

Trans Social group – Fife

Consultation Findings

5th Scout Hall, Dunnikier Road, Kirkcaldy

25th June 2016



LGBT Health and Wellbeing (LGBT Health) held a consultation event on the 25th June 2016 in Kirkcaldy.

The aim of the event was to explore how a new regular social group in Fife would best serve its participants. It was important for LGBT Health that the people who access the service lead the direction, requirements and content of the group and its activities and we welcomed the valuable contributions of the participants.

Five people were greeted to the event by staff members: Diane, Frankie and Annette.

After introductions and a briefing around the aims of the day, the consultees were divided into 2 groups to discuss a series of questions. Consultees moved between groups to make sure that everyone had a chance to meet each other and share ideas. The thoughts of each group were scribed and displayed on a washing line of ideas.

The questions asked were:-

- Who should the group be open to?
- Where in Fife should the group meet?
- What factors are essential in regards to venue?
- When, how often and for how long?
- How should the group be structured?



The suggestions and ideas from the consultation are outlined below.

Who should the group be open to?

Non cis and intersex people / cis friends as support for the first few visits / Friends,
Family & Allies

Inviting Friends, Family and Allies to attend the group on a quarterly basis

Anyone who is questioning their gender

New members to contact the Development Worker prior to attending the group

Dogs and other animal companions

Where in Fife should the group meet?

Kirkcaldy / Dunfermline / Burntisland / Lochgelly / Cupar / St Andrews

1 East Fife & 1 West Fife

Alternating venue location



What factors are essential to the venue?

Regular venue to feel safe and secure

Accessible for people using a wheelchair, with vision or hearing impairment
(adjustable lighting, carpet, low roof)

Private as possible

Close to public transport

Breakout / secondary / quiet room – preferable

Trans friendly staff at venues

Comfortable seating – but not essential

Close to local café

Changing area with a mirror

Gender Neutral Toilets preferable, if not, cubicle/urinal signage agreeable

Refreshments Tea/Coffee/Juice/Water (Free or small donation)



When, how often and for how long?

Alternate 2 locations. Suggestions, Kirkcaldy, Dunfermline, Cupar

Monthly / Twice a month at different locations with one meeting at a permanent location

Weekend daytime / Mid-week and weekend swap around

3 hours / 2-3 hours. People can leave at a time that suits

Important not to clash with other trans friendly groups e.g. T Time Edin and Glasgow and Trans Men Scotland, Edinburgh Trans Women and LGBT Youth group

How should the group be structured?



To have a focus/theme for each meeting

An organised activity, e.g. workshop/speaker (limit to 45-60mins)

Time for talking

A programme of events advertised in advance

Name badges with preferred pronouns

Possible icebreaker (30 mins after start time)

A suggestion box / Brainstorming sessions

Suggested Activities

Arts and Crafts / Art Therapy

Dancing

Recipe Swap / Healthy Eating

Gardening

Guest Speakers

Physical Activity/ Fitness – Walking, exercise

Quiz / Games

Trans and Non Binary information sessions

Information sessions about reporting hate crimes, relaxation, employment rights and benefits

Clothes Swap / Donations

Movies

Coffee mornings / Afternoon Teas



Other Suggestions

Online groups for people who cannot attend

Secret Facebook group / Blackboard Collaborative

Live streaming of events to help people build confidence to attend

Develop a team of Volunteers

Possible small money donation from members towards the room hire/refreshments



And last but not least..... Bells for Diane!

Next steps.....

LGBT Health will consider and apply the findings from this consultation and develop the project by commencing with a monthly Fife Trans Social Group. Venues, dates and programme activities will be announced shortly.

We would like to thank the consultees for their creative and constructive ideas and we really appreciate their time and input to this consultation. We hope that this community participation continues.

We would also like to thank Dave Torrance, MSP and Scout Leader for donating the free use of the 5th Scout Hall for hosting this meeting.

For more information about this event or any part of our work in Fife please contact Diane Florence, Fife Development Worker on 07508 608699 or diane@lgbthealth.org.uk (please note that Diane works part-time hours)