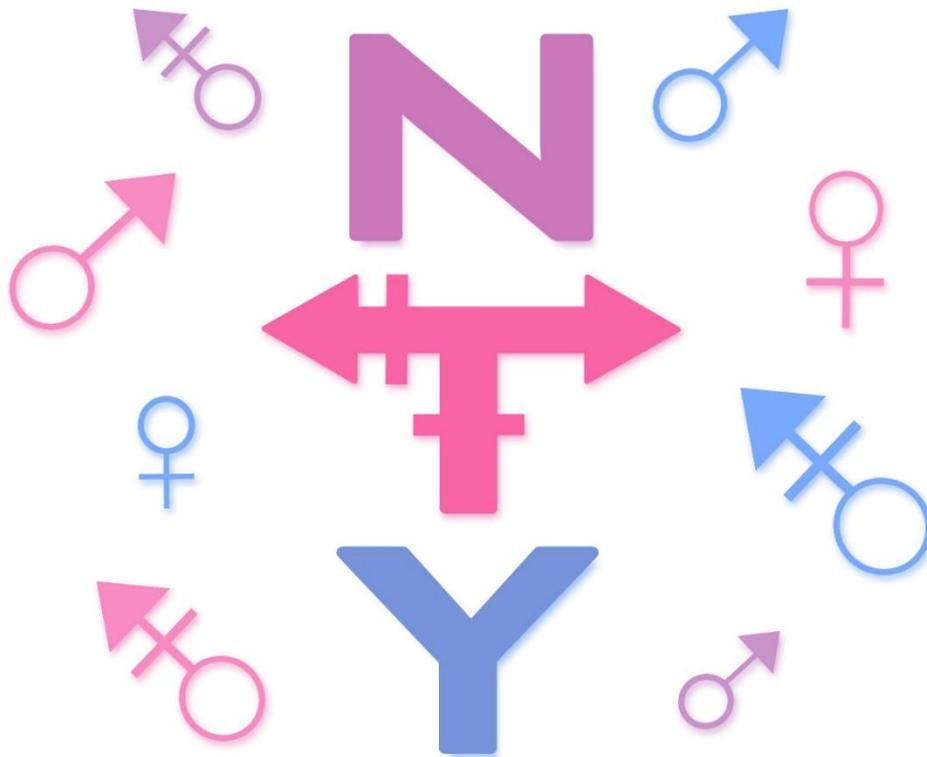


# National Trans Youth Conference 2015 Evaluation

*Sat 14th November, Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham*



## National Trans Youth Network

### Introduction

This is the second year that there has been a National Trans Youth Conference. It was attended by 150 people of which 107 were young people and 43 were adults such as youth workers supporting groups to attend and workshop leaders.

The theme of the day was education. There were a number of workshops throughout the day, and a panel discussion in the middle of the day, (see appendix for conference schedule).

**Thank you to our sponsors: GIRES, National LGB&T Partnership, ATL, NASUWT and New Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham.**

## **Participant evaluations**

Below is the evaluation summary from the participants on the day.

### **Question 1: 'Please tell us the highlights of your day'**

**The following answers were given in response to the question:**

- Finding out about various projects happening around the country.
- Filmmaking workshop and friends!
- The film workshop, the short films and meeting new people.
- Awesome to see the passion of everyone here.
- Really liked the non-binary workshop.
- Seeing so many positive young people.
- Meeting people.
- Good interactive discussion, good group work, very thought through provoking debate.
- Meeting people.
- The panel.
- Film making.
- Meeting people.
- People.
- Workshops and meeting other young people.
- Twitter blowing up.
- Film workshop and meeting others.
- Yoga workshop.
- Meeting other youth workers.
- Online information workshop.
- Talking to other young people.
- The buffet. Tea was also good and media workshop.
- Meeting other people like me.
- Question and answer.
- Watching the films that have been created by young people present.
- Fox Fisher workshop.
- Meeting people.
- Being in a positive atmosphere full of trans people, interesting speakers.
- Meeting new people.
- Meeting so many wonderful people and learning so much.
- Producing footage of the day for publicity, film making.
- Zine workshop, panel, freebies and spending it with my boyfriend.
- Workshop 2, talking to people (friends)
- Panel (ongoing), Charlie.
- Socializing with people.
- Meeting new people and discussing relevant issues.
- Film workshop.
- Film making workshop.

