

OUT & ABOUT

Mapping LGBT Lives in Birmingham

September 2011



Research
S.E.Keeble and D.Viney

Data Analysis and Report
Dr Gary W Wood

 **birmingham lgbt**

About Us

Birmingham LGBT (Community Trust) was set up in 2002, with the aim of reinvigorating the diverse LGBT community in the city. Originally named just Birmingham Pride Trust, reflecting its origins as a breakaway group from Pride festival, it had an initial funding donation from profits from the festival. Several of the former Pride organisers had wanted to do something to improve the quality of life of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans community year round, not just during the May bank holiday festival.

The organisation was renamed Birmingham LGBT in June 2011 when the charity became a company limited by guarantee.

Our Vision is a vibrant, diverse lesbian, gay, bisexual and Trans community in Birmingham in which individuals can realise their full potential and have equal access to all the city has to offer.

We aim to do this by the following means.

1. To act as the voice of the LGBT third sector in Birmingham, based on a knowledge and evidence of real need, creating a positive and visible LGBT community.
2. Create a highly skilled LGBT third sector that has opportunities for volunteering and service development.
3. To raise awareness of the needs of the LGBT community in the city and develop appropriate services where needs exist.
4. To challenge negative stereotypes about LGBT people and combat homophobia.

Acknowledgements

Birmingham LGBT would like to acknowledge the following people for their help and support: Dr Catherine Meads, University of Birmingham and Helena Duignan, West Midlands Observatory for help with questionnaire design. Judi Brown, for advice on transgender classification categories and questions. Jim McManus, Joint Director of Public Health for support, advice, and providing access to statisticians. Ann Strach for ongoing support and data sifting. Shakil Dixon, Birmingham City Council for his ongoing support of research project and the organisation. Birmingham City Council Corporate Equalities for commissioning the research. Dr Gary W Woods for analysing the data and writing the report, and all the members of the LGBT community who took the time to fill in the questionnaire it is their stories this research uncovers.

Contact: Birmingham LGBT www.blgbt.org enquiry@blgbt.org 0121 773 0633

Foreword

Out and About is an incredibly important piece of research that provides a valuable insight into the lives of Birmingham LGBT individuals and communities across the city.

Having engaged with over 600 respondents this research provides a thorough and detailed insight into a wide range of areas in people's lives from general health and wellbeing through to educational engagement, the support services that are accessed, and the serious issues of homophobia, suicide and bullying.

Out and About is a clear, concise and refreshing document that provides a backdrop to the LGBT community in Birmingham, and provides vital statistical information that will be critical in the shaping of services, activities and sector over the coming years.

I hope this strong body of evidence can act as a catalyst amongst policy makers, budget holders and leaders in our communities, to develop appropriate engagements and services, and to build a strong, healthy and vibrant sector in partnership with the LGBT community.

Out and About provides strong indicators for the future development and support needs of our communities, and I hope that the strong range of existing LGBT service providers, networks and communities can work together to meet these needs over the coming years. It is a well researched, thorough, and significant piece of work, and a document from which we can build a strong and vibrant LGBT sector for the future.



Matthew Daniels, Chair, Birmingham LGBT

Stephen Hughes, Chief Executive, Birmingham City Council

Birmingham City Council, as a key organisation delivering services within the city, is committed to serving the needs of all our citizens, be they our service users or our employees. A global city with a local heart, Birmingham's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans communities are an important feature of the makeup of our city and its successes.

It is my ambition that we achieve priorities set out in the Birmingham 2026 - Sustainable Communities Strategy, the Council Plan 2011+ and the Big City Plan; for all our citizens to feel safe, be healthy and enjoy an increased quality of life whilst succeeding economically and making a contribution.

Our strategic approach to delivering these priorities includes employing principles of prevention, targeting and personalisation, all of which are supported by the research finding which enable us to address problems before they develop, target resources to places of most need and tailor services. This research is extremely important for Birmingham in this respect and I am delighted that Birmingham City Council has taken a pro-active approach to establishing issues and needs.

Developing an organisational response that can help improve outcomes for our Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans citizens, visitors and customers is a next step; and we invited our partners to take a similar approach to engaging with this meaningful work.

Peter Hay, Director of Adults and Communities Directorate and LGBT Equality Champion, Birmingham City Council

For many years I have championed LGBT issues within Birmingham City Council and supported strategic development work within the city; working to address organisational barriers and advance LGBT equality.

To date a significant gap has continued to exist in terms of our knowledge of the LGBT community and its needs in Birmingham. Our Public Sector Equality Duty,

the requirements of Equality Analysis and of the Equalities Framework for Local Government; and our submission to the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index represent key drivers requiring us to better understand our citizens, service users, employees and their needs. This research lays out a baseline for us to work from.

Unique profiling information has been generated including in terms of where people live, their educational achievements and income levels, for the first time allowing us to consider comparisons with other groups in relation to these indicators. We have an opportunity to better understand households, neighbourhoods, businesses and visitors to the city that will enable a better design, development and delivery of services for the City Council and partner organisations.

Work in the City Council is beginning to address some issues, for example (and with the support of the Birmingham LGBT) organisational training around monitoring for sexual orientation is planned. I continue to be interested in the outcomes from this research and to support Birmingham LGBT, LGBT citizens of Birmingham, employees of Birmingham City Council and Service users.

Councillor Alan Rudge, Cabinet Member for Equality, Diversity and Human Resources

As Cabinet Member for Equalities and Human Resources I am committed to promoting community cohesion and integration within our city. Birmingham is a city of great diversity, in terms of culture, race, faith as well as sexual orientation and gender identity, age and ability. “Integration, Cohesion and Equalities” are the focus of my cabinet portfolio and it is my aim that all the people of Birmingham feel they can live together positively, have a stake in society, build links and relationships and feel proud of our city.

This research, undertaken by Birmingham LGBT and sponsored by Birmingham City Council, highlights issues of great relevance to our Community Cohesion and Integration agenda – how openly LGBT people feel they can be in the neighbourhoods where they live; how safe they feel where they live, work and

spend their leisure time; how successfully they can interact with mainstream services; how well informed they feel about the city and how well informed the city is about them.

Significant issues are outlined around education, health, mental health, domestic violence, safety, aging and care, workplace issues and monitoring of service delivery. Many of the recommendations outlined in this research will be considered by Birmingham City council and its partners. I congratulate Birmingham LGBT on their achievement in conducting this much needed consultation.

Cllr Steve Bedser, Shadow Cabinet Member Adults & Communities

This report is an important evidence base for the development of services that meet the needs of LGBT citizens in Birmingham. Derived from a comprehensive online survey and a statistically significant group of respondents, it presents detail which many of us knew already, but never had the quantitative data to substantiate. Lack of data has been used in the past to justify lack of services; that changes with the publication of this report.

LGBT citizens experience bullying and hate crime at alarming levels and, as a consequence, experience markedly poor mental health. Birmingham needs to use this report to direct services across the piece, stamping out homophobic bullying in schools and the workplace, bringing hate criminals to justice and developing appropriate services to provide support to those who have experienced the brutal prejudice of others.

In commissioning this work, the City Council signifies its serious intent to further shape Birmingham as an inclusive and safe place to live, work and play. The economic prize of securing an enduring reputation for sustainable diversity will serve us all well in the challenging years ahead.

Contents

	Page
1 Executive Summary	6
2 Introduction	9
3 About Birmingham	10
4 Research Process	11
5 The Sample	13
6 Mapping LGBT Lives	20
7 Being Open and 'Out' in Birmingham	21
8 The Lives of Trans People in Birmingham	24
9 Family and Relationships	28
10 Getting Out & About in Birmingham	31
11 The Workplace and LGBT Lives	37
12 Community Safety and LGBT Lives	39
13 Young LGBT People's Lives in Birmingham	43
14 Physical Health and Well Being	47
15 Mental Health and Well Being	54
16 Community Infrastructure: Support and Services	57
17 Conclusions and Recommendations	61
References	64

About the author

Dr Gary Wood is a social psychologist, research consultant and development coach. He is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, a Chartered Psychologist and a Chartered Scientist and has taught psychology and research methods in several UK universities. Gary has published in both academia and the mainstream, and is widely quoted in the media. He runs his own research consultancy, coaching and training practice in Birmingham and Edinburgh. See: www.drgarywood.co.uk and www.psycentral.co.uk

1 Executive Summary

1.1 Background

Out and About is a research project to map the lives of LGBT people living, working or socializing in Birmingham. It was commissioned by Birmingham City Council and is designed to assess attitudes, explore issues and concerns and provide suggestions for ways forward to meet diverse LGBT community needs and develop the LGBT cultural appeal of Birmingham.

1.2 Method

Following community engagement and expert consultations to ascertain key topics for investigation, an on-line survey was developed and conducted. A total of 636 completed all socio-economic questions with 561 fully completing the survey. The research was analysed and key findings are outlined in this report.

1.3 Sample

- 67% of the sample lived in Birmingham. The remaining 33% did not live in the city but worked and socialized in the city.
- LGBT people were represented in all areas of Birmingham, neighbouring authorities, the wider West Midlands and other cities.
- 51.4% of the sample were male, 46.9% were female, with 1.7% not responding to these binary gender categories.
- 31.1% of the sample identified as Lesbian (or Gay women); 45.9% as Gay men, 9.6% Bisexual, 3.9% as other and 0.9% did not answer the question.
- 8.5% of the sample identified as Trans.
- 43.1% of the sample was under 35 yrs, 56.6% were 35 and over, and 0.3% did not give an age.
- 8.8% of the sample identifies as BAME. 90.3% were white (with 0.9% not indicating ethnicity).
- 9.9% identified as disabled.
- 83.6% were working (full-time, part-time or self-employed).
- The median (average) earnings band for the sample was £25,001 to £30,000.

1.4 Findings

1.4.1 Being 'Out'

- Two-thirds (67.1%) of respondents were not completely out (open about their sexuality) to family, friends and neighbours.
- BAME people were less likely to be out than were white respondents.

1.4.2 The Lives of Trans People

- 16.3% of Trans people indicated that they always felt welcomed in the LGB community.
- 26.4% of business owners in the sample were Trans people.

1.4.3 Relationships

- 58.7% were in some form of relationship.
- 16.6% were parents.

1.4.4 Getting Out And About

- 82.7% spent the largest part of their leisure time in Birmingham.
- 33.3% of the people who visit Birmingham at least once a month were from outside Birmingham.
- The most frequent comments on how to improve Birmingham's LGBT cultural appeal were: continued improvements and investment, more inclusion and broader appeal, and less emphasis on alcohol.

1.4.5 Inclusion / Exclusion

- Almost one half (48.3%) of respondents did not know or were unsure if their terms of employment offered equal benefits for LGBT people.
- 28.7% had been the subject of bullying or discrimination in the workplace.

