**Top Ten Tips for Making Your Pride**

**Inclusive of Young People**

1. **Provide specifically for young people**

Whether this is provision integrated into your main Pride event and/or separate from the main event(s), ensure that it is designed *specifically* for young people and targeted at them in promotion, etc. If you can provide for young people as both part of your main event, such as youth groups in the march/parade, a youth stage, safe meeting points, etc, and provide a specific youth space with staffing, activities, refreshments, etc, then you are creating opportunities for an even wider variety of young people to attend and participate.

1. **Work with young people**

This can be done directly or via partnership organisations, such as youth groups. The more you work with young people, the easier it will be to provide for them and outreach to them. If you can involve them in the planning, promoting and running of events/spaces, all the better. Total co-production with LGBT+ young people could transform Pride events.

1. **Reduce or eliminate costs of transport, entry and participation for young people**

Young people have limited access to funds for transport, event tickets, activities, outfits, refreshments and merchandise. If your event is really designed with young people in mind, you will have to provide accessible or free options for many of these.

1. **Decentre partying and drinking culture**

Legally, young people up until 18 cannot purchase drinks nor enter lots of venues. Many (young) LGBT+ people are not interested in doing so even if they are legally permitted. Create dry spaces and events, and consider what kinds of partying are safe and accessible for LGBT+ young people.

1. **Remember that LGBT+ young people have many intersectional identities**

As with any group of LGBT+ people, LGBT+ young people include, amongst others, religious people, people of colour, women, trans and gender non-conforming people, disabled people, working class people and people who do not live in/near cities. If your event accommodates a wide range of identity intersections then more LGBT+ young people - and more diverse groups of LGBT+ young people - will attend.

1. **Consider partnership with an LGBT+ youth group or organisation**

Outreach to, provision for and co-production with young people are all much easier to achieve if they are being overseen by workers who already specialise in this area. If you have a budget, look into hiring LGBT+ youth workers to run your provision and/or plan your events and spaces with you. If you have a limited budget, consider partnering with a relevant organisation.

1. **Create and signpost to safe (quieter) spaces**

Mental health first aid areas, youth zones, quiet spaces, rest spots: there are lots of names and functions that a safe (quieter) space might take but having at least one visible and designated can enable those who are overwhelmed, lost and/or distressed to take time out and get the required support.

1. **Provide (young people’s) toilets that are accessible and are not gendered**

Young LGBT+ people report issues with gendered toilets and inaccessible toilets at Pride events. This lack of non-gendered and/or accessible facilities can alienate trans and gender non-conforming young people, and/or disabled young people, as well as cisgender and/or abled allies. (It is also worth noting that accessible or adapted toilets are not the same as non-gendered toilets.) Furthermore, toilets are often a space where people go unsupervised so it is helpful to have toilets designated just for young people where possible so as to minimise the risk of potential interactions with (possibly unsafe) unknown adults.

1. **Look into alternatives for security (or ensure all security receives relevant briefing)**

Security staff often are not all trained in gender, sexuality, race, dis/ability, etc awareness, and are subsequently a common source of stress for young LGBT+ people attending Prides, particularly young people of colour, trans and gender non-conforming young people, and disabled young people. Whilst security is often a concern for organisers, it is worth thinking about what alternatives there are or whether you can brief all security staff prior to the event(s).

1. **Learn from LGBT+ young people**

LGBT+ young people are politicised, energetic and committed. Much of what they want and need can benefit many other LGBT+ people.

For instance:

* dry spaces/events make it easier for sober LGBT+ adults to participate;
* good safeguarding practices make environments safer for all;
* quiet zones can benefit anyone who is overwhelmed, distressed and/or anxious; non-gendered facilities will make Prides safer and more accessible for all trans and gender non-conforming people;
* options in parades for young people using mobility aids will create space for other physically disabled LGBT+ people to participate;
* reduced entry costs will open Prides to the many LGBT+ low or no earners without access to other funds;
* re-centring LGBT+ people over commercialism and partying at Pride events will create conditions where those who are alienated or left out by such elements might re-engage; etc, etc, etc.

And if a political approach with educative aims is taken, as called for by many young people, all Pride attendees, whether participating fully or watching from the sidelines, could be emboldened to make changes in the world at large; to create conditions where all LGBT+ people are safe to express themselves fully wherever they might be. Fundamentally, LGBT+ young people know what is best for them and if we are willing to listen then they might just lead us into creating not only better, more inclusive Prides but a better, more inclusive world.