

**To members of the Sports Matters Implementation Group - Participation**  
**From: The Rainbow Project**

**Purpose**

The purpose of this paper is to draw members' attention to ongoing work with the Minister and officials from the Department for Culture, Arts and Leisure around participation in sport for members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGB&T) community, in the context of the publication of the Executive's Sexual Orientation Strategy and Action Plan.

**Background**

Following a meeting with the DCAL Minister and officials from Sport NI in 2012, The Rainbow Project were invited, and presented, to the third meeting of the SMIG participation group on 27 March 2012. We found that meeting particularly useful in helping us gain an understanding of the monitoring and reporting processes of the Sports Matters Strategy, and hope that members of the Group found the engagement useful by way of gaining an understanding of some of the issues faced by LGB&T people in and around sport and participation.

The Executive is in the process of producing a Sexual Orientation Strategy and Action Plan, due to be published for consultation in the very near future and the DCAL Minister is particularly keen that issues around sport and participation are featured.

A number of reports have been published in recent years looking at participation levels and issues for LGB&T people in sport.

[http://www.stonewall.org.uk/documents/leagues\\_behind.pdf](http://www.stonewall.org.uk/documents/leagues_behind.pdf)

<http://www.lgbtyouthnorthwest.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Including-LGBT-young-people-in-sport1.pdf>

[http://www.sportwales.org.uk/media/1091778/sugar\\_styled\\_doc\\_eng\\_-\\_lgb\\_final.pdf](http://www.sportwales.org.uk/media/1091778/sugar_styled_doc_eng_-_lgb_final.pdf)

[http://www.sportni.net/NR/rdonlyres/1E0DD5D5-6923-444F-BFA0-146FC971F06F/0/A\\_Literature\\_Review\\_of\\_Sexual\\_Orientation\\_in\\_Sport.pdf](http://www.sportni.net/NR/rdonlyres/1E0DD5D5-6923-444F-BFA0-146FC971F06F/0/A_Literature_Review_of_Sexual_Orientation_in_Sport.pdf)

## **Key issues for consideration**

Some key issues for consideration by the SMIG participation group and individuals and clubs across sporting disciplines in relation to sexual orientation and gender identity is: a) the need to better understand the issues faced by LGB and T people when participating, or self excluding from participation, in sport b) raising awareness of the issues faced by minority communities and c) enabling and facilitating clubs and governing bodies to effectively address issues around homophobia and transphobia and promote inclusive environments for all.

## **Recommendations**

### A. Understanding the issue

Carry out or commission research identifying patterns of representation and reasons for under representation.

Add a question/questions around sexual orientation into the Northern Ireland Sport and Physical Activity Survey.

### B. Demonstrate support

Promote the GEO charter on homophobia and transphobia in sport and link this to the Sport NI Equality Standard and throughout schools.

Develop leadership training about sexual orientation and gender identity equality and impact assessment guidance, to be delivered to all lead sport body CEO's and key public officials working in sport.

### C. Providing support

Develop and provide practical and policy guidance on ensuring inclusive sport for LGB&T people, especially for clubs, governing bodies and elite sports organisations.

Develop and disseminate advice and guidance materials and systems for sports people dealing with sexual orientation.

Incorporate issues around sexual orientation and gender identity awareness into official programmes for coaches and officials, particularly those working with young people.

Additionally it is recommended that The Rainbow Project be invited to participate in the SMIG (Participation) structures as a delivery partner.

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