

Supporting Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual &
Trans Young People in Ireland



**BeLonG To Youth
Service**

We are the national organisation supporting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI+) young people in Ireland.

Since 2003, we have worked with LGBTI+ young people to create a world where they are equal, safe and valued in the diversity of their identities and experiences.



Our Vision

is to support LGBTI+ young people as equals to achieve our vision through youth work, changing attitudes and research.


BeLonG To Drugs & Alcohol Service


Is a service for LGBT+ young people who use drugs and practices a model of harm reduction with an emphasis on support, education and empowerment





Harm Reduction Model

Ideology of Harm Reduction

 Evidence informed drugs education & awareness programs


 Peer lead Publications and Resource development.


 Training external professionals.

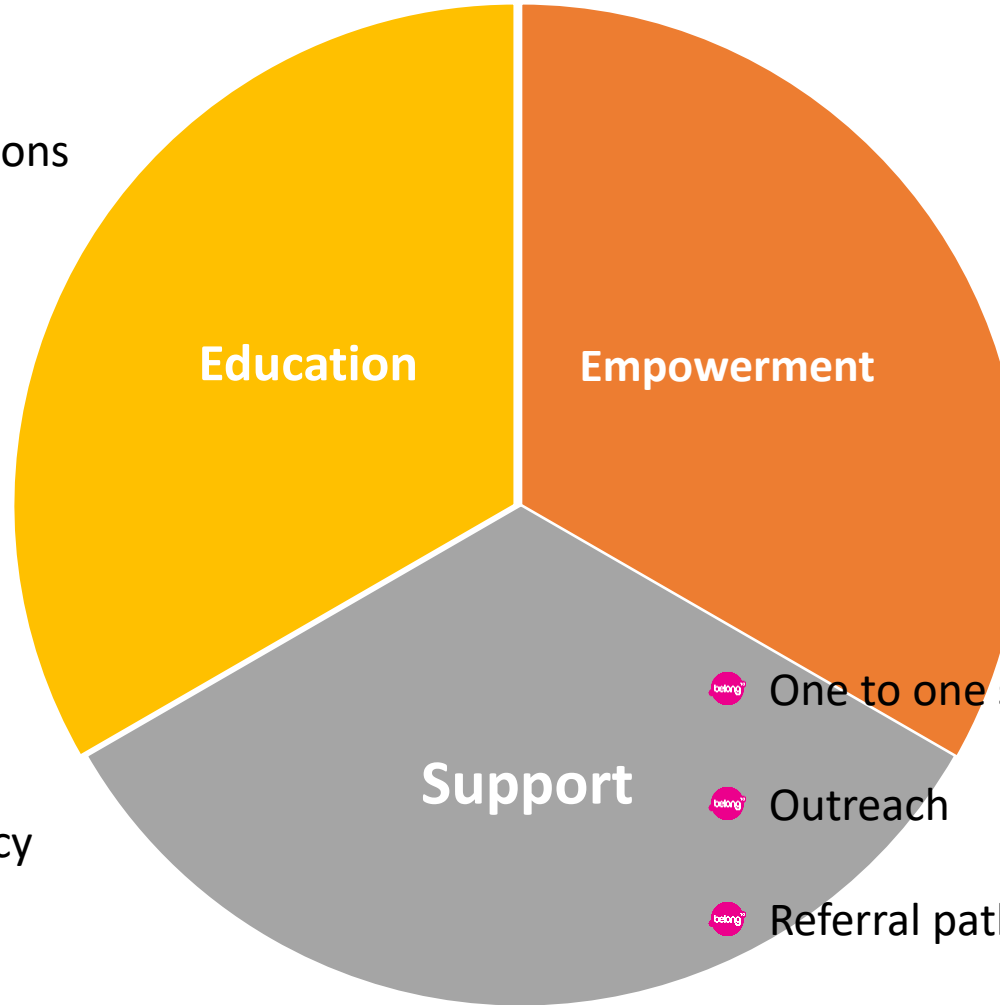
 Advocacy and Policy Development

 Peer Lead

 Equal Partnership

 Capacity Development Training

 Advocacy peer lead



 One to one support

 Outreach

 Referral pathways

 Information

 Reduce the Use practice/program

Research

- LGBT 2 times more likely than the general population to consume drugs – LGBTIreland Report 2016, LGBT Lives 2009
- 36% increase of new infection among MSM –
- Higher rates of mental health, suicide and self harm among those under 25 in the LGBT+ youth population – LGBTIreland 2016



Action Research

Evidence into Action

We have the evidence so what are we going to do about it? How do we minimize harms in relation to drug use, sex and mental health and reach those we need most to reach?

We ask LGBT+ young people and engage them as 'Equal Partners' throughout the whole process (focus groups, online survey, many discussions & debates)

The idea of Pride outreach and the pride pack was conceived.

The whole organization needs to be brought on the Harm Reduction journey (young people & drugs worker present their ideas to staff)

Aim:

Harm Reduction campaign to promote safety and well being at Pride

Objective:

Pride Outreach, Pride 'Sesh Pack'



Pride Sesh Pack Development

Funding €5000 = 5000 packs

Pack contents - Sexual health products,
harm reduction information and mental
health service information and other
goodies :)

Collaborators

Gay Health Network, Man2Man,
GaySwitchboard, GMHS, LGBTIHelpline,
Pieta House and Ana Liffey Drug Project

Harm Reduction Messaging

What do we want this pack to say?

You matter a lot!
Eat, Sleep, Hydrate, Repeat
Safety is Sexy





Decriminalisation

BeLonG To's Story



**Drugs Treated as
Health Issue Not a
Criminal Issue**

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