- Making a film and being in it.
- The film workshop.
- Nut desserts.
- Panel.
- Meeting new people.
- The panel.
- The people.
- Helping and transphobia workshop.
- Charter for schools and lesson plan workshop.
- Meeting people.
- Getting to ask questions to the panel.
- Meeting new people.
- Q&A.
- Whole thing, workshops.
- Seeing the strong sense of community amongst the young people.
- Networking with others.
- Workshops.
- Zine workshop.
- Hearing from trans people, sharing experiences.
- Workshops.
- The workshops.
- All of it.
- Doing yoga.
- Watching the films people had made.
- Workshop lesson plan.
- The film making workshop.
- Seeing so many people, workshops on lesson planning and rights in school.
- Meeting cool trans people.
- Meeting new trans people.
- Networking.
- Films and networking.
- Networking.
- Meeting other trans youth.
- Watching the films and my last workshop.
- Transphobia workshop.
- The twitter feed.
- Intersex intro.
- The wild panel and twitter feed.
- The panel debate.
- Seeing people like me.
- Networking.

## **Question 2: 'Overall, how was your experience of the day?'**

**80 people answered the question**

**The average score (from 1- 10) was 7.6, with the highest score of 10 and the lowest score of 1. The following were given as comments in response to this question:**

- It was a very memorable first time experience at a trans conference.
- It's really great and good fun to be surrounded by other trans Young People.
- It was overall very good during the day but the panel did get very agitated and caused a lot of distress.
- Very good. Everyone nice.
- Good experience- would come again.
- My own anxiety ruined it.
- Food wasn't too good, panel was.... Eeeehhhh, argumentative and disrespectful. But was still good.
- The workshops didn't really interest me. I would have preferred to just meet new people & chill, than feel like I was back at school.
- Fun food wasn't too good, panel was disrespectful.
- Somewhat disappointing after last year.
- Great to meet other youth workers.
- Liked having a good rant.
- Mis-gendering during panel and gov't general unhelpfulness
- I met Sabah Choudrey, How wonderful.
- Very informative, interactive and thought provoking.
- The panel could have been better.
- Chill room wasn't very chill.

## **Question 3: 'Please rate the venue'**

**81 people answered the question**

**The average score (from 1- 10) was 7.8, with the highest score of 10 and the lowest score of 2. The following were given as comments in response to this question:**

- Accessible but poor internet access and confusing layout.
- Poor phone reception and Wi-Fi.
- It's in a hospital!
- Not exactly central for the people from the north/Scotland.
- Good facilities.
- Less intimidating if it wasn't in a hospital.
- Hospital seemed a bad choice.
- Nice and clean.

- Accessible.
- Very good facilities.
- NO WIFI!!
- Cool and had shop.
- A little confusing but easy to find and follow.
- Would be better if not in a hospital with tiny rooms.
- Could be better if wasn't in a hospital.
- More food options downstairs.
- Too warm!!!
- Great to be on one floor. Good space.
- Hospital was very stuffy.
- Lights turned off but it was ok.
- Was cool, had shop. But was expensive.
- Really warm.
- Not as good in size as last.
- Difficult to get to re distance.