1.4.6 Community Safety

- 40.8% indicated that they had been victims of hate crimes.
- 45.5% were not satisfied with the police response when they reported hate crime.

- 25.3% indicated that they had been victims of domestic abuse.
- 82.8% indicated that there should be a same-sex domestic violence service.

1.4.7 School and Education

- 94.0% of the under 35s and 98.4% of all participants indicated that they were not aware of any information and resources at school on issues around sexual orientation.
- 72.2% of the under 45s and 85.0% of the over 35s indicated that their schools didn't take an active approach in tackling homophobic and transphobia at school. 90.8% of the over 35s were not out at all at school, whereas 68.0% of the under 35s were not out.
- 42.8% of under 35s indicated that they had been bullied at school, for under 25s it was 45.8%. For the over 35s it was 31.6%

1.4.8 Health and Well Being

- 59.9% indicated that their alcohol consumption was below the weekly recommended units.
- 50.1% indicated some history of recreational drug use.
- 10.2% of those eligible had been offered prostate screening.
- 20.0% had attempted suicide.
- 40.5% indicated that they would prefer mental health services targeted specifically at LGBT clients.

1.4.9 Support and Services

- 58.0% indicated that they would visit an LGBT Community/Resource Centre if there were one in Birmingham (with a further 35.5% 'unsure').
- The main requests for LGBT community activities included: Non-scene, less alcohol focused, arts and culture events, social and support groups, sports and exercise and community-based family events.

2 Introduction

In recent years there has been a significant drive to address issues of equality in society. The Government Equality Office (GEO), a unit of the Home Office, was set up in 2007. It has responsibility within Government for “equality strategy and legislation and takes the lead on issues relating to women, sexual orientation and transgender equality matters”. This strategy is built on two principles of equality treatment and equal opportunity. One key objective is to ‘empower individuals and communities by promoting greater participation in public, political and community life’. The GEO also maintains that prejudice and discrimination are key factors in holding people back in life (1).

Recent research by the GEO has acknowledged the gaps in both gathering information about and understanding the needs and perspectives of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans (LGBT) people. To address these issues it began by exploring the barriers to participation faced by LGBT people. Barriers include lack of local community impact, lack of education and understanding of LGBT communities, homophobia and the ramifications of ‘coming out’ on LGBT lives.

Recommendations for ways forward include promoting awareness of LGBT issues, recognition of LGBT communities by local authorities and, perhaps most importantly, letting these communities speak for themselves (2).

Birmingham City Council, the largest in the UK, has acknowledged that its key challenges in advancing equality for LGBT people include addressing homophobic abuse, lack of access to information, lack of support and services and community cohesion (3). So, recognising a gap in local information, in April 2010, the Council commissioned Birmingham LGBT (Community Trust) to conduct research to establish baseline data to map the LGBT people who live, work and socialise in Birmingham. In so doing, the research aims to assess attitudes, explore issues and concerns and to offer suggestions for ways forward to meet the LGBT community’s needs, and engage LGBT people in wider participation.

3 About Birmingham

Traditionally an industrial city, Birmingham is the second most populous city in the UK with an estimated population of 1.07 million. Its motto is 'Forward'.

Recognising its cultural diversity, with up to a third of the city's inhabitants from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic heritage Birmingham City Council also uses the strap line 'Global City, Local Heart' (3). Birmingham has three universities and two university colleges, which make it the largest centre of higher education in the United Kingdom outside London. Several of its cultural institutions enjoy international reputations, including the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, the Birmingham Royal Ballet and the Barber Institute of Fine Arts. It boasts major conferencing, exhibition, concert and sporting and retail facilities such as the International Convention Centre, Symphony Hall, the National Exhibition Centre, the National Indoor Arena and the Bullring Shopping Centre, and tourism plays an increasing part in Birmingham's economy.

Birmingham also has a vibrant LGBT community and a large commercial bar scene, popularly referred to as 'The Scene' or 'The Gay Village', centred around the Hurst Street area of the city. The city also has a range of social and support groups. Supported by the Council, Birmingham has hosted an annual LGBT Pride festival since 1997. This is the largest free LGBT festival in the UK and is supported by the Council and "each year sees more visitors experience Birmingham's growing LGBT culture"(3). In 2011, the festival embraced a greater emphasis on community, diversity and inclusion with its theme "One World. One Love. One Community" (4). Another major development in the city's LGBT cultural attractions has been *SHOUT*, Birmingham's arts festival focusing on 'queer culture'. Equally, *SHOUT* has developed year on year, focusing on inclusion and diversity, and has been notable in engaging mainstream arts and culture partners throughout the city, such as theatres, arts centres, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery and even the National Trust. For many people, *SHOUT* provided the first opportunity to access mainstream venues (5).

As data on the composition of the LGBT population in Birmingham is scarce there is no agreed figure as to the percentage although estimates of between 6% and 10% are popularly used. Accepting this range, it means that the LGBT population for the city would be between 60,000 and 100,000 people (5).

4 Research Process

4.1 Introduction

A self-completing survey was chosen as the method for collecting data on the LGBT community in and around Birmingham. The main reasons for this were to reach LGBTs over a large area, the convenience of respondent self-completion and also privacy and confidentiality of respondents, who would remain anonymous. It also enabled systematic exploration of respondent attitudes and demographic variables.

4.2 Survey design

4.2.1 Sampling Criteria

The two main selection criteria for inclusion in the sample were:

- (i) Identifying as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Trans.
- (ii) Living, working or socializing in Birmingham.

This offered the opportunity to compare responses from LGBT people living in Birmingham and those from other areas who participate in the city's LGBT co-communities.

4.2.2 Question Selection

Topics of investigation were selected from a number of consultation exercises. Many of the areas identified as priorities for further research were based on previous national and local research conducted with the LGBT community, such as Brighton and Hove's *Count Me In Too* project (6) and the *Are you being Served? Consultation report* (7). Additional questions, contributions and suggestions came from (i) The Regional Observatory, for questions about

economic activity and work; (ii) Dr Catherine Mead, a researcher at The University of Birmingham for LGBT health questions; and (iii) a Trans activist.

General diversity monitoring was a key area of interest and, in the early stages of planning and discussion, the concept of 'Mapping the LGBT Community' arose. So, along with socio-economic data, the survey also collected the first three digits of respondents' postcodes to monitor the geographical distribution of the LGBT population. The survey was designed using Survey Monkey software and piloted in June 2010, with some changes made in line with feedback received from the pilot survey.

Data collection

Data was collected, primarily through an online survey which went live on 1st August 2010 (see Appendix Two) and was closed on 1st January 2011, thus responses were collected over a five-month period. The survey was promoted widely (with the assistance of Birmingham City Council), to capture a broad cross section of the LGBT population. This included a range of online sites, various activist groups, events and organizations likely to have differing demographics. Online promotion included *Yahoo* groups, LGBT Employees networks, Trans groups, *Facebook*, Birmingham Voluntary Services Council and Equalities groups. As part of the circulation by Birmingham City Council, the survey was put on the *Be Birmingham Be Heard* database, as well as on the *Consortium of LGBT Voluntary and Community Organizations* website. It was also advertised in the *Midland Zone* magazine and put on its web boards. Flyers were also produced and distributed around Birmingham's commercial gay scene as well as venues at the *Shout* festival. People without internet access could request paper copies of the survey (with were provided with stamped addressed envelopes).

4.2.3 Preparation for Data Analysis

Initially all questionnaires were checked against the two selection criteria and for the extent of completion. All questionnaires with full socio-economic data were retained, even if they had not fully completed the questionnaire.

Comments from participants indicated problems with one question (Health Section, Q5). The question asked whether people had been 'treated, diagnosed or treated' leaving a number of possible combinations of response not discernable from the data. In hindsight, three questions were needed in order to gain accurate and meaningful responses. Therefore, it was not analysed.

Initially, data was interrogated using Survey Monkey cross-tabulations and was also downloaded to a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. A statistician provided support and recommendations in the initial stages, such as recoding ethnicity. The data was then imported to SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) for in-depth examination.

5 The Sample

5.1 Introduction

This section provides a breakdown of demographic characteristics for the whole sample. Of the 780 questionnaires submitted, 636 met the selection criteria and provided full socio-economic data. Of these, 561 people fully completed the survey. Additional socio-economic analysis is offered for the Trans sample (54 respondents) in Section Eight.

Note on representation of results: All percentages are given to one decimal place; means (averages) are given to two decimal places. Figures for missing responses in socio-economic data are included to provide a complete demographic picture. However, in subject questions, missing cases are excluded for all percentage calculations. Due to rounding, percentages in tables do not always add up to exactly 100%.

5.1.1 Sexuality

Respondents were asked to describe their sexuality by choosing one of eight options (Bisexual, Gay, Heterosexual (Straight), Lesbian, Queer, Undecided, Prefer not to say, and Other). Those indicating the 'Heterosexual' option were selected out for the sample, except for Trans people. Additionally, 22 women

preferred the label ‘Gay’ to ‘Lesbian’. Table 5.1 shows the overall breakdown for the sample.

Table 5.1: Frequency of Sexual Orientation Labels for LGBT Sample

Sexuality	%	(n)
Lesbian	29.1	185
Gay	50.0	318
Bisexual	12.4	79
Heterosexual (Straight)	2.0	13
Queer	3.8	24
Undecided	1.9	12
(Missing)	0.8	5
Total	100	636

For the purposes of a ‘cleaner’ analysis, four absolute LGBT categories were created using the SPSS recode function. Trans status was used as the primary identifier over sexual orientation and Trans sexual orientation did not appear in the LGB count. ‘Gay Women’ were included under the Lesbian count. A fifth category of ‘Other’ was created for people who preferred to describe themselves using their own terminology. Without a unifying theme, this group was not used for analysis. However, when attributing comments to respondents, throughout the report, the original preferred terminology is used for identification

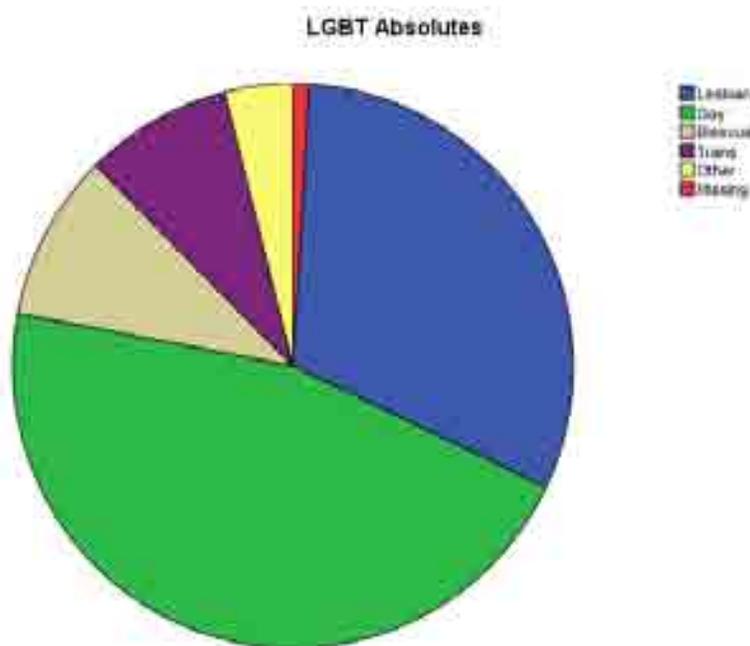


Figure 5.1: Relative Percentages for LGBT Absolute Categories and Residual Categories

The relative proportions of LGBT groups are Lesbian, 31.1% (198/636); Gay, 45.9% (292/636); Bisexual, 9.6% (61/636); Trans 8.5% (54/636); Other, 3.9% (25/636), with 0.9% (6/636) who did not answer the question.

