

Press Release

29th June 2018

LGBT Ireland Supporting the 1st World & National Youth Strategy in their Regional Organisations

With the publication of the world's first and national LGBTI+ Youth Strategy by Minister for Children & Youth Affairs, Dr Katherine Zappone, the national organisation which provides peer support groups, the national online and telephone helpline and training for professionals, LGBT Ireland says "funding is key to resourcing its services nationally and regionally to meet the objectives stated in the strategy."

LGBT Ireland have Network Members in the West of Ireland in "OutWest", in Cork with the "Cork Gay Community Development Company" and "LINC", in Co. Louth in "Dundalk Outcomers", in Galway in LGBT Galway and in Co. Kilkenny in LGBT Kilkenny, aswell as a service in Dublin.

These organisations provide vital support services that form the foundations of the recommendations of the 3 year government strategy and are currently working to address some of the findings of the strategy which found the core issues young LGBTI+ people experience are:-

Discrimination

Bullying & Harassment

Limited Understanding by professional service providers and broader society of LGBTI+ issues

Mental, physical and sexual health challenges

LGBT Ireland and its network members currently provide online and telephone helplines including a newly initiated helpline for parents with TENI (Transgender Equality Network Ireland) and hold person to person peer support groups around the country.

LGBT Ireland state that "our work nationally and regionally is currently providing key services that the National Strategy have found to be fundamental to further help and enrich lives of all young people, but stress funding is badly needed to continue and expand these services".

Last year alone LGBT Ireland's Helpline and online chat support service responded to nearly 2,000 contacts from people seeking advice and support. 79% of those people who contacted the online chat service were under the age of 25. The issues raised by the young people contacting the service included seeking support with coming out as LGBT and information about local LGBT services and groups. Member organisations providing vital support to young people at a regionally need money to roll out more services especially for youth groups and this is a point also made in the national Strategy.

LGBT Ireland sets out to expand services nationally for LGBT people, their families, friends, and communities and to deliver training on LGBT issues to the wider audiences in Ireland. LGBT Ireland is currently developing and delivering quality assured training programmes through a strategic partnership with key agencies.

In its' advocacy role LGBT Ireland and its members are working to ensure people are heard and listened to at every level, in policy and practical at national and regional levels with an emphasis of advocating on the needs of rural LGBT people. In its' supports services the organisation states that a key role of the organisation will be "to develop community based supports regionally and funding is vital to roll out across the country."

More information is available on lgbt.ie with links to all youth groups and web chat, on facebook @ LGBT Ireland or telephone 1890 929 539

Ends

For further media information contact: Michelle Thomas T: 086 24 26 733 e: michelle.thomas@michcom.ie