

REFERRAL GUIDELINES FOR UNDER-16s

Please read the following carefully **BEFORE** making a referral to PACE one2one service for under 16 year-olds. Please feel free to ask the project workers any questions.

The PACE one2one service is for children and young people under 16 who would benefit from the opportunity to speak to a specialist youth worker on a one-to-one basis about their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. It forms a distinct service, part of the PACE Youth network (which also has other groups for young people up to the age of 25).

Our one2one service offers – confidential advice, information and advocacy as well as support for young people to access other specialist agencies, such as housing, careers and mental health services. **However, it is not a long-term counselling or therapeutic service.** The PACE one2one service is a short-term support service to help young people to bring about positive change in their lives.

As a voluntary sector organisation, we believe the rights of the young person to confidentiality, consent to referral and safety to be paramount, especially given high levels of homophobic bullying and violence. Other professionals e.g. teachers, social workers should not be informed of the referral unless:

- (i) **the young person consents to/requests this or**
- (ii) **failure to do so would put them or others at serious risk of harm.**

MAKING A REFERRAL

- 1) To make a referral call **020 7715 0368** or **07504 874195** to talk through the case with a project worker - they will ask for details of the young person's suitability in relation to the following criteria.
 - *Is the young person under 16 years-old?*
 - *Does the young person understand what the service offers and consent to the referral?*
 - *Has the young person's right to confidentiality been thought about? In line with government policy, if the young person is under 16 and does not want parents or carers told this must be respected and the case treated as with any other child protection issue.*
 - *Does the young person have any history of violent or sexual offences?*
- 2) If a referral is agreed please then fully complete the Referral Form to the best of your knowledge, call the project worker to let them know and then fax back on 020 7609 4909, marked 'FAO PACE UNDER 16s YOUTH PROJECT – CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION'.
- 3) If the young person consents an initial assessment can then be set up.