, intersex and gender non-conforming individuals. It offers peer support and social meet-ups to those living in Cork city and county

## CIT LGBT\* Society

**Email:** lgbtcit@gmail.com  
**Social:** <https://twitter.com/CITLGBT>  
<https://www.facebook.com/lgbtcit>

**Age Group:** Students of CIT

Everyone is welcome to the CIT LGBT\* society regardless of what they identify as, everyone under the rainbow is welcome. The aim is to make new friends, have fun and get a better understanding of the LGBTQ+ community.

## UP Cork, Youth Work Ireland Cork

**Phone:** 021 4300 430  
021 480 8600  
086 044 3745  
**Email:** youth@gayprojectcork.com  
nadia.moussed@ywicork.com  
**Address:** The Gay Project, 4 South Terrace, Cork & LINC, 11a White Street, Cork.  
**Social:** [www.facebook.com/upcorklgbtyouth/](https://www.facebook.com/upcorklgbtyouth/)

**Age Group:** 15 to 23 year olds

UP Cork is a youth project for LGBTQ young people aged 15 to 23 years of age. It provides a community-based response to the needs of LGBT young people by offering them opportunities for active participation and inclusion in addressing issues that affect them and for personal and social development. The project provides one-to-one and group support for young people to allow them to safely engage with confidence building, personal development, peer support and making friends. It also affords young people a space where they can experience inclusion, acceptance, social justice, fun and safety. Activities include: Rapping, Art, Drama, Drugs Awareness, Sexual Health Awareness, Weekends Away, Day Trips, Graffiti Art, Choreographed Dance, Cooking Lessons, DVD Nights, BBQ Evenings, Youth Café and a lot more!



## UCC LGBT\*

**Email:** lgbt@uccsocieties.ie  
**Address:** LGBT\* Society, 6 Carrigside, College Road, University College Cork.  
**Website:** <https://lgbtsoc.ucc.ie/>

**Social:** Twitter - @UCCLGBT  
<https://www.facebook.com/ucclgbt/>  
Instagram- ucclgbt

**Age Group:** We are for all ages of students in UCC, but some national events we attend have an 18+ so we can't bring students younger than that, but this is only very occasional.

The Society's main aim is to provide a safe space for its members & raise awareness of LGBT issues through various campaigns and events! We do cultural, political, and social events and we generally try to build a welcoming community in UCC for LGBT\* people and allies and be a channel for people to make friends and get involved in culture and activism if they want. People outside of college can keep up with us through our weekly radio show on UCC 98.3 FM (normally at 3pm for an hour on Thursdays, but this may change in the new academic year), and we'll be releasing a podcast next year! We will have our annual national Queer Conference in February that is open to all, and during the college year we hold a biweekly Lunch with LGBT\* events in the city also open to everyone.

## PROVISION OF LGBTI+ GROUPS AND SERVICES IN CORK

Youth Services in Cork that identified that as LGBT Friendly or had LGBT Specific groups.

### **The Sexual Health Centre**

**Phone:** 021 427 5837  
**Address:** 6 Peters Street, Cork T12 DX73  
**Website:** [www.sexualhealthcentre.com](http://www.sexualhealthcentre.com)  
**Social:** Facebook @BeSexyStayHealthy  
Twitter @SHC\_Cork

### **Glen Youth Project Foroige**

**Phone:** 085 807 9093  
**Email:** Lynda.garrett@foroige.ie  
**Address:** The Glen Community Services Building,  
Carnloch Court The Glen Cork  
**Website:** [www.foroige.ie](http://www.foroige.ie)  
**Social:** Twitter

### **CDYS Mallow**

**Phone:** 086 803 1206  
**Email:** miriam@cdys.ie  
**Address:** Youth Café, Youth Centre, New St. Mallow  
**Website:** [www.cdys.ie](http://www.cdys.ie)  
**Social:** <https://www.facebook.com/CDYS-Youth-Work-Ireland-181870551849865/>

### **Churchfield/Gurranabraher YWI Cork**

**Phone:** 086 82 74863  
**Email:** Joe.curtin@ywicork.com  
**Address:** The Hut, Community Resource  
Centre, Gurranabraher, Cork  
**Website:** [www.ywicork.com](http://www.ywicork.com)  
**Social:** Twitter - @YWIcork  
Facebook - [www.facebook.com/YWIcork/](https://www.facebook.com/YWIcork/)