5.1.2 Gender

The gender composition of the sample was 51.4% (327/636) identifying as male, 46.9% (298/636) identifying as female. The remaining 1.7% (11/636) did not answer the question.

5.1.3 Age Distribution

Table 5.2: Distribution of Age Groups for LGBT Sample

Age Group	%	(n)
16 yrs or under	1.3	8
17-24 yrs	10.8	69
35-44 yrs	31.0	197
45-44 yrs	28.1	179
45-54 yrs	19.0	121
55-64 yrs	7.4	47
65-74 yrs	2.0	13
(Missing)	0.3	2
Total	100.0	636

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans people are well represented in all age groups, with two exceptions. There were no Trans people in the 16 years and under age group, and no Bisexual people in the 65-74 years age group.

5.1.4 Ethnicity

Initially, 17 options were offered to describe ethnic background. However, these were collapsed into five broader categories for the purposes of analysis, due to the low frequency for some responses. Table 5.3 shows broad ethnicity frequencies.

Table 5.3: Ethnic Background for LGBT Sample

Ethnic Category	Original Categories	%	(n)
White	White British, Irish, European and Other	90.3	574
Black	Black Caribbean, African, Other	1.6	10

Asian	<i>Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi</i>	2.8	18
Mixed	<i>White & Black African/Caribbean; White & Asian; Other</i>	2.7	17
Other	<i>Chinese, Other Asian, Any Other</i>	1.7	11
(Missing)	<i>(No Response)</i>	0.9	6
Total		100.0	636

Despite low numbers for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) people, the four LGBT groups were well represented in the broader ethnicity categories, with the exception of the Asian sample, for which there are no Bisexual people.

5.1.5 Disability

Almost one in ten LGBT people identified as disabled (9.6%; 61/636). This was broadly equivalent across the four LGBT groups: Lesbian (10.6%; 17/189); Gay (7.7%; 22/286); Bisexual (10.9%; 6/55); Trans (10.6%; 5/47).

5.1.6 Faith

Nine faith categories were offered on the questionnaire plus the option to indicate 'Other'. The largest categories were Agnostic (29.6%; 188/636), Atheist (28.1%; 179/636) and Christian (27.2%; 173/636). Other categories given were: Pagan (2.8%; 18/636); Buddhist (1.6%; 10/636); Muslim (1.6%; 10/636); Jewish (1.1%; 7/636); Spiritual/Metaphysical (0.9%; 6/636); Humanist (0.8%; 5/636); Quaker (0.8%; 5/636); Spiritualist (0.8%; 5/636); Hindu (0.3%; 2/636); Taoist (0.2%; 1/636); Other (0.6%; 4/636). There were also 3.5% (22/636) who did not answer the question. All LGBT co-communities were represented across the most frequently cited categories (Agnostic, Atheist; Christian, Pagan; Buddhist, and Muslim).

5.1.7 Employment

5.1.7.1 Employment Type

More than eight out of ten (83.6%; 532/636) LGBT people were in employment (full, part-time or self employed). Of these, nearly two-thirds (65.7%; 418/636) were in full-time employment; a little over one in ten were in part-time work (10.4%; 66/636). One in thirteen (7.5%; 48/636) were self-employed. Almost one in seven were unemployed (14.5%; 92/636). The remainder were either under 16

years (0.6%; 4/636), in government training programmes (0.5%; 3/636) or did not respond to the question (0.8%; 5/636).

5.1.7.2 Unemployment

5.1.7.2.1 LGBT Inter-group Comparisons

The highest proportion of unemployment was indicated by the Trans group at 25.9% (14/54); followed by the Lesbian group at 16.2% (32/198), then the Bisexual group at 16.4% (10/61). Gay people represented the lowest proportion of 'Unemployed' (10.3%; 30/292).

5.1.7.2.2 Reasons for Unemployment (and Not Seeking Employments)

About one in ten (9.9%; 63/636) people were unemployed and not actively seeking employment. The main reasons given were: studying or training (20/63), retired (18/63), and long-term sick leave (15/63). Other explanations included: caring for someone (3/63); waiting to start a job (2/63); looking after the home (2/63) and volunteer work (2/63). Respondents were allowed multiple responses so there may be an overlap in categories. The question of long-term illness will be examined in the Health and Well Being section.

5.1.7.3 Employment Sector

Almost one half (49.2%; 313/636) indicated that they worked in the public sector, compared to almost one quarter in the private sector (23.6%; 150/636). Almost one in 12 selected 'Own Business' (8.5%; 54/636) and just over one in six (15.4%; 98/636) selected 'Voluntary/Community'. Again, respondents were allowed multiple responses.

5.1.7.3.1 Private versus Public Sector Work

Across the four LGBT groups working in the public and private sectors, most worked in the public sector (see Table 5.4).

Table 5.4: Comparison of Percentage of LGBTt People Working in Public and Private Sector

Sector:	Lesbian		Gay		Bisexual		Trans	
	%	(n)	%	(n)	%	(n)	%	(n)
In Public	52.5	(104/198)	49.7	(145/292)	54.1	(33/61)	33.3%	(18/54)
In Private	17.2	(34/198)	29.8	(87/292)	18.0	(11/61)	18.5%	(10/54)

5.1.7.3.2 Voluntary/Community Sector

Working in the Voluntary/Community sector, there was broad equivalence across the LGBT groups: Lesbian (17.2%; 34/198); Gay (12.7%; 27/292); Bisexual (19.7%; 12/61) and Trans (16.7%; 9/54).

5.1.7.3.3 Own Business

The highest proportion of people owning their own business in the LGBT groups was amongst Trans people at over one quarter (25.9%; 14/54). For the other groups, it was 6.6% (13/198) for Lesbian, 6.8% (20/292) for Gay and 8.2% (5/61) for Bisexual. Given that there were 53 people declaring 'Own Business', Trans people also represent over one quarter (26.4%; 14/53) of business owners for the whole LGBT sample. Of the other business owners 24.5% (3/53) were Lesbian, 37.7% (20/53) were Gay and 9.4% (14/53) were Bisexual.

5.1.8 Earnings

The average (median) earnings band for the sample was £25,001-£30,000. Across the LGBT groups, both Lesbian and Gay respondents have an average (median) income of £25,001-£30,000. However, the average (median) for the Bisexual group and the Trans was £20,001 to £25,000. All earnings bands from '£5000 or less' through to '£100,000 or more' are represented for the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual samples, but with an upper limit of £60,001 to £100,000 for the Trans sample.

Table 5.5: LGBT Comparisons of Lower and Upper Earnings Bands

Earnings	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual	Trans
£15,000 or less	24.6%	21.7%	29.5%	42.6%
More than £50,000	4.6%	9.3%	3.3%	3.7%

Although analysis of smaller sizes should be interpreted with caution, the figures (Table 5.5) indicate that that Gay men are less likely to have lower earnings and more likely to enjoy higher earnings. The Trans group is the most likely to have lower earnings.

5.1.9 Qualifications

Respondents were allowed to give multiple responses for educational qualifications. The data was recoded in SPSS to indicate, for analysis only, the highest level of qualification.

5.1.9.1 LGBT Education Overview

For the whole LGBT sample, the average (median) highest qualification was 'Degree or equivalent'. More than one quarter (25.3%; 161/636) of the LGBT sample had Postgraduate qualifications and more than one third had a degree or equivalent (34.3%; 218/636). Of the remainder, 13.1% (83/636) cited 'Higher Education', 12.4% (79/636) responded 'A Levels or equivalent' and 8.8% (56/636) indicated 'GCSEs (A* to C) or equivalent'. Only 1.7% (11/636) indicated 'No qualifications'. The remaining 4.4% (28/636) did not answer the question.

5.1.9.2 LGBT Education Comparisons

For the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual groups the median (average) highest qualification was 'Degree or Equivalent'. However for the Trans group the median was 'Higher Education'. For Degree and Postgraduate figures combined, the proportion attaining these qualifications was lowest for the Trans group at only one third (38.5%; 18/54). By comparison, two thirds of Lesbian (67.0%; 126/188) and Gay (61.4%; 172/280) people reported their highest qualification as Degree or above. For the Bisexual group the figure was more than seven out of ten (70.5%; 43/61).

5.1.9.3 Education and Earnings

Despite achieving qualifications at higher levels, just under one in six (17.9%; 39/218) LGBT people with a Degree (or equivalent) is earning £15,000 or less. A further 6.8% (11/161) at Postgraduate level are earning £15,000 or less.

5.1.10 Houses and Homes

Just over one half (50.5%; 321/636) of the LGBT sample was a homeowner or had a mortgage. Three out of ten (21.1%; 198/636) rented accommodation (privately, Council or Housing Association). Of the remainder, 7.1% (45/636) were living with

parents; 6.6% (42/636) were in a shared house; 1.7% (11/636) were in student accommodation; a further 1.7% (11/636) were in 'other housing'; 0.4% (2/636) were in temporary housing and 1 person was homeless (0.2%).

Comparing the four LGBT groups, nearly two-thirds of Lesbian respondents were homeowners (62.6%; 122/195), compared with less than one half of Gay respondents (46.2%; 134/290). For the Bisexual group, almost two in five (39.3%; 24/61) were homeowners. One half of the Trans group was a homeowner (50.0%; 27/54).

6 Mapping LGBT Lives

6.1 Mapping Zones

Mapping zones were created for analysis based on the postcode details given by respondents (first three digits). These broad categories were *Birmingham City Centre; Inner City areas; Suburbs; Birmingham postcodes covered by other authorities; Surrounding areas; Further away (other cities)*. Table 6.1 provides a summary of the mapping zones including a brief description of the area, postcodes covered, percentage of full sample, and number of respondents. All but four people provided postcodes, leaving a sample of 632.