#### **Question 4: 'Please rate the lunch and refreshments'**

**77 people answered the question**

**The average score (from 1- 10) was 6.9, with the highest score of 10 and the lowest score of 1. The following were given as comments in response to this question:**

- More chicken and Bacon sandwiches.
- Better cakes e.g. chocolate fudge cake.
- Pudding was nice, I hate mayo.
- Lots of cake but no vegan options.
- More cake.
- Ideally some more variety to be provided.
- No gluten free option.
- Could be more choice but overall good.
- Nice variety of food.
- Desert was nice.
- Please label the sandwiches.
- Got MacDonald's.
- Couldn't eat anything.
- It was okay not much selection.
- Good buffet.

### **Question 5: 'Please tell us where you heard about the event'**

**The following answers were given in response to the question:**

- LGBT Group x 2
- Afternoon Tea x 14
- T group x 3
- Disc x 4
- TYG in Glasgow
- Via email x 2
- Safe T UK x 3
- Gender intelligence x 7
- Mermaids x 2
- Yorkshire MESMAC
- Youth worker x 2
- Trans youth group
- Via work
- Through colleagues at West Rhyl Young people's project
- Mom
- Viva
- Youth Cymru x 4
- Friend x 2
- TMSA x 2
- LGBT youth Scotland x 2
- Space T group x 5
- YPAS x 2
- Last year's conference x 6
- Support group
- NTYN x 5
- Youth organisation
- Trans. Form
- Online x 5

### **Question 6: 'What key message will you take from the day?'**

**The following answers were given in response to the question:**

- Schools need to adapt and change as a priority to deal effectively and supportively re trans issues and pupils.
- There's a lot more work to be done.
- Change is slow to come but it's coming.
- You can present how you want you are still trans.
- More education needed.
- Make a point!
- Education for anyone, getting the word out about transgender.
- The importance of meeting people.

- That the government doesn't actually care about trans people?
- That there are ways to improve rights and life for trans and non-binary people.
- Progress is happening for non-binary and binary people.
- Shit needs to get done.
- We need to push for change ourselves.
- Non-binary learning.
- Education, education and acceptance.
- The government is not listening to trans young people.
- Having a load of old people on a panel telling us nothing, is a waste of time.
- Yay trans!!
- The only way things will change is if we do it ourselves. Nobody else cares enough.
- Need for schools to improve.
- It needs to be more youth led.
- More action is needed in schools.
- When 1 step out of my comfort zone, I can make good memories and friends.
- There are lots of awesome trans people working to smash the cis-tem.
- That mental health effects posture.
- Trans charter is development. Government can't do much about transphobia.
- Trans people are awesome.
- Yoga scares me.
- More about posture.
- Tips for passing.
- That there are people like me.
- There are many issues that trans face but we can work on them.
- There are more than enough people to make a difference.
- It's good to network.
- Young people aren't brilliantly informed with the political system.
- Education is key.
- Young people need to be more political informed.
- That trans people are cool m8!
- There's always help but the government sucks.
- Educate.
- Be who you are and don't let others define you.
- Be who you are and embrace it.
- Stand up for your rights.
- There are more understanding around non-binary issues.
- That there is a strong sense of community.
- Education for all is what we need. But simple actions too.
- Give support, show sensitivity to needs other people.
- Trans is good.
- Trans positive.
- To be yourself.
- Don't limit yourself because you're trans.
- Be confident in myself, if I don't like something say something and try to change it.
- Trans people can be really trans misogynistic.
- Proactive activism.

- Don't assume.
- Young people's voices are paramount.
- Joint work is the way forward.
- Trans people have a voice and should speak out.
- People are helping trans people but there is still more to do.
- Help is there but the government is poor
- Trans people have a voice and should speak out.
- Stand up for trans rights.
- Trans people know what they want.
- Nothing I don't already know.