### **Foroige Fermoy**

**Phone:** 086 413 4777  
**Email:** Emma.browne@foroige.ie  
**Address:** Foróige Youth Space, 57 MacCurtain  
Street, Fermoy.  
**Website:** [www.foroige.ie](http://www.foroige.ie)  
**Social:** [www.facebook.com/foroigebblackwatervalley/](https://www.facebook.com/foroigebblackwatervalley/)

### **Bishopstown & Curraheen Youth Project**

**Phone:** 086.3633146  
**Email:** Rachel.bradbury@foroige.ie;  
Thomas.moloney@foroige.ie  
**Address:** Bishopstown House, Murphys Farm,  
Curraheen, Bishopstown  
**Website:** [www.foroige.ie](http://www.foroige.ie)  
**Social:** [www.facebook.com/foroigebishopstowncurraheen/](https://www.facebook.com/foroigebishopstowncurraheen/)

### **Chill on the Hill – Cobh Youth Service**

**Phone:** 021 481 4640  
**Email:** cysmanager@eircom.net  
**Address:** Cobh Yth Service 16 Midleton St, Cobh, Co.Cork  
**Social:** [www.facebook.com/Cobh-Youth-Services](https://www.facebook.com/Cobh-Youth-Services)

### **Beara Youth Development Project**

**Phone:** Tina: 086 822 2656/Gwen: 086 384 1066  
**Email:** Tina.ocallaghan@foroige.ie  
Gwen.odonovan@foroige.ie  
**Address:** The Lounge, The Square, Castletownbere.  
Co. Cork  
**Website:** [www.foroige.ie](http://www.foroige.ie)

### **Ballyphehane Youth Project Foroige**

**Phone:** 087 290 5215  
**Email:** Ita.burke@foroige.ie  
**Address:** Band Room, Barrack st.  
**Website:** [www.foroige.ie](http://www.foroige.ie)

### **Glanmire Youth Project Foroige**

**Phone:** 086 810 4663  
**Email:** Brian.otoole@foroige.ie  
**Address:** Glanmire Youth Project,  
Riverstown Cross, Glanmire.  
**Website:** [www.foroige.ie](http://www.foroige.ie)

### **Linkpoint Knocknaheeny Foroige**

**Phone:** 021 494 2780  
**Email:** Sonya.matthews@foroige.ie  
**Address:** Linkpoint, Harbour view Road,  
Knocknaheeny, Cork  
**Website:** [www.foroige.ie](http://www.foroige.ie)



## ADDITIONAL LGBTI+ STRUCTURES AND RESOURCES

In terms of LGBTI+ provision in Cork there are various additional structures in place in Cork which should be noted, as well as national level services and online resources available to the LGBTI+ community in Ireland.

A key structure is the Cork LGBT Inter-Agency Steering group . This group was set up in 2002, along with a LGBT-specific statement of inclusion, to advance the City Development Plan which stated that LGBT communities should be supported in participating fully in the city's social, economic and cultural life. The group is representative of Cork City Council, HSE South, the Department of Social Protection, TUSLA, An Garda Siochana, Cork ETB, Cork City Partnership, LINC, The Gay Project, CESCA Equality Alliance/Ballyphehane Togher CDP and the Sexual Health Centre. The Cork LGBT Inter-Agency Steering group organises the annual LGBTI+ Awareness Week. In addition, the Inter-Agency Steering group is advocating that Cork City Council becomes a member of the Rainbow Cities Network, which is an international network of cities who have worked to include and actively support LGBT communities.

**Cork Pride** is a major date in the LGBTI+ calendar . Its mission is to celebrate the diverse culture of Corks LGBT+ community, by providing various activities and functions to promote and engage in educational, civic and cultural activities in order to enrich the lives of LGBT people and the community as a whole and to work together to achieve a common goal. Cork Pride began in 2002 and has grown to become a week-long event and is the second largest Pride Festival in Ireland.

