The Youth Offer Improvement Team’s

“Out 2 18” and “Transtastic” Youth Groups

Information for Professionals

As part of their City Centre Youth Work delivery the Youth Offer Improvement Team facilitates two separate youth groups for young people aged 11-18 that identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgendered or are questioning their identify.

The “**Out 2 18**” youth group for LGB or Q young people and the “**Transtastic**” youth group for young people that identify as transgendered, non-binary or gender fluid run Thursday’s, 6.30-8.30 at a City Centre venue, alternate weeks.

The youth workers that lead the projects provide one-to-one and group work support and guidance for young people to allow them to safely engage with activities to help with their 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.

In addition to this the youth workers are happy to talk to families and/or friends that would like information and/or guidance regarding supporting their child or friend.

**What the groups have to offer…**

* An opportunity to take part in youth work activities and have fun. The programme is young person led with the group members choosing what they would like to do each week.
* A safe environment where young people can be themselves and a chance to meet new people, who are in a similar situation.
* An opportunity to learn new things; such as about LGBTQ events and celebrations, information about the law & their rights, strategies to improve their health & well-being, education & training and so much more.
* Advice on how to come out to family and friends and how to get the correct support.
* The young people who attend are able to socialise freely within the group and do not have to commit to attend every session.
* The youth workers can support young people to access more specialist services

**Confidentiality**

Before a new young person is introduced to the group they will be invited to a one-to-one meeting with a youth worker. This is an informal discussion to check out with the young person that one of the groups is appropriate for their needs and to protect the existing members. The venue can be anywhere the young person feels comfortable including, with permission, discretely in school.

Within the groups’ there is a confidentiality policy where the personal aspects of the young person’s life are kept between the young person and the youth worker they have chosen to talk to. It’s up to the young person to share anything with others within the group if they feel they want to. The Youth Worker respect that young people expect confidentiality and that is what they will get unless they think that the young person or someone else might be at significant risk of harm.

If you are aware of a young person who may be interested in coming to one of the groups please get in touch. We do have a referral form but it is not essential that you complete it. All we ask is that as a young person’ engagement with the project is voluntary, it is essential that the referral has been discussed and agreed with them in advance.

**To contact the team please email:** **youthoffer@leeds.gov.uk** **or ring: 0113 378 5033**

 