

**Report of the Cabinet Member for
Public Health, Communities and Equality**

Introduction

I will be reporting as follows for Full Council on 21 July 2022:

1. by Councillor Hannaford as follows:

Devon County Council has a long-standing commitment to equality and diversity. Trans people are currently experiencing an unprecedented climate of hostility, ignorance, and bigotry. How is Devon County Council using its position of authority to reach out to local trans people and their families, individually and collectively to show solidarity and support, including our own staff members.

Response

1. Equality and Diversity

The June meeting of the County Council's Equality Reference Group highlighted concerns about the "erosion of trans rights and identities" on a national level and we have agreed to work with the LGBT+ representative to detail these concerns to DCC, particularly across Children's Services. The Equality Reference Group is also publishing a Position Statement to remind public authorities of the need to take an 'equality by design' approach, this will be published on Friday 22nd July at [Position Statements - Equality and Diversity \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/position-statements-equality-and-diversity).

We have made provision for unisex toilets at County Hall so that non-binary and trans staff do not have to make difficult choices about using male or female single-sex facilities. All staff were recently reminded that they could show solidarity with non-binary/trans staff by adding their pronouns/honorifics to their email signatures. County Councillors may wish to do the same.

Councillor Roger Croad

Cabinet Member for Public Health, Communities and Equality