The **UCC LGBT+ Staff Network** was founded in 2007. The aim of this network is to provide a consultation mechanism for the Equality Unit on issues in relation to LGBT and to work in partnership with management and staff of UCC to create a safe, inclusive and diverse working environment that encourages a culture of respect and equality for everyone regardless of their sexual orientation, in order that every individual can reach their full potential without fear of discrimination. In addition, any staff member can become an Ally of the LGBT+ Community in UCC by signing up to the UCC Rainbow Alliance which was launched in March of 2019

**ACT UP Cork** is the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power. It is a diverse, non-partisan group which works on HIV awareness and is committed to ending the HIV/AIDS crisis.

**LINC and The Gay Project** offer a wide variety of activities throughout the year. Other ad hoc social events, talks or workshops are generally advertised in the Gay Project, LINC or on one of the LGBT focused websites for Cork . In addition, there are also national level services and online resources available to the LGBTI+ community in Ireland. These additional supports and services are listed below in Table 5.1 and have mainly been sourced from the TENI website and the LGBT Ireland website.

**The Transgender Equality Network Ireland (TENI)** seeks to improve conditions and advance the rights and equality of Trans people and their families. The TENI website maps various types of supports available to Trans people and their families across Ireland. Many of these supports are also relevant to other LGBTI+ people.

**LGBT Ireland** is a national support service for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender people and their families and friends. Like TENI, the LGBT Ireland website also provides a list of supports and groups across Ireland.

- <https://www.facebook.com/CorkLgbtAwarenessWeek/>
- <http://corkpride.com/>
- <https://www.ucc.ie/en/lgbtstaff/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/ACTUPCork/>
- For example, <http://www.gaycork.com/> or <https://gaytodo.com/>
- <http://www.teni.ie/>
- <http://lgbt.ie/>



## ADDITIONAL LGBTI+ STRUCTURES AND RESOURCES

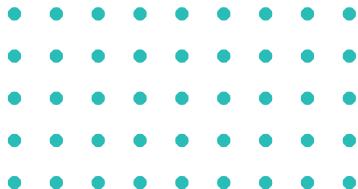
**Table 5.1. Additional Resources and Supports**

