

Being Gay with an Adult role in Scouting



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0845 300 1818

Gay adults in Scouting

It's OK to be an adult in Scouting and be gay!

Throughout the Association there are adults in Scouting who are gay, lesbian or bisexual. Some are open about their sexual orientation others not, either way it is a personal choice which is totally acceptable.

A leader's sexual orientation has no bearing on their suitability to fulfil a role in Scouting. Whatever role an adult chooses to take in Scouting, they must always act in accordance with the Associations Policies and Rules.

Appointments sub-committees must implement the Equal Opportunities policy in accordance with Policy Organisation and Rules.

Equal Opportunities Policy

The Scout Association has, for many years, had an Equal Opportunities Policy. This policy sets out the Scout Association's view on such matters including the acceptance and support of being gay and having an adult role in Scouting.

"There is no basis on which any volunteer offering his or her services in any capacity can be refused an appointment in, or Membership of, the Movement on the grounds of heterosexual or homosexual orientation. Homosexuality has been perceived as incompatible with Scouting by some people (both within and outside The Scout Association) on the basis of a presumed link between homosexuality and paedophilia. This perception has been used to deny homosexual people the chance to work with young people as Scout Leaders. There is no link between homosexuality and paedophilia, and therefore there is no justification for restricting Membership on this basis."

The Scout Association guidelines are clear, non-negotiable and support individual members regardless of their sexual orientation.

Attention should be drawn to the Child Protection yellow card where it makes it clear that a sexual relationship between an adult leader in position of authority and a youth member is unacceptable.

Organisations to help

The Scout Association is not a specialist on giving advice on gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender issues, and recommend the following organisations:

London Lesbian and Gay Switchboard

Providing an information, support and referral service for lesbians, gay men and bisexual people from all backgrounds throughout the United Kingdom.
020 7837 7324
www.ligs.org.uk

Strathclyde Gay & Lesbian Switchboard

Confidential telephone counselling service in the West of Scotland.
Open every night of the week 7-10pm
0141 847 0447

Lothian Gay and Lesbian Switchboard

Confidential helpline aimed at addressing your questions, concerns and needs.
Open every evening of the week, 365 days of the year, 7.30-10pm
0131 556 4049
www.lgls.co.uk

Swansea Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Switchboard

Tuesday 7-10pm
01792 301855

Belfast Cara-Friend

Mon-Wed 7.30-10pm
028 90322 023

Other Gay related factsheets:

- Supporting a Young Person who is Gay and in Scouting. (FS185083)
- It's OK to be Gay and a Scout. Advice for young people. (FS185082)

The Scout Information Centre

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