Table 6.1: Mapping Zones for LGBT People

Zone 1 (10.1%)	Zone 2 (5.5%)	Zone 3 (13.0%)
City Centre B1-B5 (n = 64)	Inner City Areas B6-12, B18-B21 (n = 35)	K' Heath to Acocks Green B13-14, B27-28 (n = 82)
Zone 4 (9.8%)	Zone 5 (8.1%)	Zone 6 (3.5%)
E'baston & H'borne B15-B17 (n = 62)	Erdington, P'Barr etc B23-24, B42-44 (n = 51)	Yardley, Sheldon etc B25-26, B33-35 (n = 22)
Zone 7 (9.3%)	Zone 8 (4.3%)	Zone 9 (3.2%)
Selly Oak, Bournville etc B29-30, B38 (n = 59)	Quinton, Northfield etc B31-32, B45 (n = 27)	Sutton Coldfield B72-76 (n = 20)
Zone 10 (5.4%)	Zone 11 (4.3%)	Zone 12 (6.5%)

Sandwell B64-69, WS10 (n = 34)	Solihull B36-37, B40, B90-94 (n = 27)	Other 'B' Postcodes (n = 41)
Zone 13 (4.1%)	Zone 14 (11.7%)	Zone 15 (1.3%)
Coventry Postcodes (n=26)	Other Surrounding Areas (Midlands) (n = 74)	Further away (Other cities) (n = 8)

The split between 'Birmingham' versus 'Other Authorities' represents the difference between LGBT people living in Birmingham and those living elsewhere but working and socializing in Birmingham.

7 Being Open and 'Out' in Birmingham

7.1 Introduction

This section considers the issue being 'out' (the degree to which respondents are open about their sexual orientation). Questions were asked about openness to family, friends and neighbours and openness in the area in which they live.

7.2 Being Out and Neighbourhood

The responses to the question 'Do you feel that you can be open and honest about your sexual orientation where you live?' are shown in Table 7.1

Table 7.1: LGBT Responses for 'being out' in their neighbourhood

Response	%	(n)
Most Definitely	12.3%	(70/569)
Yes	41.5%	(236/569)
Unsure	24.3%	(138/569)
No	16.2%	(92/569)
Definitely Not	5.8%	(33/569)
Total	100.0	569

A comparison of postcodes under Birmingham City Council (mapping zones 1 to 9), compared to other areas (mapping zones 10 to 15) is shown in Table 7.2

Table 7.2: Comparisons of the likelihood of 'being out' by region

Birmingham	Other Authorities
------------	-------------------

Response	%	(n)	%	(n)
Most Definitely	14.0	(51/365)	8.2	(16/195)
Yes	39.7	(145/365)	45.1	(88/195)
Unsure	24.4	(89/365)	24.1	(47/195)
No	15.1	(55/365)	19.0	(37/195)
Definitely Not	6.8	(25/365)	3.6	(7/195)
Total	100.0	365	100.0	195

Figures for Birmingham and Other Authorities are broadly comparable, with a positive response of 53.7% for Birmingham compared with 53.3% for Other Authorities. In both Birmingham and Other Authorities, almost a quarter of respondents are ‘Unsure’ of their freedom to be open in their area. More than one in five LGBT people felt that they could not be open in their area (Birmingham: 21.9%; Other Authorities: 22.6%).

7.3 Being Out and Mapping Zones

Comparing responses to the question that asks ‘how open about your sexuality are you in your area’ by mapping zones, the range of mean (average) scores 3.03 (Zone 2) to 3.7 (Zone 1). Higher scores indicate higher feelings of openness. So although people living in the City Centre reported higher ratings of openness than do people living in inner city areas, these figures should be interpreted with caution given small sample sizes.

7.4 Open and Out to Other People

The responses from three openness questions (family, friends and neighbours) were combined to create an ‘Out Index’.

7.4.1 The Out Index

Responses to the openness questions were: *no one knows*, *some know and everyone knows*. Scoring these responses 0, 1 and 2 respectively, it produced a range of zero to six for the three variables combined.

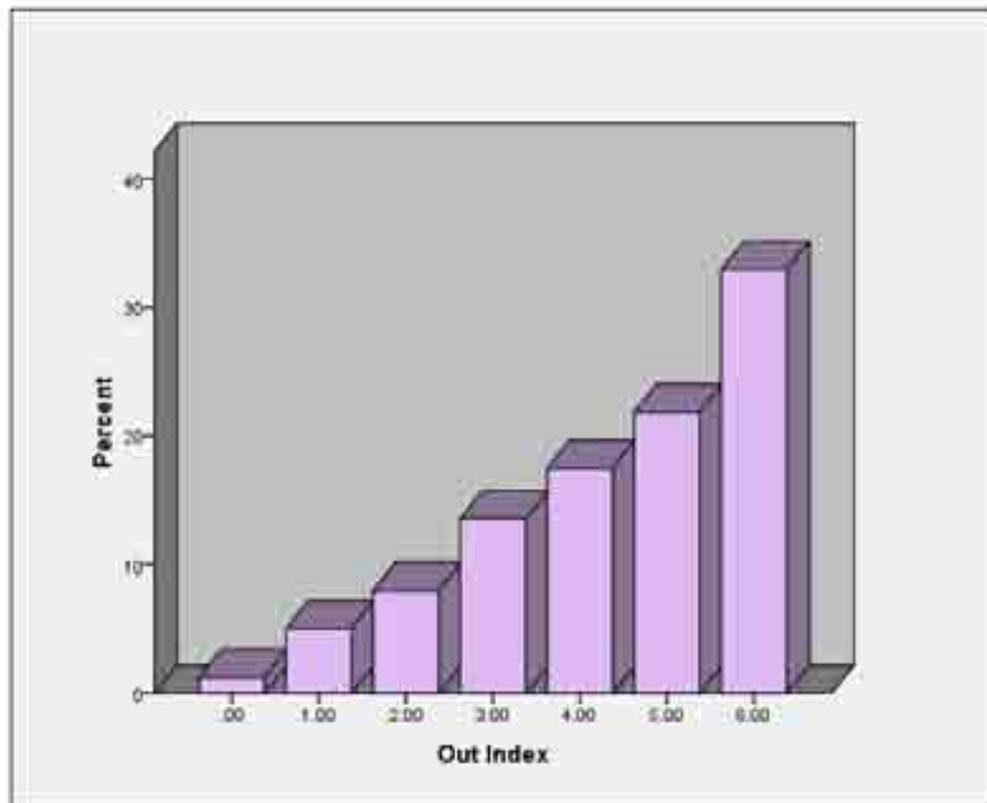


Figure 7.1: Frequencies of Levels of Openness About Sexuality (Being Out)

The results show that almost one third of LGBT people were out to everyone (32.9%, 190/577), whereas just 1.2% (7/577) were not out to anyone. As the diagram shows, there is a notable percentage increase for each level of being out. On the zero to six scale, a score of one accounts for 5.0% (29/577), two for 8.0% (46/577), three for 13.5% (78/577), four for 17.5% (101/577) and five for 21.8% (126/577). Overall, the results show that over two-thirds of respondents were not open about their sexuality in to least one of the following: family, friends or neighbours. The following Table (7.3) shows a comparison of openness with family, friends, neighbours and openness.

Table 7.3: Comparisons of 'being out' to family, friends and neighbours

Response	Family		Friends		Neighbours	
	%	(n)	%	(n)	%	(n)
No one knows	7.6	(47)	2.4	(15)	25.0	(146)
Some know	32.5	(201)	21.2	(133)	38.8	(227)
Everyone knows	59.9	(371)	76.4	(478)	36.2	(212)
Total	100.0	619	100.0	626	100.0	585

The differences in openness across these domains are striking. LGBT people are most open with friends and are less likely to be open with neighbours. There was no notable difference on Out Index scores between Birmingham (zones 1 to 9) and Other Authorities (10-15).

7.4.2 Gender and Being Out

Comparing the mean gender differences on Out Index scores (0 to 6 scale), for males the score was 4.6, whereas for females it was 4.15. Thus, males were more likely to be open about their sexuality than were females. For males, 59.1% (176/298) scored either 5 or 6 on the scale (indicating higher openness), whereas for females it was 50.4% (136/270). At the opposite end of the scale, there were a greater percentage of females scoring zero and one on the scale (indicating low openness), that is 10.0% (27/270) compared with 2.6% (8/298) for males.

7.4.3 Ethnicity and Being Out

At the most general level, using a comparison of the mean scores on the Out Index, white respondents score 4.50 compared with 3.10 for the BAME group, suggesting that white people in the sample are more likely to be out and open about their sexual orientation than are BAME people.

8 Lives of Trans People in Birmingham

8.1 Introduction

Several questions which were specific to Trans people are examined in this section. Other general LGBT comparisons are discussed throughout the report.

8.2 Mapping Zones and Trans People

The results showed that there were Trans people living in all fifteen mapping zones. For Birmingham only there were 25 Trans people (46.3%) and 26 (48.1%) across Other Authorities. Three respondents (5.6%) did not declare a postcode.

8.3 Trans Identity Labels

The findings reveal that gender and sexuality do not often map neatly on to one another. There was also a degree of resistance from some respondents towards using labels.

8.3.1 Gender Identity

Most Trans people surveyed identified as female (72.2%; 39/54), with 22.2% identifying as male (12/54). There were 3 missing responses (5.6%). When asked if they lived and worked full time in the gender role opposite to that assigned at birth, 50.0% (27/54) answered 'Yes', 42.6%(23/54) answered 'No' with 4 responses missing (7.4%).

8.3.2 Trans Identity

The representation amongst Trans people in the sample is shown in Table 8.1.

Table 8.1: Frequencies of Trans Identities

Trans Identity	%	(n)
Male-to-Female (MTF) Trans	64.8	35
Female-to-Male (FTM) Trans	5.6	3
Gender Queer	7.4	4
Other	11.1	6
Prefer not to say	1.9	1
(Missing)	9.3	5
Total	100	54

8.3.3 Sexual Orientation

When asked to describe their sexual orientation, the figures revealed a range of responses.

Table 8.2 : Frequencies of Sexual Orientation Labels for Trans People

Sexual Orientation	%	(n)
Bisexual	33.3	(18/54)
Gay	7.4	(4/54)
Heterosexual (Straight)	18.5	(10/54)
Lesbian	16.7	(9/54)
Queer	9.3	(5/54)
Undecided	11.1	(6/54)
(Missing)	3.7	(2/54)
Total	100.0	54

8.4 Socio Economic Variables and Trans People

This section provides additional examination of socio-economic variables for Trans respondents.

8.4.1 Age Group

The median age (average) age group for Trans people was 45-54 years, accounting for 25.9% (14/54). The 17-24s accounted for 3.7% (2/54); 25-34s for 24.1% (13/54); 35-44s for 20.4% (11/54); 55-64s also 20.4% (11/54) and 5.6% for the 65-74s (3/54).

8.4.2 Ethnicity

Trans people in the sample were predominantly white (92.6%; 50/54). There was one person in each of the categories of Black (1.9%) Asian (1.9%) and Mixed (1.9%). One respondent did not declare ethnicity (1.9%).