<b>HELPINES AND ONLINE MESSAGING SERVICES</b>	<b>LGBT Helpline</b>	This is a non-judgmental and confidential service providing listening, support and information to LGBT people, their family and friends, and to those who are questioning if they might be LGBT. Telephone: 1890 929 539 Website: <a href="http://www.gbt.ie">www.gbt.ie</a>
	<b>Cork Lesbian Line</b>	Cork Lesbian Line is a voluntary helpline for women, providing confidential, informal information and support regarding sexual orientation. Cork Lesbian Line is a member of LGBT Ireland. The helpline is available on Wednesday from 6.30pm to 9.30pm. Telephone: 1890 929 539 or 021 431 8318
	<b>Gay Information Cork Helpline</b>	Gay Information Cork is a gay helpline service for men. It is a non-directive, non-judgmental, information and listening service. Operated by trained volunteers on LGBT issues. It is totally confidential. Gay Information Cork is a member of LGBT Ireland. The helpline is available on Tuesdays from 6.30pm to 9.00pm. T: 1890 929 539 or 021 427 1087 W: <a href="http://www.corkgayproject.com/helpline">www.corkgayproject.com/helpline</a> E: <a href="mailto:info@gayprojectcork.com">info@gayprojectcork.com</a>
	<b>LGBT Online Messaging Service</b>	The instant messaging support service is free, confidential and secure. The messaging icon pops up on the bottom right hand corner of the screen of all LGBT Ireland webpages. It is available 7 days a week, from 6.30pm to 10pm Mon - Thur, from 4pm to 10pm Fridays, and from 4pm to 6pm on Sat & Sun. Website: <a href="http://www.lgbt.ie">www.lgbt.ie</a> More about the messenger service: <a href="https://lgbt.ie/instant-messaging-support-service/">https://lgbt.ie/instant-messaging-support-service/</a>
	<b>Gender Identity Family Support Line</b>	A volunteer-led listening and support service for families of trans and gender non-conforming people in Ireland Telephone: 01 9073707
	<b>HSE Infoline</b>	The HSE Infoline provides information on health services (including your local mental health service), entitlements, or how to access HSE health or social services in your area. It is available from 8am to 8pm, Monday to Saturday. Telephone: 1850 24 1850 Website: <a href="http://www.hse.ie/eng/services/Campaigns/Contact.html">www.hse.ie/eng/services/Campaigns/Contact.html</a>
<b>LGBT ORGANISATIONS</b>	<b>BelongTo</b>	BelongTo is an organisation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) young people, (14-23 age group) based in Parliament House, 13 Parliament Street, Dublin 2, Ireland. Telephone: 01 670 6223 Email: <a href="mailto:info@belongto.org">info@belongto.org</a> Website: <a href="http://www.belongto.org">www.belongto.org</a>
	<b>Transgender Equality Network Ireland TENI</b>	TENI is a non-profit organisation supporting the transgender community in Ireland in all its variety. It is based in Unit 2, 4 Ellis Quay, Dublin 7. Telephone: 01- 873 3575 Email: <a href="mailto:info@teni.ie">info@teni.ie</a> Website: <a href="http://www.teni.ie">www.teni.ie</a>
	<b>National LGBT Federation</b>	The National LGBT Federation (NxF) is an LGBT NGO which campaigns for the equal rights of LGBT people in Ireland & internationally. It also publishes Gay Community News (GCN) ( <a href="https://gcn.ie/">https://gcn.ie/</a> ) Website: <a href="http://www.nxf.ie/">http://www.nxf.ie/</a>
<b>FAMILY SUPPORT</b>	<b>Gender Identity Family Support Line (as above)</b>	A volunteer-led listening and support service for families of trans and gender non-conforming people in Ireland Telephone: 01 9073707
	<b>GenderED</b>	GenderEd is an online education programme aimed at supporting adult family members of transgender young people (less than 18 years of age). This education programme was developed as research has shown that access to education and information is important for families of transgender young people in their ability to help accept and support them. Website: <a href="http://www.GenderEd.ie">www.GenderEd.ie</a>
	<b>LOOK (Loving Our Out Kids) formerly Parents' Support</b>	LOOK, provides support to families and friends of LGBT people. Website: <a href="http://lovingouroutkids.org/">http://lovingouroutkids.org/</a> Email: <a href="mailto:info@lovingouroutkids.org">info@lovingouroutkids.org</a> Telephone: (087) 253 7699 The contact number in the Cork area is (087) 790 2230.
<b>PEER SUPPORT GROUPS</b>	<b>Irish Trans Girls</b>	A national online group to support any Trans AMAB <sup>4</sup> people living in Ireland. Email: <a href="mailto:irishtransgirls@gmail.com">irishtransgirls@gmail.com</a>
	<b>Irish Trans Student Alliance (ITSA)</b>	ITSA is a national peer-support group for students and young people (18-30) who are trans, gender variant, intersex, questioning or exploring their gender identity. Email: <a href="mailto:transstraining.itsa@gmail.com">transstraining.itsa@gmail.com</a> Website: <a href="http://www.facebook.com/ITSA.IrishTransStudentAlliance">www.facebook.com/ITSA.IrishTransStudentAlliance</a>
	<b>Trans Guys Ireland</b>	A national online group to support any Trans AFAB <sup>5</sup> people living in Ireland. Website: <a href="http://www.facebook.com/tg.eireann">www.facebook.com/tg.eireann</a>
	<b>Turn2Me</b>	Regular free LGBT Online Support Group. Website: <a href="http://turn2me.org/group-support">turn2me.org/group-support</a>

<b>GENERAL RESOURCES</b>	<b>AWARE</b>	Aware provides support to those affected by depression. Helpline running from 10am-10pm, Monday to Friday. Telephone: 1890 303 302 Email: supportmail@aware.ie Website: www.aware.ie
	<b>Pieta House</b>	Pieta House is the centre for the prevention of self-harm or suicide. Website: www.pieta.ie
	<b>Jigsaw</b>	Jigsaw Cork is a free and confidential support service for young people aged 15 – 25. It has a range of professionals available to find out what a young person needs; it provides non-judgemental listening, emotional support, guided self-help and supported access to other services Telephone: 021 245 2500 Email: cork@jigsaw.ie Website: www.jigsaw.ie/cork
	<b>Bodywhys</b>	Bodywhys is the national voluntary organisation supporting people affected by eating disorders Telephone: 01-2834963 Helpline: 1890 200 444
	<b>Childline</b>	Childline can be contacted by phone, text or through their website. The phone line is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Teenbt service is a texting service which can be accessed by texting the word "Talk" to 50101. Telephone: 1800 66 66 66 Website: www.childline.ie
	<b>HIV Ireland</b>	HIV Ireland offer counselling and support to people who are living with HIV, their families and their partners. They also provide STI and HIV testing. They are based at 70 Eccles Street, Dublin 7. Telephone: (01) 873 3799 Email: info@hivireland.ie Website: www.hivireland.ie
	<b>The Garda Racial, Intercultural &amp; Diversity Office (GRIDo)</b>	Staff members of the GRIDo coordinate, monitor and advise on all aspects of policing in the area of diversity. The Garda LGBT Liaison officers have been trained on LGBT related issues. Telephone: (01) 666 3150/3817 Website: www.garda.ie/Controller.aspx?Page=154