**Question 7: 'What future events/activity would you like to see from the network?'**

**The following answers were given in response to the question:**

- More meetups.
- Adult bouncy castle and trans history.
- Meet ups so people can get to know each other better.
- Get trans groups together more often.
- More conferences all over the UK.
- Meet ups to socialise more.
- Open space- more time to talk to each other.
- More trans conferences/ projects/ events/ workshops.
- Anything that's not a panel.
- More conferences, education in schools and spreading awareness and training of teachers.
- More conference, more films made to educate people.
- Trans sports.
- This again.
- Meetups.
- Maybe to involve their parents or trans youth where they can work positively for future.
- Music and entertainment.
- More get together for young people.
- Social events for young people.
- More senior NHS on panel.
- Trans history.
- More mental health issues being discussed.
- Workshops etc. for education.
- Get trans peeps together more.
- Better ones.
- More national meet-ups.
- More things run by trans youth e.g. panels.
- Intersectionality based events/ workshops.
- Another conference more non-binary on panels.
- More networking opportunities, less panel.

- Residential.
- General places to meet trans people with no political agenda.
- An event on media and support networks.
- Tips for passing.
- More networking.
- A Scottish conference.
- Campaigns, socials.
- Not panels.
- More non-binary/ intersex inclusion by informed parties.
- More youth events and social events.
- More safe spaces for young people especially 18-25 as it's a much underserved group.
- More events.
- Involvement from trans youth.
- Come to Scotland.
- Mid-year activities.
- Youth panels, consulting with people who can actually make change.
- More social activities.
- Healthcare professionals taking our comments on board.
- More conferences! Swimming trips?
- More creative themed workshops.
- Something similar.
- More local groups- North West.
- More active.
- Some more options for non-young people.
- More frequently.
- Teacher training.

### **Question 8: 'Anything else you would like to tell us?'**

**The following answers were given in response to the question:**

- Thanks
- Thanks for an event like this.
- The purpose of the panel was a bit vague.
- A new mixture of panel members for next year.
- Get a panel with young trans people or people who can do something.
- Get the panel to actually answer questions.
- Was confused as gluten free food wasn't displayed or mentioned this year- so brought my own before I realised. Last years was better.
- Great to meet new people.
- Listen to us when we're talking, and answer the questions we ask. If we're given an event and a platform/space to have a voice, let us use it. There's a lot of frustration about ignorance and the slowness of progress. We're not going to settle for 'it's better!!' Also, we need more youth voices! This includes youth-led panels and workshops. Why was it a panel of older people

- We're here, we're queer, get used to it.
- Much more care needs to be taken use the correct pronouns.
- Don't assume gender. If misgendering appears, apologize directly and not in an umbrella statement.
- It was good to have a choice of activities.
- No gluten free, lactose free or vegan food options. Thanks for having us.
- Have trans youth on next year's panel.
- It was too short. The misgendering in the panel was ignorant.
- There was a lot of misgendering on the panel and I found it ignorant.
- Thanks very much.
- Panel sectioned into topics and people could write down questions before hand.
- Don't assume gender.
- Longer panel time with a break in between and structured topics for the questions. More productive and effective.
- Please choose a venue with Wi-Fi.
- Probably shouldn't assume gender at a trans youth conference.
- Nope thanks for the opportunity.
- More variety but simpler food.
- Hold next years in North East.
- There was lots of subtle transphobia this year, especially trans misogyny.
- It was good.
- Some misgendering.

### **During one workshop young people came up with:**

#### **A Trans Charter for education**

- All teachers to receive a minimum of 1 hrs training on trans awareness per year.
- There should be an annual National Student Survey (anonymous) to monitor gender inclusivity.
- No-gendered uniform - Have one single uniform or more than two options for uniform.
- All people should have access to gender neutral bathrooms & changing facilities in all education establishments.
- Whole school commitment to avoid gendered language e.g. 'ladies' or 'guys', and a culture where gendered language is challenged.
- Non-gendered activities/sports MUST be an option in P.E and don't gender sports e.g. all genders should be allowed to play football, all should be allowed to play netball.
- Everywhere should have a comprehensive policy on transphobic bullying.
- Every establishment should have a named person responsible for trans support, and they must have links with relevant local/national trans organisations. (BUT, supporting trans students is everybody's job).
- There must be a commitment to not assume gender &/or trans status, which includes a culture of asking people's pronouns, and a culture of accepting the name people tell you they are (which might not be the same as is on the register).

