



CHI Press Release

Children's Health Ireland (CHI)

- Launches HSE Rainbow Badge Initiative for staff -

Monday 21 June 2021

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) are delighted to announce today the launch of the HSE Rainbow Badge, giving our staff a way to show that their place of work offers open, non-judgemental and inclusive care for children, young people, families and staff who identify as LGBTI+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex; the + simply means inclusive of all identities, regardless of how people define themselves). The initiative aims to make a positive difference by promoting a message of inclusion.

LGBTI+ young people are often exploring their own sense of self and identity. Despite improving social attitudes in general towards LGBTI+ people in Ireland, negative attitudes (such as homophobia, biphobia, transphobia) are still widely prevalent. Mental health issues such as depression and anxiety are more common in young people who identify as LGBTI+, with figures showing that more than half of Irish LGBTI+ young people self-harm; 2 in 3 seriously consider suicide; and tragically 1 in 3 have attempted suicide. Many young people still feel afraid to disclose their sexual or gender identity and to 'come out' – being unable to do so limits our ability in providing the medical care they need.

Welcoming the launch of this initiative, Eilish Hardiman, Chief Executive, CHI said 'Simple visible symbols, such as the Rainbow Badge can make a big difference for those unsure of both themselves and the reception they may receive if they disclose their sexuality and/or gender identity. Many young LGBTI+ people say they do not have an adult they can turn to or confide in. As advocates, staff who work in across CHI can play a key role in making things better.'



Dani Hall, Consultant in Paediatric Emergency Medicine, CHI said 'Visibility still matters; this badge shows that our staff are here to listen and help LGBTI+ young people and families. But the model is more than just the badge; it's a model that emphasises the substance behind the symbol, with the emphasis on education for staff, responsibility and support.

Wearing a badge is only one step towards overcoming healthcare inequalities but with increasing awareness and education we can start to overcome barriers to healthcare for LGBTI+ young people in Ireland.'

-ENDS-

Notes to Editor

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) governs and operates acute paediatric services for the greater Dublin area and all national paediatric services, some of which are on an all-island basis at CHI Crumlin, Temple Street and Tallaght Hospitals and our paediatric outpatient and urgent care centre at CHI at Connolly, Blanchardstown. We have a staff of 3,600 who delivered treatment and care to over 260,000 children and young people across our four locations in Dublin in 2020. 39 clinical specialties who are serving 25% of the Irish population for their national specialty needs and the secondary care needs of the Greater Dublin Area.

See Rainbow Badge Initiative Social Media animation [here](#)

Pictured L to R are Eilish Hardiman, Chief Executive, CHI, Dr Dani Hall, Consultant in Paediatric Emergency Medicine and Rainbow Badge Clinical Lead, Warren O'Brien, CNM 3, Quality Department, CHI and Tracey Wall, Acting Chief Director of Nursing, CHI

Spokespersons

Dr Dani Hall is available for press and media interviews, please contact;

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2 in 3 Irish LGBTI people
do not feel respected by their health care professional

Maycock et al, GLEN and BeLonGTo (2009)

3 in 4 Irish LGBTI
people feel that Irish healthcare professionals lack knowledge and sensitivity to LGBTI issues

Maycock et al, GLEN and BeLonGTo (2009)

Almost 1 in 2 Irish LGBTI
people seek out LGBTI-friendly healthcare professionals because of previous bad experiences

Maycock et al, GLEN and BeLonGTo (2009)

More than half
of Irish LGBTI young people aged 14-18 have self-harmed

The LGBTIreland Report (2016)

LGBTI young people have 4 times
higher levels of severe stress, anxiety and depression than their peers

My World Survey: National Study of Youth Mental Health in Ireland (2012)

2 in 3 Irish LGBTI
young people have seriously considered ending their life

The LGBTIreland Report (2016)

15 years old
is the most common age for an LGBTI person to attempt to take their life

The LGBTIreland Report (2016)

1 in 3 Irish LGBTI
young people have attempted suicide

The LGBTIreland Report (2016)

1 in 4 Irish LGBTI
young people skip school to avoid anti-LGBTI bullying

The LGBTIreland Report (2016)

1 in 2 Irish LGBTI
young people experience anti-LGBTI bullying at school

The LGBTIreland Report (2016)

Almost two-thirds
of Irish LGBTI people have seriously thought of ending their life

The LGBTIreland Report (2016)

1 in 3 Irish LGBTI
people have self-harmed

The LGBTIreland Report (2016)

3 in 4 Irish transgender
people consider suicide

The LGBTIreland Report (2016)

Levels of self-harm
are twice as high in Irish LGBTI people compared to their peers

The LGBTIreland Report (2016)

Levels of attempted suicide
are 3 times higher in Irish LGBTI people compared to their peers

The LGBTIreland Report (2016)

1 in 5 Irish LGBTI people
have attempted to end their life

The LGBTIreland Report (2016)