4 AMAB – assigned male at birth

5 AFAB – assigned female at birth



Cork ETB Youth Services Team



## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The LGBTI+ National Youth Strategy 2018-2020 (Department of Children and Youth Affairs, 2018) is a major step which acknowledges the challenges which LGBTI+ young people face and aims to address these by putting in place measures to improve outcomes for this group. The LGBTI+ Youth Strategy found that youth groups have a hugely positive impact on the lives of young LGBTI+ people. This report compiles data on the LGBTI+ groups and services currently available in Cork and provides insights into how well provision is meeting the needs of the LGBTI+ young people in Cork.

From data gathered through the online survey this study found that most projects that took part in the survey (90%) have LGBTI+ young people in attendance, but only one service is actively LGBTI+ inclusive, with its main target group being LGBTI+ young people. This is Youth Work Ireland Cork which runs UP Cork, an LGBTI youth group. However, all the other services which took part in the survey see themselves as LGBTI+ friendly. Respondents mentioned that their service is welcoming and inclusive and may have LGBTI+ young people in attendance. Some respondents also noted that their service takes a needs-led approach and would support a young person as best they could according to the young person's requirements. Some services have also provided LGBTI+ focused training and/or information to staff, volunteers and young people. The survey found that 85% of respondents were aware of LGBTI+ groups/services for young people while 15% said they were not aware of any. The majority of respondents (75%) thought that there should be more groups which actively target LGBTI+ young people. Respondents were given the opportunity to provide suggestions on how youth provision could better support LGBTI+ young people. Four areas of support were identified. These included: additional training, increased awareness raising, better signposting & information and increased resources.



Cork is the second largest city in Ireland and as such it offers a variety of services and supports to the LGBTI+ community. There are two key LGBTI organisations which have had a presence in the city for decades; LINC and The Gay Project. Both provide a wide variety of activities and events throughout the year. There are also a variety of other LGBTI+ groups whose focus varies from sports, to culture, or trans-support groups, etc. Details on the key LGBTI+ groups and services in Cork have been presented in Section 5. Additional structures in place in Cork are also noted as well as various national level services and online resources available to the LGBTI+ community in Ireland.

All identified groups and services are based in the city. According to the CSO, 84% of same-sex couples live in urban areas, this is presumably because many of them have chosen to move to an urban area [CSO,2016]. As such these groups and services available in Cork City are well located to serve a large majority of the LGBTI+ community. However, many of the younger LGBTI+ people may still live at home in a rural setting, with perhaps little or no transport opportunities, and these are the group of young people who would have very few supports available to them. In addition, it was noted that often young LGBTI+ people wait to 'come out' until they move away (to an urban centre) for work or Third Level education. This indicates that although positive steps have been taken there is still a degree of stigma present, perhaps more so in some communities than others.

Of the groups and services available in Cork, many are aimed at adults from 18 years and over. While these are accessible to the older cohort of young people, not all the groups/services are available to LGBTI+ people under the age of 18. Importantly, only one group is a specific youth group for LGBTI+ young people. As mentioned above youth groups have a hugely positive impact on the lives of young LGBTI+ people, however various stakeholders noted that the demand for this LGBTI+ youth group is high. It currently runs two evenings a week due to increased demand, however there is a call for additional evenings to be added. However, due to lack of resources this is not currently possible. It was also mentioned that there is a gap in service provision for older LGBTI+ young people who do not attend Third Level education where there would be access to LGBTI+ societies. This information gathered from stakeholders corroborates the results of the online survey where 75% of respondents agree that there should be more groups which actively target LGBTI+ young people. This indicates that more needs to be done to meet the needs of LGBTI+ young people through the provision of additional groups, services or spaces.



