Specification for LGBTQ+ Support Service in Cambridgeshire

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1. Introduction, Context and Scope

A £15.5k contribution has been given annually from the Youth Support Service (YSS) Youth and Community budget for the LGBT Young Peoples Support Service Contract. This contract comes to an end on the 31st March 2019. The contribution formally made by Public Health will become part of a new contract to support a new Sexual Health prevention Service that it is expected will be delivered by a consortia of professional services.

The Youth Support Service would like to provide a 12 month grant 1st April 2020 – 31st March 2021 whilst the Local Authority assesses its combined services contribution for this cohort of vulnerable young people.

During the existing contract the YSS contribution has provided £15.5k for the provision of targeted group work and 1-2-1 support across the County for LGBTQ young people especially those who are vulnerable, experiencing difficulties and need support to address adolescent issues which may include their sexuality or gender identity. LGBTQ young people state that they find it easier to seek information, advice, guidance and support from professionals where their gender/sexuality is freely accepted and not seen as the key issue. Organisations that specialise in LGBTQ youth issues represent a safe go to environment where they can access a trusted adult to explore the issues they are facing.

The current contract has existed since 2008 and represents excellent value for money in relation to its achievements with this incredibly vulnerable group of young people. The contract enables a core service from which the current provider is able to apply for external funding, meaning we are able to benefit from services worth over £250k.

1. Estimation of Need

Traditionally LGBTQ+ CYP are considered to form a part of the Hard to reach / seldom heard group. It is difficult to put exact numbers to the number of LGBT in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough as this is not something which is routinely collected. The Stonewall Schools Report 2012 suggests that 6% of Young People at School or College are LGBT. The most recent report into school aged LGBT is the Stonewall report from 2017[[1]](#footnote-1) which shows:

1. 45% of LGBT pupils have been bullied for being LGBT. This rises to 64% for Trans pupils. This percentage is dropping and was 55% in 2012 and 65% in 2007.
2. 70% of LGBT pupils report that their school says homophobic and biphobic bullying is wrong but only 40% report that their school says Transphobic bullying is wrong.
3. Only 29% of bullied LGBT pupils say that teachers intervened when they were present during the bullying.
4. Only 20% of LGBT pupils have been taught about safe sex in relation to same-sex relationships.
5. 40% of LGBT young people have an adult at home who they can talk to about being LGBT.
6. More than 60% of LGBT pupils have self-harmed, rising to more than 80% for Trans pupils.
7. More than 20% of LGBT pupils have attempted to take their own life, rising to more than 40% for Trans pupils.
8. Scope, Aims and Objectives
	1. The service provider will deliver the service in accordance with the requirements set out in this specification document and in accordance with the terms and conditions. The service will include activities as set out in Section 3.2.
	2. Aims and Objectives

		1. The purpose of this service is to provide support to LGBTQ+ CYP within Cambridgeshire aged 10-19. The service will:
9. To ensure that the voices of LGBTQ+ Young People across Cambridgeshire are heard and that they can participate in the design of Local Authority services important to them.
10. To support LGBTQ+ Young People to access Youth Volunteering, Social Action and other developmental opportunities as they arise.
11. To help to reduce the high rates of self-harm in LGBTQ+ population in Cambridgeshire. This would include working closely with local Mental Health services as an important part of the delivery of this service.

	* 1. The specific objectives of the service are:
12. To provide readily accessible county wide information, advice and guidance support for LGBT Young People aged 10-19
13. To provide safe and risk assessed environments for group work and positive activities.
14. To provide personal and social development activities including residential experiences and peer education.
15. To provide opportunities to participate in programmes, which offer accreditation for learning such as the Cambridgeshire Award Young People’s Award and the ASDAN Award or similar where these opportunities exist.
16. To support LGBTQ Young People with the transition to adulthood.
17. Legal and Policy Framework
The service provider must comply with all current and future legislation including but not limited to:
	* The Equality Act 2013
	* Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2007
	* Sex Discrimination Regulations 2008 (Amendment to Legislation from 1999).
	* Gender Recognition Act 2004
	* Employment Equality (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2003
18. Safeguarding

The Service Provider will operate within all safeguarding procedures and policies as outlined in law, and by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough’s Safeguarding Children or Adults Partnership Board. The Service Provider must ensure its staff and volunteers are familiar with and comply with the following procedures protocols and associated documents as listed below; as well as have in place internal policies and procedures on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, as appropriate to the Services they deliver. There must be a designated lead for safeguarding.

Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy

<http://www.safeguardingpeterborough.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/CSE-Strategy-Feb-2018.pdf>

Neglect Strategy

<http://www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Neglect-Strategy-2018-20.pdf>

1. GDPR

The Authority wishes to ensure that within your business or in its supply chain that the proceeding of personal data and processes in relation to this contract are compliant with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and Data Protection Act. You must confirm that you and your supply chain, with regards to this service, comply with all applicable data protection legislation including but not limited to the GDPR and Data Protection Act.

7. Assessment

Bidders are requested to submit a proposal detailing how they will meet the requirements of the specification and the price at which they could deliver this.

Please submit your proposal in writing to Liz Morris Cambridgeshire County Council Youth and Community Manager via email Liz.Morris@Cambridgeshire.gov.uk before the 30th November 2019.

1. <https://www.stonewall.org.uk/school-report-2017> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)