8.4.3 Faith

As for the sample as a whole, a range of faiths was represented amongst Trans people. A third were Christian (33.3%; 18/54) and over a quarter were Atheist (25.9%; 14/54). Agnostics accounted for 13.0% (7/54) and Pagans for 7.4% (4/54). Other faiths represented accounted for 9.3% (5/54: Quaker, Muslim; Buddhist; Spiritualist and Hindu). The remaining 13.0% (7/54) did not respond.

8.4.4 Education

The average (median) highest educational achievement for Trans people was 'Higher Education', accounting for 31.5% (17/54). Degree level accounted for 16.7% (9/54) with the same number for Postgraduate (16.7%; 9/54). The remainder were A Levels (13.0%; 7/54), GCSEs (11.1%; 6/54). There were two people (3.7%) with no formal qualifications.

8.5 Trans People, 'The Community' and Society

This section explores issues of openness, feeling welcomed in the LGB community and transphobia.

8.5.1 Openness

For the question, 'Do you feel able to discuss your gender identity with other people?', the responses were: Yes (51.2%; 21/41); Yes some but not all (34.1%; 14/41), and No (14.6%; 6/41).

8.5.2 Trans People and 'The Community'

8.5.2.1 Frequency of Visits

When asked about the frequency of visits to Birmingham City Centre for LGBT leisure, more than one quarter reported 'once or more per week' (25.3%; 12/47), there were 21.3% (10/47) indicating 'once a month', 23.4% (11/47) answering 'every few months', 19.1% (9/47) indicating 'occasionally' and the remaining 19.1% (9/47) reporting 'never'.

8.5.2.2 Frequency of Feeling Welcomed

For the question 'Do you feel welcomed by the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual community?', the responses were Always, 16.3% (7/43); Sometimes, 74.4% (32/43); Unsure, 7.0% (3/43) and Never, 2.3% (1/43).

8.5.3 Transphobia

When asked whether they were subjected to transphobic bullying at school (of those who answered the question), 69.0% (20/29) reported 'No' and 31.0% (9/29) reported 'Yes'. However when asked whether they had been victims of a 'Transphobic' crime, more than one half reported 'yes' (54.3%; 25/46).

8.6 GP Support and Treatment for Trans People

This section considers GP support directly related to gender identity. Other aspects of health will be considered under the Health and Well Being section.

8.6.1 Gender Dysphoria

When asked if they had approached a GP about treatment for gender dysphoria, 43 Trans people responded (with 11 missing cases). Of these, 76.7% (33/43) answered 'Yes', 20.9% (9/43) answered 'No' and one person 'preferred not to say' (1.9%). Following up on the 33 people who had sought treatment, respondents were also asked about the response they received and the attitude encountered.

Table 8. 3 GP Attitudes and Responses to Gender Dysphoria

GP Attitude / Response	%	(n)
Helpful and had good knowledge	18.2%	(6/33)
Helpful or willing, but has little or no knowledge	54.5%	(18/33)
Unhelpful and has little or no knowledge	24.2%	(8/33)
Refused to give treatment or advice	3.0%	(1/33)
Total	100.0	33

More than seven out of ten (72.7%, 24/33) Trans people approaching a GP receive a helpful attitude, however fewer than 2 out of 10 (18.2%; 6/33) report that these helpful GPs had the knowledge to match.

8.6.1.1 Pre-Operative and Post-Operative Support

There was a low response rate for two questions about medical and emotional support. For pre-operative Trans people, 22 responded to the question ‘Have you been receiving any medical or emotional support in preparation for your transition?’. 12 responded ‘No’ (54.5%) and 10 responded ‘Yes’ (45.5%). For post-operative Trans people, 15 responded to the question. Six answered ‘No’ (40%) and 9 answered ‘Yes’ (60%).

LGBT comparisons are offered in the following sections.

9 Relationships and Family in LGBT Lives

9.1 Introduction

This section examines relationship status, children and the attitudes and experiences of LGBT people with regard to child adoption and IVF treatment.

9.2 Relationship Status

Almost three in five (58.7%; 344/586) LGBTs were in some form of a relationship (whether described as ‘relationship, co-habiting, civil partnership or open relationship). Nearly one in eight were in a civil partnership (12.1%; 71/586). Almost two in five were single (38.7%; 227/586), with the remaining 2.6% (15/586) indicating ‘Other’ status.

Comparing the four LGBT groups, two-thirds (66.7%; 122/183) of the Lesbian group report being in a relationship with just less than three in five (59.0%; 160/271) in the Gay group. For the Bisexual group, a little over half (53.6%; 30/56) report being a relationship. The Trans group has the lowest proportion in a relationship, at two in five (40%; 20/50). More than half of the people in the Trans group indicated that they were single (52.0%; 26/50).

9.2.1 Children

When asked if they had children 16.6% (96/580) said 'Yes' and 83.4% (484/580) said 'No'. Comparing the LGBT groups, the Trans group had the highest proportion with children (48.9%; 23/47). For the Bisexual group 21.8% (12/55) said 'Yes', for the Lesbian group it was 19.3% (35/181) and for Gay it was the lowest proportion at 7.0% (19/270). There were also 4.3% (4/23) in the Other group, who answered 'Yes'.

9.2.2 Adoption

When asked if they would ever consider child adoption 1.7% (10/576) answered 'Yes, I have already adopted' and a further 47.0% (271/576) responded that 'Yes, I would consider it'. Just over one half (51.2%; 295/576) answered 'No, I would not consider it'. Table 9.1 shows LGBT comparisons for adoption.

Table 9.1: Frequencies of LGBT People Considering Adoption

	Lesbian		Gay		Bisexual		Trans	
	%	(n)	%	(n)	%	(n)	%	(n)
Yes, have adopted	1.1	(2/180)	1.9	(142/268)	1.9	(1/53)	4.1	(32/49)
Yes, would consider	48.3	(87/180)	45.1	(121/268)	60.4	(32/53)	30.6	(15/49)
No, would not consider	50.6	(91/190)	53.0	(141/268)	37.7	(20/53)	65.3	(32/49)

Attitudes to adoption for the Lesbian and Gay groups were roughly equal. However, people in the Bisexual group were twice as likely to consider adoption as were the Trans group. Of the remaining 'Other' group, 65.2% (15/23) would

consider option, whilst 34.8% (98/23) would not. None of this group had already adopted.

9.2.3 IVF

When asked if they had received or attempted IVF treatment, just over 1 in 20 5.3%; (24/451) people answered 'Yes' (NHS, private or both). Comparing the figures for NHS or private treatment, they show that private is the (slightly) more preferred option. For NHS, 2.5% (11/437) said 'Yes' compared with 4.6% (18/388) for private treatment. The following comments from respondents support this assumption.

9.2.3.1 IVF Difficulties – Comments

When asked to offer details of the difficulties they encountered, several of these related to health and financial circumstances. However a number related to issues surrounding 'lifestyle'. Comments are identified by sexual orientation, gender, age group and whether Birmingham or Other Authorities.

'Was refused because of my 'lifestyle choice' (Gay, Female, 25-34, Birmingham).

'Yes, the doctor refused to refer us. He said he could not as his faith did not agree with it. So we had to self refer' (Lesbian, 45-45, Birmingham).

"Yes, you need a referral letter from a GP to access any fertility treatment, private or not. The first doctor I requested a referral letter from refused it, on the basis that I had no evidence of being infertile since I was not having a sexual relationship with a male partner" (Bisexual, Female, 35-44, Birmingham).

"Funding - had to fund it myself, attitudes at the clinic were such that you had to be prepared to be disapproved of while they took your money" (Lesbian, 35-44, Birmingham).

'Too afraid to ask for it as lesbian' (Lesbian, 35-44, Birmingham).

This selection of comments indicate that for some people, sexual orientation is perceived as a barrier to IVF treatment.

10 Getting Out and About in Birmingham

10.1 Introduction

This section looks at how LGBT people spend their leisure time and their money.

10.1.1 Leisure Time

10.1.1.1 Main Places

More than two-thirds (68.6%; 363/529) of respondents spent the largest part of their leisure time in Birmingham. Of the remainder, 27.8% (147/529) answered 'Wider West Midlands' and 3.6% indicated London (19/529). More than eight out of ten (82.7%; 286/360) LGBT people living in Birmingham (zones 1 to 9) cite Birmingham as the centre of their leisure time. More than two in five (42.0%; 74/360) from Other Authorities (zones 10 to 15) cite Birmingham as their main place of choice for leisure.

10.1.1.2 Birmingham: How Often?

Almost one in three (29.1%; 163/560) LGBT people sampled visit Birmingham for LGBT activity once a week or more. Of these, approximately one in 11 visits two to three times per week. Almost one half (49.1%; 286/560) of LGBT people visit at least once per month. One third (33.3%; 54/162) of those visiting at least once a week are from Other Authorities. Similarly, just over one third of those visiting Birmingham at least once a month were from Other Authorities (34.2%; 97/284).

10.1.1.3 Other Places

Respondents were asked to indicate other places as their main place for leisure. They offered: *Bristol, Cotswolds, East Midlands, Manchester, Midlands (all over), Nottingham, Other major British cities, South Wales, and Yorkshire*. Places more local included: *Bromsgrove, Coventry, Evesham, Gloucester, Redditch, Stourbridge, Walsall, Warwickshire, Wolverhampton, and Worcestershire*

10.1.1.4 Cultural Spend

10.1.1.4.1 Leisure Activity Checklist

Given a list of leisure activities, respondents were asked to indicate whether these took place in Birmingham, West Midlands, London or Other. Table 10.1 shows the ten most frequently cited activities for LGBT people visiting Birmingham.

Respondents who indicated they never visited Birmingham were filtered out. The table also shows the relative breakdown between Birmingham and Other Authorities for all of the activities.

Table 10.1: Most frequently cited reasons for LGBT people visiting Birmingham

Activity:	All (N=502)		Relative Proportion of Total	
	%	(n)	Birmingham %	Other Authorities %
Drinks (LGBT Venues)	85.3	428	65.1	34.9
Shopping	79.1	397	69.5	30.5
Theatre	78.7	395	68.2	31.8
Eating Out (Non LGBT)	77.5	389	71.8	28.2
Cinema	73.7	370	75.8	24.2
Drinks (Non LGBT Venues)	77.5	389	72.5	27.5
Eating Out (LGBT Venues)	69.7	350	65.9	34.1
Museums / Libraries	67.3	338	70.0	30.0
Craft Fairs / Local Markets	57.2	287	75.1	24.9
Leisure Centres	48.8	245	84.5	15.5

The two highest proportions from people visiting from outside Birmingham are drinking and eating in LGBT venues as well as visiting theatres and museums, and shopping.

