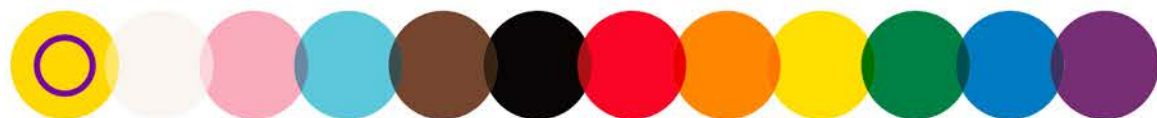


Translating Community Engagement into Action

switchboard

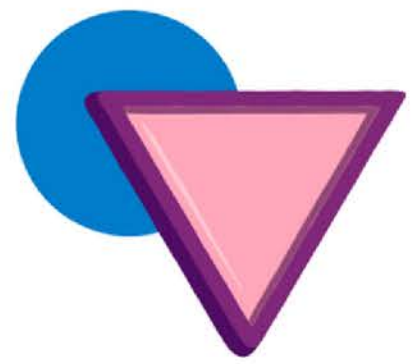


connecting you to LGBTQ+ support





The Beginning of the Housing Journey



- **Engagement commissioned by BHCC and Brighton and Hove CCG**
- **Survey, Focus Groups and 1-1 Interviews**
- **595 responses and 25 in groups and 1-1s**

HEALTH & INCLUSION PROJECT

Switchboard
Connecting you to LGBTQ support

JUNE 2021

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON LGBTQ COMMUNITIES OF BRIGHTON & HOVE

WWW.SWITCHBOARD.ORG.UK

NHS Brighton and Hove Clinical Commissioning Group

Brighton & Hove City Council

The cover features a photograph of two people walking hand-in-hand on a grassy hill under a clear sky.



HOUSING

60%

of young people were experiencing an unsafe living situation

43%

of trans/non-binary people were experiencing an unsafe living situation

22%

of all respondents were experiencing an unsafe living situation



"I was forced back to my parents' house ... which greatly worsened my depression, anxiety and PTSD... put into emergency accommodation after deeming my parents' place an unsafe living situation. Being homeless and living in a damp dark basement with black mould for 4 months did bad things for my mental health, and it is only now I have found a private rented, safe place to live that I am starting to be able to recover. However, my PTSD has increased significantly."

Communities Called For...

- Increased access to timely LGBTQ+ affirming mental health support.
- **Provision of safe housing for LGBTQ people in unsafe or insecure living situations, such as homophobic or transphobic environments or domestic abuse.**
- Access to gender affirming care for trans and non-binary people.
- Provision of LGBTQ affirmative support around specific issues such as grief and loss, relationships, ageing, and disability, from Switchboard and other community organisations
- Support for LGBTQ venues in recognition of their importance as a protective factor in peoples health and wellbeing - reducing social isolation and fostering informal community support.



Next Stop

- **Desktop local research**
- **Consulted with experts by experience, local LGBTQ+ and housing/homeless organisations**
- **Learning From National Initiatives**
- **Housing Summit**

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PRIDE OF PLACE LGBTQ HOUSING SUMMIT

9.30AM - 4.30PM
30TH JUNE 2022

UNIVERSITY OF BRIGHTON CITY CAMPUS
154 EDWARD STREET BRIGHTON
BN2 0JG

About the Event

Multiple research studies have been done across the country which identify the inequalities LGBTQ communities face and the need for LGBTQ affirmative housing across all points in life.

In Brighton and Hove, 22% of the 600 respondents from our research in 2021 were living in an unsafe environment, rising to 60% of young people and 43% of trans/non binary people.

Older LGBTQ people are especially vulnerable to loneliness as they are more likely to be single, live alone, and have lower levels of contact with relatives.

In Brighton and Hove older people worried about where they could be safe and cared for with many too afraid to reveal their identity to care staff.

Communities called for provision of safe housing for LGBTQ people in unsafe or insecure living situations, such as homophobic or transphobic environments or people fleeing domestic abuse.

In response to this we are hosting this LGBTQ Conference in partnership with Brighton University Centre for Transforming Sexuality and Gender and Clarion Futures to provide a solution focused day to address some of the issues faced by LGBTQ communities.



University of Brighton

Centre for Transforming
Sexuality and Gender



**CLARION
FUTURES**

LGBTQ+ Housing Summit



**ACTION
FOCUSED
GROUPS**



Research presentations

Learning from projects elsewhere

EXPERTS BY EXPERIENCE COMMUNITY PANEL

LGBTQ+ Housing Manifesto



- LGBTQ+ specific accomodation for all life stages.
- LGBTQ+ specific housing information and support.
- Awareness training for commissioners and a quality standard for inclusive providers.
- Embedding intersectional needs in future planning.
- High quality data.
- Monitoring around sexual orientation and trans status.





Next Stop...



- Successful bid to Rainbow Fund for Emergency Night Shelter 10 week Pilot.
- Consulting with experts by experience, local LGBTQ+ and housing/homeless organisations.
- Formal Partnerships with Stonewall Housing and The Outside Project. Informal Partnership working with TransPride and MindOut. Evaluation by Justlife and The Bright Ideas Partnership

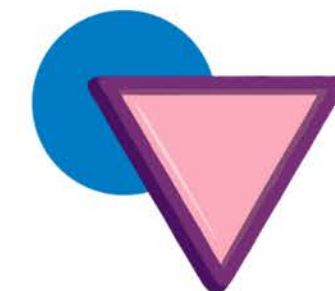


LGBTQ+ Emergency Night Shelter



I chose the LGBTQ+ shelter for safety reasons. I wouldn't have felt safe in a non-exclusive space, fearing transphobia, violence, abuse.

