WORCESTERSHIRE CHILDREN FIRST

RE: LGBT+ Experiences of Health and Social Care Services in Worcestershire

The local authority, in partnership with Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust, and Herefordshire and Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group, recently produced a report for their survey *Health Watch report, Worcestershire Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender+: Experiences of Health and Social Care Services*. In this report, a number of recommendations were made for Worcestershire Children First to ensure we are responding to the needs and voices of LGBT+ children and young people in Worcestershire. The recommendations included:

Information

- Ensuring relevant information is available – in printed formats within services, on organisation website and promoted online via social media where appropriate about:
    - a) Different LGBT+ identities
    - b) Gender identity and transition
    - c) Sex, sexual health and how to access sexual health services
    - d) Local LGBT+ support groups and youth groups
    - e) How to access support for mental health and emotional wellbeing
    - f) Trusted sources of online information and support

Advice and Support

- How to support and encourage local LGBT+ groups and support services for young people.
- How to provide LGBT+ information and support for parents / carers.

Schools and Colleges

- Encouraging schools and colleges to:
    - a) Ensure teaching and support staff in schools have an awareness and understanding of LGBT+
    - b) Consider how they could raise awareness and understanding of LGBT+ amongst pupils through PHSCE lessons, assemblies, LGBT+ groups or clubs, displays and events
    - c) Consider how they include LGBT+ information as part of sex education and sexual health promotion

Worcestershire Children First's response

We want to support inclusion, we are pleased to consider these recommendations and will implement the following objectives working with schools and colleges. Progress against these objectives will be monitored by WCF's Education and Early Help Leadership Team, who will report to the Education Planning Group:

Information

We will aim to ensure relevant information is available - in printed formats within services, on WCF's website and online via social media - where appropriate for:

- Different LGBT+ identities
- Gender identity and transition
- Sex, sexual health and how to access sexual health services
- Local LGBT+ support groups and youth groups
- How to access support for mental health and emotional wellbeing
- Trusted sources of online information and support

These key areas will be incorporated into WCF's communication strategy to ensure relevant information and other relevant items such as national awareness days, are promoted.   We will also work with our participation groups of young people to review and comment on this content.

Advice and Support

We will review and consider:
- How we support access to   local LGBT+ groups and support services for young people.
- How we provide LGBT+ information and support for parents / carers.

We will work with Public Health who have the remit for sexual health and can provide expertise in implementing findings, which will be reviewed by WCF's Education Planning Group to inform our planning and further embed inclusive practices and a culture of inclusivity and will inform our frontline staff to improve their inclusive practice and help them to signpost to advice and support.

Schools and Colleges

We will encourage maintained schools and colleges to:

- Ensure teaching and support staff in schools have an awareness and understanding of LGBT+ by encouraging schools to consider their Equality and Diversity policies during the next academic year.
- Consider how they could raise awareness and understanding of LGBT+ amongst pupils through PHSCE lessons, assemblies, LGBT+ groups or clubs, displays and events, in addition to reviewing how schools include LGBT+ information as part of sex education and sexual health promotion.

We will utilise our phase lead meetings with primary, middle and secondary schools to raise awareness of these recommendations and monitor progress against these objectives in order to further promote inclusivity within schools.