10.1.1.4.2 Once a Month or More?

For people who visit Birmingham city centre at least once per month for LGBT leisure activities, the most popular ways to spend time were:

- Drinks in LGBT venues 93.7% (268/286)
- Shopping 84.6% (242/286)
- Eating out in Non-LGBT venues 84.6% (242/286)
- Going to the theatre 84.6% (242/286)
- Eating out in LGBT venues 79.7% (228/286)
- Going to the cinema 79.0% (226/286)
- Drinks in Non-LGBT venues 76.2% (218/286)

- Visiting museums and libraries 68.5% (196/286)
- Craft Fairs / Local markets: 58.7% (168/286)
- Leisure Centres 51.0% (146/286).

These activities show a mixture of LGBT scene and non-LGBT specific activities. It is notable that LGBT people prefer to eat out in non-LGBT venues. The reverse is true for just having drinks.

10.1.2 Rating Birmingham’s Leisure Services

Table 10.2: Overall LGBT ratings of Birmingham City Council’s Leisure Services

	Worst		Rating				Best	
	1	2	3	4	5			
Region:	% (n)	% (n)	% (n)	% (n)	% (n)	% (n)	% (n)	
Birmingham (N=205)	13.2 (27)	20.0 (41)	36.1 (74)	21. (44)	9.3 (19)			
Other Authorities (N=85)	12.9 (11)	20.0 (17)	38.8 (33)	22. (19)	5.9 (5)			
All (N=290)	13.1 (38)	20.0 (58)	36.9 (107)	21. (63)	8.3 (24)			

Three in ten respondents gave BCC Leisure Services a higher rating than other authorities. Overall the ratings were roughly equal for Birmingham and Other Authorities. In both cases about one third reported a negative attitude.

10.1.3 Ways Forward for the Local Heart of the LGBT Community

10.1.3.1 Shopping List

When asked to provide suggestions for improvements to the local amenities and services to raise LGBT cultural appeal, two hundred comments were collected. Some were often quite detailed. Comments were categorized according to broad themes, counted and tabulated. The top ten suggestions are presented in Table 10.3

Table 10.3: Shopping list of suggestions for increasing Birmingham’s LGBT cultural experience

Rank	Suggestion	Mentions	L	G	B	T
1	Continue improvements / investment	40	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

2	Inclusion / broader appeal	38	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
3	Less emphasis on alcohol	24	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
4	Improve safety and security	23	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
5	LGBT centre	19	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
6	Cafés / restaurants	19	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
7	Range of establishments	18	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
8	Better advertising of events / services	12	No	Yes	No	No
9	Raising awareness of LGBT issues/presence	11	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
10	Tackling homophobia (from straight visitors)	10	Yes	Yes	No	No

There was a broad agreement across the four LGBT co-communities that ‘The Village’ needs to continue to improve and get more of a ‘village’ feel. All agreed that there needs to be more of a broader appeal to include age, ethnicity and disability. There was also an agreement that there needs to be more done to provide alternatives to ‘alco-centric’ activity. All four groups mentioned the need for an LGBT resource or community centre.

10.1.3.2 Ways Forward: LGBT People’s voices

Selections of respondents’ comments are presented, based on the top ten themes. Comments are identified by sexuality, gender and age.

‘Despite new street lighting the area around Birmingham’s “gay scene” is still dark at night and generally feels like a run down area where you don’t feel too safe. Better year round promotion of LGBT activities away from the pub and bar scene. Shout is a great initiative but only for a few weeks a year.’ (Male, 35-44, Gay).

‘The predominance of venues for younger people really does exclude the older members of the LGBT community - who still enjoy leisure time in a place that is tolerant and free from hostility. Getting older can often feel like going back into the closet and denial.’ (Male, 45-54, Gay)

‘Yes, remove the venues whose clientele in the Hurst Street area traditionally cause violence and confrontation to the LGBTQ community. . . Security cameras

in the Hurst Street areas and surrounding back-streets and clear signage that recordings are occurring.' (Male, 35-44, Gay)

'The Gay Village needs further improvements. What's been done already is great, but the area still needs attention, especially the nasty open-air car park next to The Village. Compared to other big cities, Birmingham's gay area still seems fragmented and a little tatty.' (Male, 25-34, Gay)

'The LGBT area of Birmingham has become a place that is no longer safe, there are perhaps two bars that remain LGBT the rest are over populated with the overspill from Broad Street/Arcadian which brings people who are unfriendly and who treat the area like a freak show. Cafes, wine bars and independent shops will all encourage the "pink pound" whilst cheap nasty takeaways will not! Birmingham could be amazing but people are giving up on the city because we have a team of people who have no vision developing pockets of places rather than bringing the city together.... How nice to be able to walk down a street holding hands with my girlfriend in London /Manchester /Amsterdam /Sydney /Barcelona. I wouldn't dream of doing it in Birmingham - I would be lynched! ' (Female, 25-34, Lesbian)

'I think all health service employees should go on a sexual orientation course - run by someone who is gay that really challenges their prejudices and ignorance - at all levels of seniority. I would like to see gay GP practices that deal specifically with LGBT issues, as it never surprises me how some staff are very ignorant and discrimination comes in very subtle ways, not always directly, which is hard to address.' (Female, 45-54, Gay)

'Wider advertisement of what's on in the LGBT community, not just night clubs, but other daytime/early evening activities where you're encouraged to talk and get to know other people, make friends... I have been out for nearly 7 years and I still haven't developed an inner confidence because I don't know where I fit' (Female, 25-34, Lesbian)

'LGBT community centre or space. LBGT section on council website with links to local groups/activities. Photos of same sex couples and info about LGBT people on council or other local service ads for events and services, so that this is seen and integrated into general publicity not just those for LGBT services.' (Female, 35-44, Lesbian)

'It would be excellent if there was a community centre/drop in centre, then groups could hire rooms at reasonable prices, this would encourage groups to hold gatherings thus helping the isolation experienced by many LGB and T people.' (Female, 65-74, Lesbian)

'Create a designated Gay Village. Improve area around Hurst Street - better lighting - benches - gardens etc. Give all public sector workers training around diversity/sexuality - to stop those working in local services making assumptions about sexuality.' (Female, 45-54, Lesbian)

'I'd also like to see a community centre, which could house various community groups and act as a resource for the community.' (Male, 25-34, Gay)

'A better range of bars and clubs that are not all located in one part of the city. Better parking and lighting. A resource/community centre. A 'one stop' type centre for all sections of the community.' (Male, 35-44, Gay)

'Yes - update the "village" area to more modern, perhaps cosmopolitan standards. When compared to London, Manchester, and Brighton it is very unappealing. . . I am not purposely mocking Birmingham and the West Midlands as this survey is attempting to improve things - but in my personal opinion the region and the city is a bit behind other areas of the country; as for instance, are Liverpool, Belfast and Leeds - which could improve also. I would personally say that Birmingham and Leeds are the two most uncomfortable for me as a person; with London and Manchester at the other end of the extreme, by way of major cities.' (Male, 35-44, Gay)

'As this section is... the only opportunity to express any free opinion whatsoever,

I'd like to make a few comments; 1. You won't get to the heart of what issues for the LGBT community are from this survey as you don't ask what they are! 2. The designers of this survey seem to think that the only things that concern LGBT people are crime/cash issues and (sexual) health ones - what about issues around caring and support for friends, partners, etc What about issues of growing older, having to go into care homes, loneliness, etc. etc?' (Male, 45-54, Gay)

'Amenities are often ageist and targeted towards the stereotypical gay/lesbian. I am a dual heritage, academic student with an interest in politics. I would like to do something other than get wasted at a weekend. However, there is nothing LGBT specific for my interests. This results in me using heterosexual services and being silent about my sexuality. This is very isolating!!!' (Female, 17-24, Lesbian)

11 The Work Place and LGBT Lives

11.1 LGBT People in the Work Place

Several questions in the survey explored attitudes to equal opportunities policies, benefits, discrimination and harassment in the work place.

11.1.1 Awareness of Policies

When asked if aware of policies in the workplace that protect LGBT people, two-thirds (66.3%; 401/605) indicated 'Yes'; one in five (20.3%; 123/605) indicated 'No' and the remaining 13.4% (81/605) were 'Unsure'.

11.1.2 Equal Benefits for Partners

Questioned if their terms of employment offered the same benefits for partners, irrespective of sexual orientation, over one half (51.7%; 306/592) indicated 'Yes', a little over two in five were 'Unsure' (41.4%; 245/592), and the remaining 6.9% (41/592) indicated 'No'.

11.1.3 Discrimination in the Workplace

When asked if they had been subjected to discrimination (bullying, harassment etc) in the workplace, almost two-thirds (64.4%; 399/610) indicated 'No'; almost three in ten indicated 'Yes' (28.7%; 175/610) and the remaining 5.9% (36/610)

were 'Unsure'. Comparing the four LGBT groups, the figures indicate that Trans people are more likely to say 'Yes' and less likely to say 'No'.

Table 11.1: Experiencing Discrimination in the workplace – LGBT Comparisons

Response:	Lesbian		Gay		Bisexual		Trans	
	%	(n)	%	(n)	%	(n)	%	(n)
No	65.3	(109/167)	65.6	(202/308)	73.2	(41/56)	56.0	(28/50)
Unsure	5.4	(9/167)	6.8	(21/308)	0.0	(0/56)	4.0	(2/50)
Yes	29.3	(49/167)	27.6	(85/308)	26.8	(15/56)	40.00	(20/50)

Although caution must be exercised when considering smaller groups, the differences are notable between the Trans group and the other three, and particularly with the other small group (Bisexual).

11.1.4 Reporting Discrimination

Respondents were also asked how likely they were to report being a victim of discrimination (because of sexual orientation). Figure 11.1* shows a bar chart of the responses.

