

# Tackling LGBTQIA+ Loneliness in the South West

A young people's manifesto for change

## Healthcare

- Make trans healthcare more accessible.
- Plan an overhaul of the mental health system because so many LGBTQIA+ people are lonely due to mental health reasons or PTSD, or because of past experiences of violence, ignorance and hatred.
- Invest more in mental health services.

### Education

- Provide more education about the LGBTQIA+ community and experiences from earlier on to motivate people to take action.
- Offer better support for transgender people in schools, as well as training for all staff on how to approach issues surrounding gender and sexuality.

- Make it easier to access support groups for LGBTQIA+ people in schools.
- Provide guidelines on bullying for trans individuals.
- Disband the idea of uniforms for male / female students.
- Make it mandatory for places of education to have an LGBTQIA+ group.

# Community

- Put more in place for young people, like activities and meeting places for different groups (LGBTQIA+, disability groups and just regular youth groups like walking groups, art groups etc).
- Provide better queer advice and crisis helplines.

# Authors

The following young people (16-25) created this manifesto as part of a series of creative workshops exploring LGBTQIA+ loneliness and belonging in the South West, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and hosted by the University of Exeter in partnership with the Intercom Trust and Writer, Natalie McGrath:

Jade, Riley Batty, Grey, Mitchy, Elliott Ramsey, Alfie Horrill, Maddie, Perrin Hooper, Jord, Holly.

To find out more about The Beat of Our Hearts, visit our website: http://blogs.exeter.ac.uk/beatofourhearts/about-us/