



## MEDIA PACK: JUNE 2023

### About Allsorts Youth Project

Established in 1999, Allsorts Youth Project is a Sussex-based charity that listens to, supports and connects children and young people (ages 5-25) who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans or in the process of exploring their sexual orientation and/or gender identity (LGBT+), and their families.

We challenge exclusion, prejudice and discrimination in all areas of LGBT+ children and young people's lives, with a view to seeing a world in which LGBT+ people are free to be themselves.

Our approach is three-pronged. We provide:

1. **Youth Services:** youth groups, activities and one-to-one support
2. **Family Services:** parents/carers peer support group, family activities and one-to-one support
3. **Training Services:** for the wider community so that all spaces are safer and more inclusive for LGBT+ people

*"Allsorts has helped me to connect to people, I know I can get social interaction every other week via youth groups which gives me something to look forward to."*

Allsorts Young Person

### What Allsorts Does:

- Provide youth and family services built on the pillars of youth and community work (member of Institute of Youth Work): empowerment, educative, participative, inclusive and expressive.
- Facilitate fun groups, workshops, residentials and activities where LGBT+ young people can meet new people, make new friends and have access to opportunities.
- Listen to children, young people and their families, and provide spaces for them to talk through challenges they may be facing surrounding their (or their child's) LGBT+ identity.
- Embed feedback opportunities into all areas of our work, to ensure services are informed by and meet the needs of our service users' continued and/or changing needs, acknowledged by our *Investing In Children Membership Award* (2022).
- Signpost to other youth services where applicable (see our [Help & Support Page](#)).
- Provide LGBT+ Inclusion and Awareness training to a wide range of schools, colleges, universities, and other businesses/organisations.
- Celebrate diversity within and outside of the LGBT+ community.

### Why are LGBT+ Youth Services Important?

It is important that our services exist because LGBT+ children and young people often experience loneliness, isolation, stigma and bullying both at school and in the wider community

as a result of their LGBT+ identities. In our March 2023 survey with 62 Allsorts young people, 69% had experienced some form of LGBT-phobia within the previous 6 months.

These LGBT+ specific challenges and inequalities lead to the highly disproportionate rate at which LGBT+ children and young people told Allsorts they experience mental health challenges (92%), self-harm (48%) and suicide ideation (58%) and attempts (18%). These figures have been echoed by a range of studies and surveys.<sup>1</sup>

However, the same survey revealed that 100% of young people had been helped by one-to-one support, 98% said youth groups had been of help to them, 89% felt more confident in expressing their voice/opinions, and 79% felt more able to access peer support.

***"Allsorts has helped me build friendships and confidence as a young LGBT+ person"***

Allsorts Young Person

## What Allsorts Does Not Do:

- Allsorts is not a crisis, mental health or clinical service and is not part of any referral pathways into healthcare services.
- In line with Allsorts' confidentiality and safeguarding policies, we do not comment or share information on existing and/or past service users.
- We do not advise, recommend or direct children, young people or families to seek or take medical pathways or to seek out specific medical practitioners.
- Allsorts is non-judgemental and non-directive. We do not tell people how they should present or describe themselves.

## Our Comments On The Following:

### Safeguarding

- Allsorts Youth Project works within the jurisdiction and framework of the Pan Sussex Child Protection & Safeguarding Procedures Manual and regards the safety and wellbeing of children as paramount.
- We work closely with safeguarding bodies, such as Front Door for Families, MASH, Adult Social Care, The Police and other teams responsible for safeguarding to ensure all safeguarding issues and concerns are reported and managed in the appropriate way.
- Our Designated Safeguarding Lead attends lead training delivered by the NSPCC and our lead at trustee level has completed training in Safeguarding Children (Level 1 and 2), and holds 20+ years in services supporting vulnerable adults and children and young people, including domestic abuse refuges, carer support and youth provision.
- All staff, volunteers and trustees undergo safeguarding training on a two-yearly basis as well as undergoing an enhanced DBS check.
- Our Designated Safeguarding Lead delivers annual safeguarding training to our youth support team which covers pan-Sussex and regional safeguarding themes and concerns
- Our Safeguarding Policy is updated every three years, and is [available on our website](#).

---

<sup>1</sup> Including but not limited to, Government Equalities Office, *National LGBT Survey Summary Report* (2019), Stonewall, *Schools Report* (2017), Stonewall, *Trans Report: LGBT In Britain* (2018), LGBT Foundation, *Hidden Figures: The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on LGBT Communities in the UK* (2020)

## Brighton & Hove City Council's Trans Inclusion Schools Toolkit

- Brighton & Hove City Council's [Trans Inclusion Schools Toolkit](#) offers information and guidance for schools to help them develop their approach to trans inclusion and support.
- The toolkit encourages trans inclusive practice to actively challenge gender stereotypes, gender roles, sexism and sexual bullying.
- The toolkit also offers guidance to professionals to increase their confidence to support and help transgender and gender-exploring students whilst providing practical information and help to highlight areas to consider for development.
- We support the Trans Inclusion Schools Toolkit, and are proud to have been involved in its creation.
- Our joint statement with other Youth Providers, LGBT+ Organisations & Allies on BHCC's Trans Inclusion Schools kit can be found on our [Resources Page](#).
- If you have questions regarding Brighton & Hove City Council's Trans Inclusion Schools Toolkit, please contact Brighton & Hove City Council's news desk directly at [news@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:news@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

## Contact Details:

For all media enquiries, please contact [media@allsortsyouth.org.uk](mailto:media@allsortsyouth.org.uk)

If seeking a quote from Allsorts Youth Project on any topic, any quote must be agreed by our CEO (currently Katie Vincent) or Communications & Fundraising Manager (currently Effie Fowler). Any email to the address above will be forwarded to the inbox of both CEO and Communications & Fundraising Manager.

## Logos and Branding Guidelines:

Allsorts Youth Project's logos and branding guidelines can be requested using the email address above and permission is reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Approval of public materials using Allsort Youth Project's logos and/or branding must be sought from the CEO or Communications & Fundraising Manager.

**Please note:** Due to our focus on supporting children, young people and their families, we are not always able to respond to media enquiries and can not guarantee that someone will be available to respond to your query. For further information on our work and a wide range of resources by and for LGBT+ young people, please visit: [www.allsortsyouth.org.uk](http://www.allsortsyouth.org.uk)