I would have been sofa surfing without the shelter and you can only do that for so long



Night Shelter Overview

- 50% of guests were not known to statutory services
- More people than those in the night shelter were able to access support and advocacy due to the project.
- Project resulted in less LGBTQ+ people rough sleeping and has reduced the risk of abuse and exploitation that comes with rough sleeping and sofa surfing
- It was reported that strong bonds were formed between some of the guests which increased their confidence and wellbeing.
- Challenges with evaluating impact as short project and hesitation by team to collect data
- The LGBTQ+ Night Shelter in all likelihood delivered potential cost savings in excess of the original investment in the Night Shelter (the HACT Social Values Bank).



LGBTQ+ Emergency Night Shelter

“
It provided me with the stability required to get my life back on track. One of the biggest issues with couch surfing homelessness and squatting is a lack of control over your own life. The shelter has provided enough routine and stability for me to focus on my own life...Policies here have helped me address both substance and mental health issues. The staff have been excellent and provided support with dedication and a clear passion. Brilliant all round really”



Recommendations From Night Shelter Pilot



- There is clear need in the city for LGBTQ+ specific accommodation in the city.
- Next LGBTQ+ housing steps should focus on working with LGBTQ+ people with higher support needs, who are able to self-refer to the service.
- Future pilots/services should be funded to run for longer to allow learning from the project to be actioned.
- There should be funding for a reasonable level of paid staff in the accommodation and volunteers should be involved as support.
- LGBTQ+ specific homeless accommodation should be longer-term and self-contained, offering residents privacy and a sense of ownership over the space.



Recommendations From Night Shelter Pilot Continued



- Specific consideration should be given to trans, non-binary and gender diverse people who experience particular hardship when accessing mainstream services.
- Any future pilot should consider appropriate ways the wider impact of a service (beyond housing outcomes) can be captured.
- LGBTQ+ inclusion training for mainstream, commissioned housing services - should be a focus for investment.
- Lower-risk individuals should be supported by employing someone to liaise with mainstream accommodation services, and advise, and advocate on behalf of LGBTQ+ people who are experiencing homelessness.



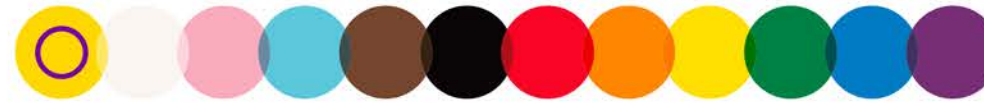
Next Steps

- Switchboard have worked with BHCC rough sleeping and homeless commissioners to audit LGBTQ+ Inclusion in providers.
- LGBTQ+ inclusion training for BHCC commissioned providers.
- Stonewall Housing opening LGBTQ+ specific supported housing.
- Engagement with people with lived experience of DA and temporary accommodation.
- Continued partnership working to expand safe inclusive housing for LGBTQ+ people.

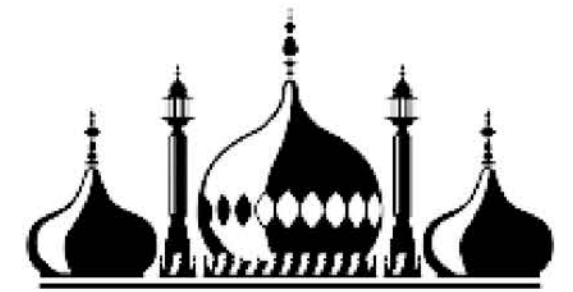


Brighton and Hove
Clinical Commissioning Group

switchboard



connecting you to LGBTQ+ support

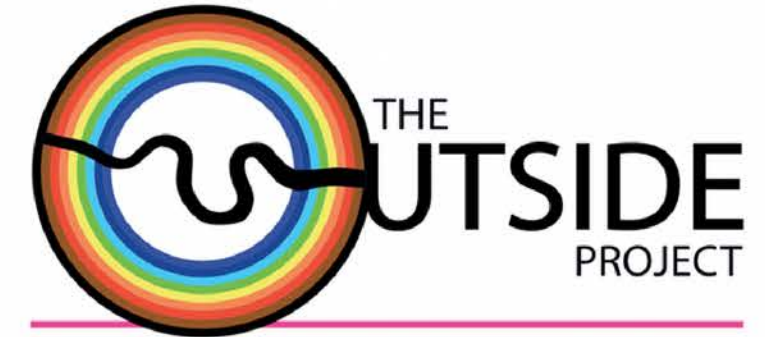


Brighton & Hove
City Council



stonewall
housing

THE BRIGHTON
RAINBOW
FUND



THE UK'S FIRST LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY SHELTER & CENTRE



University of Brighton

Centre for Transforming
Sexuality and Gender



CLARION
FUTURES



Justlife

mind
OUT

LGBTQ mental
health service

Trans Pride
Brighton & Hove