## **Ideas for next year from staff evaluation include:**

- Ensure there is a hearing loop in place in the main room
- Be clear on the main question/ theme for the panel
- Clarify what power the panel have (or not) to change 'the system'
- Read out at start to all folk of a code of conduct (and remind people about it before panel starts), including politeness on all sides, and not gendering people, include in this information about the fact there may be triggers during the day (e.g. mention of body parts/ mental health issues) and remind people of the chill out space
- Keep a chill out space for next time
- Ask youth workers to get their groups to think about questions to ask the panel and email them or tweet them in before the day using the hashtag
- Divide the panel e.g. it is 20mins of the questions sent in before the event, then 20 mins of live questions, then 20 mins of 'workshopping' positive ways forward
- Next time's theme could be mental health
- Key people have offered to help again next year including Megan, Sorcha and Sabah, so perhaps we invite them onto a planning committee for it and/or do a general shout out to all adults who were there on the day
- The North East have offered to host next year, and have suggested a weekend where people start around lunch time the conference, and we have a fun social programme of bowling and a quiz and dance workshops in the evening, then a morning of conference on the Sunday
- Manage venue expectations: Good have everything on one level of possible, if not let people know especially if they have access needs. Communicate the venue to people before the event and if the venue is free then say this, so people understand why it might not be as 'swanky' as they would like. Be good to have internet access e.g. Wifi

## **Appendix.**

### **Schedule:**

**National Trans Youth Conference** - Sat 14th November, Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham

#### **Cinema show reel**

CYMRU films

Alex Kaye (Safet) film

Fox's film from last year

NTYN film from last year

Afternoon TEA film

GIRES film

GI Acting film

#### **Stalls/ information sent:**

Sue and Kerry Mermaids

ATL

NASUWT

East midlands Autism

GIRES

Allsorts transformers  
The Proud Trust

<b>Time</b>	
9.00	Registration
9.30	Welcome - Emma Cusdin MC, give last year's winners certificates out and announce strapline competition Nicky Morgan - welcome film from the Government Minister
9.45	Interactive activity to get people talking and at ease
10.15-11.15	Workshops 1 (see below)
11.15-11.30	Break
11.35-13.00	Panel to engage in question and answer session with people attending the conference 1. Emma Cusdin, Chair 2. Alison Pritchard, GEO Director 3. Joe Hayman, Chief Exec PSHE Association 4. Heather Salmon - teacher in private sector 5. Esther Watkin - teacher who has supported YP transitioning in a state school 6. Debbie Hayton - teacher in the state sector who has undergone transition and supported YP doing so 7. Sarah Noble - NUS
13.00-13.45	Lunch and stalls Competition for a strapline – drop in On sticky wall – what should the NTYN work on/do? (use the requests from what people asked for last year as a starting point)
14.00-15.00	Workshops 2 (see below)
15.00-16.00	Workshops 3 (see below)
16.10-16.45	Wrap up, shout outs, evaluations and competition reminder and home

## Workshops

<b>Round 1</b>	1. Write your own lesson plans for schools for trans visibility	L	13
	2. Media training and how to make your own media	L	2
	3. Perspectives of non-binary and intersex people – who are we?	L	10
	4. DISC group - Zines workshop	L	1
	5. Cinema (see below)	L	3
<b>Round 2</b>	1. Successfully transitioning in school and further education (knowing your rights)	L	1
	2. Film workshop	L	2
	3. LGBTYNW - Addressing transphobia rocks!	L	13
	4. Yoga and movement	L	10
	5. Cinema (see below)	L	3
<b>Round 3</b>	1. Charter for schools by young trans people	L	13
	2. BME trans workshops	L	1
	3. The best and worst of trans info online	L	2
	4. What do you want in an app for young trans people?	L	10
	5. Cinema (see below)	L	3