## INITIAL RECOMMENDATIONS



Although outside the scope of this project it would be useful to consult directly with young people themselves on how well they feel the provision of LGBTI+ groups and services meet their needs and look into what suggestions and recommendation they would have to improve service provision in this area. This could be facilitated through the LGBTI+ societies in both UCC or CIT, Comhairle na NÓG or through UP Cork the LGBTI youth group. However, in the absence of input from young people themselves, some recommendations can be drawn from the information gathered throughout this study to provide a starting point in terms of guiding discussion on plans and policies moving forward.

It is clear that there is demand for **additional LGBTI+ groups, services and spaces**. Both stakeholders and the online survey respondents corroborate this viewpoint. The only LGBTI+ youth group in the city cannot keep up with current demand. It was also noted that there is a gap in provision for young people who do not attend Third Level education as well as rural young people. This should certainly be considered within this discussion. Providing services for these young people may require innovative approaches and outreach work to serve a sparser, more scattered, and hard to reach population. As mentioned above, provision for LGBTI+ young people could explore offering a greater variety and diversity of events and activities according to the needs and wants of the young people concerned.

Discrimination is an issue for LGBTI+ young people. Society's attitude towards LGBTI+ people can have a major impact on the lived experiences of LGBTI+ people. As one respondent mentioned many young LGBTI+ young people in rural settings wait to move away before openly revealing their sexual/gender identity. This indicates that increased knowledge, awareness and acceptance of LGBTI+ people is required. Awareness-raising and education has a role to play in this regard. The online survey found that many youth services have, or would like to, offer LGBTI+ training to their staff and volunteers. This presents a clear opportunity to provide training to this group. Awareness raising campaigns can also be a useful tool and if designed well can reach a wide audience including young people, families and the wider community. This could be done through online campaigns, annual campaigns, and/or perhaps through linking a campaign with positive LGBTI+ role models or with highly visible and supported groups, such as a sports group.

Finally, this study identified a need for additional information and better signposting. It was noted in the online survey that it would be useful to have information on what services are available in the area and where they can refer a LGBTI+ young person. This information could be provided to youth services in a leaflet or in an easy-to-use online directory, which would facilitate amendments as groups and services change and develop over time. Increased availability of information and where to find up-to-date information was also called for, particularly relating to transgender issues. It was also noted that there is a need for more comprehensive LGBTI+ sexual health information both in the city and the county. Informative leaflets and posters designed for youth services could be both a useful tool for portraying information but also for increasing LGBTI+ visibility and visible acceptance within the service.



## TERMINOLOGY

<b>LGBTI+</b>	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans+, intersex and others.
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	Sexual and romantic attraction.
<b>Gender Identity</b>	Our deeply felt internal experience of our own gender.
<b>Gender Expression</b>	How we show our gender through our clothing, hair, behaviour, etc.
<b>Lesbian</b>	A woman who is mainly attracted to other women.
<b>Gay</b>	Someone who is mainly attracted to people of the same gender.
<b>Bisexual</b>	Someone who is attracted to two genders.
<b>Transgender</b>	People whose gender identity differs from the sex they were given at birth. Trans+ includes non-binary people.
<b>Non-Binary</b>	People whose gender identity is not exclusively male or female.
<b>Intersex</b>	People who are born with variations in their sexual anatomy or their hormonal patterns, with variations that are not seen as fitting in with typical male or female bodies.
<b>Pansexual</b>	Someone who could be attracted to any person, regardless of their gender.
<b>Heterosexual</b>	Someone who is attracted to people of a different gender.
<b>Cisgender</b>	People whose gender identity corresponds with their birth sex. For example, a person born with a female biological sex and who identifies as being a woman.
<b>Gender-fluid</b>	Someone who does not have a constant or fixed gender.
<b>Transition</b>	The process by which a person adopts the outward or physical characteristics of the gender with which they identify, as opposed to those associated with their birth sex. Transition may include social, medical or legal changes.
<b>Coming out</b>	The process of understanding yourself and telling others about your sexuality or gender identity.
<b>LGBTI+ Bullying</b>	Bullying based on prejudice or discrimination towards LGBTI+ people.



