

LGBT Friendly Roscommon, 2017

Children and Young People's Services Committee, Roscommon

Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSC) are a key structure identified by Government to plan and co-ordinate services for children and young people in every county in Ireland. The overall purpose is to improve outcomes for children and young people through local and national interagency working.

CYPSC are county-level committees that bring together the main statutory, community and voluntary providers of services to children and young people. They provide a forum for joint planning and co-ordination of activity to ensure that children, young people and their families receive improved and accessible services.

For more information on CYPSC, please visit www.cypsc.ie.

LGBT Sub-Group of Roscommon Children and Young People's Services Committee

In 2015, Roscommon CYPSC undertook a comprehensive audit of services in the county. Following this, Roscommon CYPSC formed a dedicated sub-group to progress interagency initiatives for young LGBT people. The Sub-group comprises representatives from Tusla Child and Family Agency, Suicide Prevention Office of HSE, Elphin Community College, Comhairle an nÓg, Foróige, Roscommon County Council and Roscommon LEADER Partnership.

LGBT Friendly Roscommon, 2017

LGBT Friendly Roscommon, 2017 will support local service-providers, community groups and sporting organisations to become more LGBT-friendly.

Strand 1: *LGBT Friendly Roscommon, 2017* symbol

This symbol was designed by Luke McEvoy, a secondary school student of Elphin Community College, as a tool to help make public spaces visibly more LGBT friendly. The rationale for a bespoke, Roscommon-specific symbol, is to encourage people to view issues affecting LGBT young people as locally relevant.

The symbol will be printed as a poster (A3 size), a postcard (A6 size) and as a sticker (A8 size) and will be distributed free of charge to service-providers, community groups and sporting organisations throughout the county.



Strand 2: Awareness Raising Workshops

A series of awareness raising workshops will be delivered in towns across the county. Each ninety minute workshop will be co-facilitated by a Sub-Group member and a local Youth / Community Worker.

Workshops will be participatory and will seek to raise awareness of LGBT issues as well as introducing *The 4Ps Model to Create an LGBT-friendly Service* as promoted by GLEN.

A workshop template has been devised along with all of the associated training materials.

Strand 3: Template for Code of Practice

A template for an Organisational Code of Practice will be distributed that will enable service providers and community groups that engage with young people to frame their support for LGBTI young people. Adoption of the Code will have an influence on the internal functioning of a service/organisation as well as on how a service/organisation will act within its local community.

Content of the Code of Practice template has been informed by consultation with LGBTI organisations. In this regard, a special word of thanks to due to the Family Resource Centre, West Region LGBT Network, and to GLEN LGBTI Equality Network. LGBT Sub-Group of Roscommon CYPSC welcomes contributions to the on-going development of this document.

Launching *LGBT Friendly Roscommon, 2017*

All three strands of the *LGBT Friendly Roscommon, 2017* initiative will be launched together.

Journalist and Activist Una Mullally will perform the official launch. Una has recently been appointed by Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Katherine Zappone to oversee the development of the government's official strategy for young LGBT people in Ireland.

Having made a big impact on RTÉ's *Only Gay in the Village* programme, Roscommon native Will Keane will also speak at the launch.

Launch Details

Tuesday, 21st March at 2:15pm in Hannon's Hotel, Athlone Rd, Roscommon.

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