

Herts1125 Young People's Manifesto 2016



All things Trans*

This survey was designed to find out more about the experiences and opinions of the young LGBT+ community in Hertfordshire, particularly the young Transgender community. All responses are anonymous. The Transgender umbrella encompasses young people who identify as Female to male (FTM), male to female (MFT), non binary, gender fluid, etc.

Twenty nine responses from young LGBT+ across Hertfordshire, including 12 young people who self identified as members of the Trans* community, has given us quality information around the priorities voted for by young LGBT+. With this information, Who not What will be working with Herts County Council and partner organisations to change services and support for the better.

WHO TOOK PART

HOW DID THEY SELF IDENTIFY

21 young people were aged between 14 & 18 years old

THREE young people self-identified as FTM and THREE self-identified as MTF



45% (12) SELF-IDENTIFIED AS TRANSGENDER

"Mum took it okay but is very confused, Dad doesn't believe me and sister thinks I'm having 'a gender crisis'"

"I will never be able to forget the pain I had to face after coming out"

TWO young people hadn't come out to anyone at all with close friends being the preferred option when they do



"trapped"

"If you go to a same sex school this must be very difficult"

USING THE CORRECT PRONOUNS IS VITAL FOR YOUNG PEOPLE'S EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

"When they use the chosen name its like a ghost of a hug, a nod that I am real. When they don't, its like being punched in the face every time"

88% (22) said NO arrangements were made for residential trips

56% (15) said uniform was too gender specific but 30% said it was flexible

GPs, Sexual Health services and counselling were all rated low in support for young Trans

76% (19) said alternative changing facilities in school are NOT available

"I don't know any other trans people my age and it can feel very lonely"

84% (22) say there are barriers to young Trans* accessing services

"GPs are mostly unaware of issues"

18% (5) said non gender specific toilets WERE available in school

"parental consent"
"confidentiality"

One secondary school, one college and the University

"I would love if (services) were more readily available such as specific gender/sexuality/sexual health counsellors in school"



CHANGES WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE

Overwhelmingly, more education and awareness of what it means to be transgender: in schools, colleges and with professionals across Hertfordshire.

Gender neutral bathrooms and changing rooms across all levels of education, and in the community as a whole.

A specific group with trained staff for Trans* young people to meet others, gain peer support and access other services.

GPs, counsellors and sexual health services being more knowledgeable on matters facing the young Trans* community including medical and social aspects.



Visit www.youthconnexions.org for information or email youth.connexions@hertfordshire.gov.uk @1125wnw and @hertsyoungpride