RAINBOW FLAG



BISEXUAL FLAG



TRANS FLAG

Source: BelongTo. (n.d) Let's Talk terminology [Online] available at: <http://belongto.org/parents/lets-talk-terminology/>

# ONLINE SURVEY

### Cork Education and Training Board Research on LGBTI+ groups and services

The Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) launched The LGBTI+ National Youth Strategy 2018-2020 last year. It was noted within the strategy that LGBTI+ youth groups and organisations have a hugely positive impact on the lives of LGBTI+ young people. As part of the strategy the DCYA, in partnership with the Education and Training Board (ETB) sector, have committed to mapping existing LGBTI+ youth services and groups. This current piece of research aims to map existing services available to LGBTI+ young people aged 15-24yrs and which actively target this cohort of young people. Through this survey we hope to gather information from you in three main areas: Whether LGBTI+ young people attend your group/service (although you may not know this); Whether your group/service is 'actively' LGBTI+ inclusive; and If you are aware of any LGBTI+ groups/services for young people. This survey will help us to establish what is currently available for LGBTI+ young people.

It is envisaged that the data gathered from this mapping process will further inform an overall area profiling piece on Cork which will be used under the new targeted youth funding scheme. Your input is very valuable in this process and we much appreciate your contributions.

Please note: Not all groups which are LGBTI+ friendly, or which have LGBTI+ young people in attendance, are necessarily groups which actively target this cohort of young people. For example, there may be a theatre group which has quite a few LGBTI+ members, but the group does not actively target LGBTI+ young people, by for example hosting or taking part in LGBTI+ events, displaying LGBTI+ posters, leaflets, etc. It may just be that those LGBTI+ young people go to the group and enjoy it.

Many thanks for taking part in this process. The survey has 15 questions and should take just over 5minutes to complete. Please complete the survey by Thursday the 11th of April. We very much appreciate your input.

#### **1. Name of Service/Project/Umbrella Organisation**

#### **2. Contact person (please include position/title eg. Manager/Coordinator)**

#### **3. Contact phone number**

#### **4. Contact email address**

#### **5. Location of group/service/project**

- Cork City North
- Cork City South
- Cork City Centre
- Cork County
- Citywide
- City and County

**6. Age group the service caters for**

**7. Where do your participants come from?**

- Cork City North
- Cork City South
- Cork City Centre
- Cork County
- Citywide
- City and County

**8. Are you aware of any LGBTI+ young people in your group/project/service?**

- No, I am not aware of any
- I am unsure
- Yes, there is a small number (under five) of young LGBTI+ young people who attend our group/project/service
- There are more than five LGBTI+ young people in our service.

**9. How would you categorise your project/service?**

- Our service could be more LGBTI+ friendly and would benefit from becoming more LGBTI+ aware.
- Our service is LGBTI+ friendly. We may have LGBTI+ young people well integrated in the group but the focus of the service is not LGBTI+.
- Our service is actively LGBTI+ inclusive. LGBTI+ young people are a main target group for us.
- We take part in LGBTI+ events/awareness weeks and we display LGBTI+ information/resources.

**10. Please briefly explain your previous answer?**

**11. Are you aware of any LGBTI+ groups/services for young people?**

- Yes
- No

**12. If you answered 'Yes' to the previous question, please list the groups/services which you are aware of.**

**13. Do you think the number of groups for LGBTI+ young people caters well for their needs?**

- I am unsure
- I think there should be more groups which actively target LGBTI+ young people
- I think there should be less groups actively target LGBTI+ young people
- I think there are just the right number of groups actively target LGBTI+ young people

**14. Are there any additional supports or training that you think would be beneficial for the young people in your service or the staff/volunteers in your service in order for them to better support LGBTI+ young people?**

**15. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions which may help us with our current study?**

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PROVISION OF  
**LGBTI+**  
GROUPS & SERVICES  
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE  
IN CORK CITY  
& COUNTY





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**cetb**

Bord Oideachais agus  
Oiliúna Chorcaí  
*Cork Education and  
Training Board*



An Roinn  
Leanáil agus  
Gníothai Óige  
Department of  
Children and  
Youth Affairs