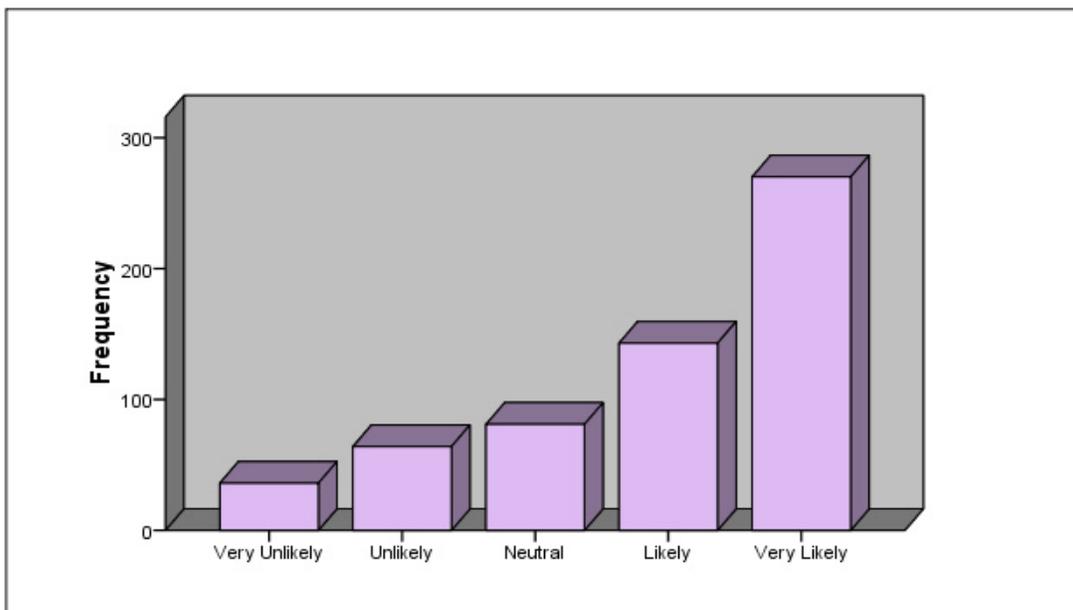


Figure 11.1: Likelihood of reporting LGBT discrimination in the workplace

The majority of respondents indicated that they would report discrimination (because of sexual orientation), with 45.5% (270/594) answering 'very likely'; 24.1% (143/594) indicating 'likely'; 13.6% (81/594) answering 'neutral'; 10.8%

(64/594) responded 'unlikely' and 6.1% (36/594) declaring 'very unlikely'. The likelihood of reporting discrimination was roughly the same across the four LGBT groups.

12 Community Safety and LGBT Lives

The section examines issues of community safety, including the incidence of hate crime, domestic abuse and the tendency to report such incidents to the police and attitudes to police responses.

12.1 Hate Crime in the Lives of LGBT People

12.1.1 Victims of Hate Crime

More than two in five (40.8%; 219/537) LGBT people declared that they had been victims of a hate (homophobic) crime. This was described in the questionnaire as 'any hate incident which constitutes a criminal offence that is perceived by the victim or any other person to be motivated by prejudice.' Four options of hate crime were given. The responses were, in order of frequency:

- **Verbal abuse:** almost three in five people (60.7%; 324/534)
- **Harassment:** more than one quarter of people (27.3%; 134/490)
- **Physical assault:** one in five (20.1%; 99/493)
- **Property damage:** more than one in eight (13.3%; 63/473)

Notably, there is a higher frequency of 'verbal abuse' than the general category of 'homophobia'. Therefore, it is not clear whether participants consider 'verbal abuse' to be a homophobic crime.

12.1.2 Reporting Hate Crime

Respondents were also asked if they had ever reported a hate crime in which they were victims. Again the results are in frequency order:

- **Verbal abuse:** 71 people, 21.9% of 324 people who indicated they had been victims.
- **Harassment:** 49 people, 36.6% of 134 who indicated they had been victims.

- **Physical assault:** 52 people, 52.5% of 99 people who indicated they had been victims.
- **Property damage:** 63 people, 100% of 63 people who indicated they had been victims.

Although the figures need to be interpreted cautiously, they indicate that people are more likely to report physical abuse over verbal abuse.

12.1.3 Police Response

When asked if they were happy with the response of the police regarding reported incidents, 54.5% (66/121) answered 'Yes', compared with 45.5% (55/121) indicating 'No'. Responses were filtered to include those who had responded to at least one of the 'reported crime' questions.

Respondents were also invited to offer comments. A selection of both positive and negative statements is offered for the four hate crimes surveyed:

Reporting verbal abuse and harassment

'The officers were lovely and understanding but literature provided was for racial hate crime rather the homophobic hate crime.' (Female, 35-44, Lesbian)

Reporting verbal abuse and damage to property

'I was harassed on a bus, the driver called the police and they were brilliant. They locked the youths up overnight, who were drunk. My car windscreen was smashed at home, I don't know if it was homophobic but the police were sympathetic when I mentioned that aspect.' (Female, 35-44, Bisexual)

Reporting physical assault

'The police outed me to my parents by accident.' (Male, 45-54, Bisexual)

Reporting damage to property, verbal abuse and harassment

'Police took too long to respond.' (Female, 45-54, Lesbian)

'Vague about what action they would take. Resources tight/ level of priority.'
(Male, 45-54, Gay)

Reporting physical assault

'I was treated like I had taken part in some kind of sex game.' (Female, 25-34, Lesbian)

Reporting physical assault

'The response was quick and the police officer dealt with the report sensitively. However they could not see the incident on CCTV, which makes me wonder how effective CCTV around Hurst St is.' (Male, 25-34, Gay)

12.2 Domestic Abuse

The section examines the incidence of LGBT domestic abuse and confidence in police responses.

12.2.1 Victims of Domestic Abuse

One quarter (25.3%; 137/542) of LGBT respondents indicated that they had been victims of domestic abuse. Lesbian cases accounted for 40.9% (56/137); Gay for 27.0% (37/137); Bisexual for 13.1% (18/37) and Trans for 10.9% (15/137). The remaining 8.0% (11/137) were in the 'Other' identity category. Expressed as percentages of each of the LGBT categories, the figures are:

- Almost one third of the Lesbian group (32.9%; 56/17)
- About one in seven of the Gay group (14.7%; 37/252)
- Over a third of the Bisexual group (34.6%; 18/52)
- Over a third of the Trans group (34.9%; 15/43)
- Over one half of the Other group (52.4%; 11/21)

Of the 137 indicated victims of domestic abuse, more than one in twelve (8.8%; 12/137) declared more than one perpetrator. Respondents were asked to indicate the gender of perpetrator. Of the 151 perpetrators, 57.0% (86/151) were male, 41.4% (62/151) were female and 2.3% (3/151) were Trans.

Only one quarter (25.9%; 35/135) reported an incident of domestic abuse to the police. Analysis of the Out Index scores indicated that those who reported domestic abuse were slightly more likely to be generally open and out about their

sexuality. The mean Out Index score was 4.84 for those who had reported compared with 4.29 for those who had not.

12.2.2 Confidence in Police Response to Domestic Abuse

Four questions were asked to explore attitudes to confidence in police handling of domestic abuse reports. The questions included issues of feeling safe and supported overall satisfaction and the likelihood of reporting incidents in the future. Cases were filtered to include only those who had indicated that they had reported domestic abuse, leaving 32 cases. With such a small number, figures must be interpreted with caution. Three people (9.4%; 3/32) indicated ‘total confidence’ in the police response, with the same number at the opposite end indicating ‘zero confidence’. Considering the scores from 12 –16 to represent high confidence, this accounts for one in three people (31.3%; 10/32). Nevertheless, when asked if they would be confident to approach the police in the future, about further incidents of domestic abuse, more than one half reported that they would (54.3%; 19/32), compared with less than a quarter who said they would not (22.9%; 8/32). The same proportion (22.9%; 8/32) was unsure.

12.2.3 Dedicated LGBT Domestic Abuse Service?

When asked ‘Do you think there should be a same-sex domestic violence service?’, more than four in five answered ‘Yes’ (82.8%; 385/465).

12.2.4 Rating the Police Service

Respondents were asked to rate their experience of dealing with West Midlands Police on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 indicates the worst experience and 5 indicates the best. The figures are shown in Table 12.1.

Table 12.1: Overall LGBT Ratings for West Midlands Police Service

	Worst		Rating				Best			
	1		2		3		4		5	
Region:	%	(n)	%	(n)	%	(n)	%	(n)	%	(n)
Birmingham (N=198)	8.6	(17)	18.7	(37)	32.8	(65)	28.8	(57)	11.1	(22)
Other Authorities (N=108)	4.6	(5)	13.0	(14)	42.6	(46)	31.5	(34)	8.3	(9)
All (N=306)	7.2	(22)	16.7	(51)	36.3	(111)	29.7	(91)	10.1	(31)

Overall, about two in five (39.8%; 122/306) report a positive experience of dealing with West Midlands Police, with more than one third indicating a satisfactory experience (36.3%; 111/306). The LGBT sample for Birmingham was more likely to indicate negative experience than were LGBT people living outside the region.

13 Young LGBT People's Lives in Birmingham

13.1 Introduction

This section looks at the lives of younger LGBT people including attitudes to youth services, recollections of sexuality and gender education at school, and bullying.

13.1.1 Youth Services

About one in eight (12.4%; 64/517) LGBT respondents indicated that they had accessed youth services (including youth groups). Two questions in the survey were asked to explore attitudes to the service when dealing with matters of sexual orientation.

13.1.1.1 Youth Services and Sexual Orientation

13.1.1.1.1 Understanding and Support

When asked if they thought youth services in Birmingham were supportive and understanding of sexual orientation issues, just over a one third answered 'Yes' or 'Most definitely' (33.9%; 20/59). Just over half were 'unsure' (54.2%; 32/59) and just under one in nine (11.9%; 7/59), answered 'No' or 'Definitely not'. Examining the results for all people who answered this question (presumably with some experience of youth services), just fewer than one in six answered 'Yes' or 'Most definitely'. Almost three quarters (72.8%; 228/313) indicating 'unsure' and slightly fewer than one in ten (9.6%; 30/313) indicated 'No' or 'Definitely not'.

There were broad age differences in responses. Under 35s were more likely to report positive attitudes, with more than one in five (22.0%; 33/150) answering 'Yes' or 'Most definitely'. Nearly seven in ten were unsure. By contrast, fewer than one in eight (13.0%; 21/62) older respondents (35 plus) indicated 'Yes' or 'Most definitely'. More than three quarters (76.5%; 124/162) of the older group were 'unsure'.

13.1.1.1.2 Awareness

Following on from this, respondents were asked if they thought that youth services in Birmingham have a good level of awareness on issues faced by young people around sexual orientation. Just over one in six (16.4%; 53/323) answered ‘Yes’ or ‘Most definitely), whereas just under one in six (15.1%; 49/323) answered ‘No’ or ‘Definitely not’. The majority, over two thirds (68.4%; 221/323), were ‘unsure’. Similar patterns in age difference were also observed, as for the previous question. Again, there are age differences in responses between the younger and older cohorts. More than one in five (21%; 33/157) of the Under 35s gave a positive response (‘Yes’ and ‘Most definitely’), compared with fewer than one in eight (12.0%; 20/166) of the older group (35 and over). Negative responses were roughly equal.

13.1.2 Overall Ratings of the Youth Service in Birmingham

Respondents were asked to rate their experience of dealing with the Youth Service in Birmingham on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 indicates the worst experience and 5 indicates the best. The figures are shown in Table 13.1.

