



## Cancer Champions Background

### Background information

The Rainbow Project was founded in 1994 in response to the HIV and Aids epidemic. Since then, the organisation has developed into a leading LGBTQIA+ organisation working across Northern Ireland. We provide support services to mitigate the impacts of inequality and work to deliver full social and legal equality for LGBTQIA+ people.

We currently have 25 staff located at our offices in Belfast and Derry, and work across Northern Ireland. We also have a number of sessional workers and volunteers. We work in partnership with a number of LGBTQIA+ organisations including Cara-Friend and HERe NI on our shared objectives.

The Rainbow Project is a value led organisation and all our work is underpinned by these values.

**Volunteer Led:** The Rainbow Project values the individual contributions made by each of our volunteers and recognises the key role of volunteers in developing and delivering the strategic aims of the organisation.

**LGBTQIA+ Affirmative:** The Rainbow Project values all sexual orientations and believes that no one sexual orientation is better or worse than any other. We believe that all sexual orientations should be celebrated equally and that no person should face prejudice or inequality based on their sexual orientation.

**Holistic:** The Rainbow Project values a holistic approach to addressing the inequalities faced by LGBTQIA+ people. Our work is led by the treatment of the whole person, taking into account the impact of social factors, rather than just the individual's physical or mental health.

**Innovative:** The Rainbow Project values new and innovative approaches to addressing the inequalities experienced by LGBTQIA+ people.

**Expert:** The Rainbow Project strives to be a valued leading expert on LGBTQIA+ issues in Northern Ireland. Through continual study, research and consultation we work to increase our knowledge around issues relating to sexual orientation and gender identity and provide expert services to LGBTQIA+ people and those working with this group.

**Rights Based:** At its core, The Rainbow Project values the individual human rights of all within society. We believe that to ensure the rights of one you must ensure the rights of all and consequently, our work is carried out from a rights-based perspective.

**Needs led:** The Rainbow Project values the opinions and experiences of our community and society. We ensure that all our work aimed at addressing the inequalities experienced by LGBTQIA+ people is clearly evidence led and in response to the needs of our community.

**Sex positive:** The Rainbow Project values sex, and sexuality, as an important part of who we all are. We believe that understanding our sexuality and promoting openness in our relationships leads to better sex lives, better health and well-being and better relationships.

**Gender aware:** The Rainbow Project values the diverse representations of gender within our society. We believe that people should not have to fit in with the gender roles assigned to us by society and we actively encourage free presentation of gender as a representation of our uniqueness.

Our commitments:

- We will be a passionate advocate for positive change which improves the lives of LGBTQIA+ people
- We will provide high quality services that meet the needs of LGBTQIA+ people and their families
- We will engage with and listen to LGBTQIA+ voices
- We will be a financially sustainable organisation demonstrating good governance and efficiency
- We will work in partnership and support the development of a strong, rights based and sustainable LGBTQIA+ Sector
- We will work collectively with statutory, community, voluntary and private sector organisations to promote the visibility and inclusion of LGBTQIA+ people and their families

### **Macmillan Partnership**

Summary: This is an exciting new project in partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support to support the LGBTQIA+ across Northern Ireland.

As a Macmillan funded professional and as part of The Rainbow Project team, the post holder will foster partnership working, ensuring that the service users voice and needs are at the heart of service delivery activity, in line with Macmillan's and The Rainbow Project's vision.

The staff working on the project will ensure along promoting the services provided by the Rainbow Project and while interacting with stakeholders and service users as a Rainbow Project professional they are also interacting with a Macmillan professional and promoting the full range of Macmillan resources and services.

The Manager and the staff team will also actively engage with Macmillan Cancer Support to contribute expertise and experience and to support the Macmillan Strategy.