In the 11 years since establishing its first LGBT youth group in Dublin, BeLonG To has developed and supported an extensive range of services for young people across Ireland, with a total of 18 groups being supported in 2014. The workshop will explore how the phenomenal growth of LGBT youth groups occurred, through the framework lens of BeLonG To's 'Starter Pack and Accreditation scheme'. First developed in 2006, the starter pack has been successfully evaluated as a cost-effective and sustainable method of developing safe and appropriate supports to LGBT young people. This workshop will explore how the pack has been utilised as a benchmark tool to oversee the development of such services. Encompassing guidance in areas as varied as service provision, training, policy development and fund-raising, the workshop will offer, by way of a structured dialogue and discussion, an opportunity for participants to explore the experience of how the pack acted as a 'go to' guide for the development of LGBT youth services. The workshop will be of interest to anyone working to build sustainable services for sexual minority populations.

David Carroll has held a number of positions working with LGBT communities over the last 20 years. Before becoming Executive Director with BeLonG To, he worked as Director of Services, National Network Manager and Project Leader with the organisation. Previous to this, David worked in the Gay Men's Health Service (HSE) as an Outreach Worker & Trainer. In this role, he was responsible for the creation and coordination of Johnny, a peer action group for gay and bisexual men. David began working with LGBT communities in Galway in 1994, where he held the position of Education and Prevention Coordinator with AIDS WEST. David achieved a first in his MA in Sexuality Studies (DCU, 2012) and has also achieved qualifications in the fields of Social Care, Health Promotion, Training & Education and Addiction Studies.
John Duffy is BeLonG To's National Network Manager. Since joining the team in 2007, he has served in a variety of different roles, including senior youth worker, refugee and asylum seeker support worker and acting project leader of the youth service. He has overseen the updating of the 'Starter Pack and Accreditation scheme' which was launched earlier this year and is the main member of staff working with external organisations in developing their supports for LGBT youth groups.