Table 13.1: Overall LGBT Ratings for the Youth Service in Birmingham

	Worst		Rating				Best	
	1	2	3	4	5			
Region:	% (n)	% (n)	% (n)	% (n)	% (n)	% (n)	% (n)	
Birmingham (N=90)	25.6 (23)	20.0 (18)	30.0 (27)	15.6 (14)	8.9 (8)			
Other Authorities (N=46)	6.5 (3)	26.1 (12)	34.8 (16)	21.7 (10)	10.9 (5)			
All (N=136)	19.1 (26)	22.1 (30)	31.6 (43)	17.6 (24)	9.6 (13)			

13.1.3 Back to School

Several questions also asked about LGBT people’s experiences at school.

13.1.3.1 Being ‘Out’ at School

There were notable age differences when asking respondents if they were ‘out’ (open about their sexuality) at school, with the older cohort (35 and over) much less likely to answer ‘Yes’. Table 13.2 shows these age differences.

Table 13.2: Comparison of the likelihood of being ‘out’ at school by age cohorts

All	Under 35s	35 and over
-----	-----------	-------------

Response:	%	(n)	%	(n)	%	(n)
Yes, completely out	5.5	(26)	8.7	(19)	2.8	(7)
Yes, out to some	14.3	(67)	23.3	(51)	6.4	(16)
No	80.2	(377)	68.0	(149)	90.8	(228)
Total	100.0	(470)	100.0	(219)	100.0	(251)

Overall, about one in five (19.8%; 93/470) LGBT people answered that they were out to some degree at school. However, only one in eighteen (5.5%; 26/53) was completely out. Comparing the two age cohorts, people 35 and over were half as likely to report being completely out at school, that is one in 36 (2.8%; 7/251). Comparing the two cohorts, for LGBT people under 35, about seven in ten were not open about their sexuality at school. For the over 35s, more than nine out of ten were not open.

13.1.3.2 Sexuality and Gender Education at School

Respondents were asked several questions about school, sex/relationships education. The results show that the subjects of sexual orientation and gender identity were not covered for the majority of this LGBT sample.

13.1.3.2.1 Sexual Orientation Discussions

More than seven out of ten (70.8%; 153/216) LGBT respondents under 35 indicated that there had been no sexual orientation discussions at school. For the 35 plus group, nearly nine out of ten (88.3%; 226/256) indicated 'No'. Of the remainder, slightly fewer than one in five under 35s (19.4%; 42/216) indicated there had been a little coverage of the topic, compared with about one in 32 (3.1%; 8/256) for the older cohort. In a small percentage of cases, there had been coverage of sexual orientation but in a negative way (Under 35s: 7.9%; 17/216), and for 35 and over: (6.6%; 17/256). In both cohorts, only one in 50 gave an unqualified 'Yes'. Under 35s: (1.9%; 4/216) and for 35 and over: (2.0%; 5/256).

13.1.3.2.2 Sexual Orientation Information and Resources

When asked if they were aware of any information and resources available at their schools about sexual orientation, just 1.1% (5/469) gave an unqualified 'Yes'. Of those who said there had been a little information available, for the Under 35s it was fewer than one in 20 (4.7%; 10/2), compared with fewer than one in 100

(0.8%; 2/254) for the older cohort. Comparing the cohorts for those who responded 'No', it was (94.0% 202/215) for the Under 35s compared with (98.4% 250/254) for the 35 and over group.

13.1.3.2.3 Gender Identity Discussions, Information and Resources

When asked if there had been any discussions on issues around gender identity, more than nine out of ten (91.6%; 153/167) of the under 35s said 'No'. Of the remainder, (7.8% 13/167) said there had been 'a little' discussion. Only one person (0.6%) answered an unqualified 'Yes'. However for the older cohort (35 and over), 100% said 'No'.

Only five people out of 458 indicated that there was a little information available at school on gender identity. This equates to 1.1%. These five people were all from the Under 35s group. For the older cohort, there was a unanimous 'No'.

13.1.3.3 Anti-Bullying Policies at School

13.1.3.3.1 Anti-bullying Policy

When asked if they knew whether their schools had an anti-bullying policy that covered homophobic/transphobic bullying, no one answered 'Yes'. Comparing the age cohorts, seven out of ten (71.3%; 179/251) answered 'No' compared to just over one half (54.1%; 118/218) of the younger group. This was reversed for those whose response was 'Unsure' (Under 35s: 45.9%; 100/218 versus 28.7%; 72/251, for the 35 plus group).

13.1.3.3.2 Actively Tackling Homophobia and Transphobia at School

Almost eight in ten people (79.1%; 372/470) answered that their school did not take an active approach in tackling homophobia and transphobia at school. Again, age cohort differences were observed. For the under 35s, (72.2% 156/216) answered 'No' or 'Definitely not' compared with 85.0% (216/254) of the 35 and over group. Fewer than one in 20 (9/4.2%) of the younger cohort answered 'Yes' or 'Most definitely'. Of the remainder who answered 'Unsure', for the Under 35s it was (23.6% 51/216) and, for the older group, it was (14.2% 36/254).

13.1.3.4 Being Bullied

Although the under 35s were more likely to be open or out at school, they were also more likely to report being bullied because of their sexuality.

Table 13.3: Comparison of the likelihood of reporting anti-LGBT bullying at school by age cohorts

	All		Under 35s		35 and over	
Response:	%	(n)	%	(n)	%	(n)
Yes	36.9	(245)	42.8	(103)	31.6	(75)
Unsure	8.1	(36)	7.7	(16)	8.4	(20)
No	55.1	(164)	49.5	(89)	59.9	(142)
Total	100.0	(445)	100.0	(208)	100.0	(237)

More than one third (36.9%; 245/445) of LGBT indicated that they had been bullied at school. For the under 35s the figure was more than two in five (42.8%; 103/208) compared to just over one in three for the older group. Further analysis of the younger cohort shows that there were no notable differences between the Under 25s and the 25 plus group. The younger group (Under 25s) were slightly more likely to report bullying (45.8%; 22/48) compared with the 25 plus group (41.9%; 67/160). However, considering the small sample of the younger group, these figures should be treated with caution. They do provide an indication that perhaps bullying at school is not showing notable signs of improvement.

14 Physical Health and Well Being in LGBT Lives

14.1 Introduction

This section focuses the general physical and sexual health of LGBT people.

14.2 General Health

14.2.1 Health over Past Twelve Months

More than seven out of ten reported 'good' or 'excellent' health (70.9%; 444/598) over the past 12 months. Of the remainder, 15.7% (94/598) report 'average', 8.2% (49/598) reported 'fair' and 5.2% (31/598) reported 'poor' health. Across all LGBT groups, the average (median) for health was 'good'. However, for the Trans group,

respondents are more likely to respond ‘average’ and less likely to respond ‘good’ than the other three (LGB) groups.

14.2.1.1 Long Term Illness

For those with a current health problem lasting longer than twelve months, Table 14.1 shows the number of health conditions declared by 222 respondents. They were allowed multiple responses.

Table 14.1: List of the most frequently cited long-term illnesses

Health Condition (N=222)	%	(n)
Chest/ / Breathing Problems	24.3	(54)
Allergies / Hayfever	20.3	(45)
Heart / Circulation Problems	15.3	(34)
Arthritis or rheumatism	12.6	(28)
Skin Conditions	11.3	(25)
Digestive / Liver / Kidney Problems	10.8	(24)
Diabetes	7.7	(17)
Chronic Infections (E.g. TB, HIV)	7.2	(16)
Hearing Impairment	5.0	(11)
Cancer	2.3	(5)
Progressive Illness (e.g. MS, AIDS etc)	2.3	(5)
Visual Impairment	1.8	(4)
Prostate Problems	1.8	(4)
Speech Impediment	0.5	(1)

About one half (49.1%; 104/212) indicated that the health problem declared limited the activities of everyday life.

14.2.2 Alcohol

Respondents were also questioned about alcohol consumption.

14.2.2.1 Below Weekly Recommended Units

Almost three in five (59.9%; 358/597) respondents indicated alcohol consumption below the recommended weekly units. Of these, one in six (16.3%; 97/597) indicated that they did not drink at all. Comparing age differences, the 35 plus cohort was more likely to report low or no alcohol consumption (63.3%; 217/343) compared with the younger (55.5%; 141/254). More than two thirds (68.8%;

192/279) of females indicated consumption below the recommended amount, or none at all. Just over half (51.9%; 161/319) of the males reported low or no alcohol consumption.

14.2.2.2 Around Weekly Recommended Units

One in three (30.8%; 184/597) people indicated that they drank about the weekly-recommended units of alcohol per week (14 – 21 units). The younger cohort was more likely to indicated consumption within recommended limits (36.6%; 93/254) compared with 26.5% (91/343) of the older group. Just over one third (34.2%; 106/310) of males indicated they drinking within the recommended limits, compared with slightly more than one quarter (26.9%; 75/279) of females.

14.2.2.3 More Than Recommended Units

About one in eleven (9.25%; 55/597) indicated drinking more than the recommended units of alcohol per week. Of these, 2.3% (14/597) indicated consumption more than twice the recommended number units (42 or more). One in ten (10.2%; 35/343) of the older group indicated drinking above the recommended units per week. For the younger cohort, the figure was less than one in twelve (7.9%; 20/254). Males were more than three times more likely to indicate that they drank alcohol above recommended limits than were females : 13.9% (43/310) versus 4.3% (12/279)).

14.2.3 Smoking

14.2.3.1 General Figures

Less than one quarter (24.1%; 142/590) indicated that they were smokers. Although there are no notable differences between the two age cohorts (Under 35, 35 plus), one group does stand out as being slightly more likely to smoke than the rest. For the 17-24s, more than one third indicated that they are smokers (35.6%; 21/59). However, this should be interpreted with caution given the small sample size. There were no notable gender differences.

14.2.3.2 Smoking and Alcohol Link

There was a slight indication that smoking and higher alcohol consumption is linked. Comparing the mean (average) indications for alcohol consumption, for

non-smokers it was 1.49 and for smokers it was 1.65. For people who drank below the recommended limit, less than one in five (19.5%; 69/353) were smokers. For those who drank around the recommended limit, three in ten (29.6%; 53/179) were smokers. For those who drank more than the recommended limits, more than one third were smokers (35.2%; 19/54).

14.2.4 Exercise

Respondents were asked to select from a list of exercise activities they engaged in. These were: aerobics, swimming, yoga/Pilates, walking/rambling, extreme sports, gym, jogging, sports, martial arts / tai chi, and cycling. Almost one quarter (23.0%; 146/636) indicated that they did no exercise.

More than one third (36.5%; 232/636) indicated one activity, a further one in five (21.2%; 135/636) indicated two of the activities; a further one in ten (10.2%; 65/636) indicated three activities. The remainder (about one in eleven people) indicated four or more of the listed activities (9.2%; 58/636). The survey did not capture the frequency with which respondents took part in the various activities. Also, the survey did not make it possible to record missing values for the exercise tallies, and so the overall total figure of 636 has been used to calculate percentages.

14.2.5 Recreational Drug Use

One half (50.1%; 297/593) of the respondents indicated recreational drug use. A list of sixteen drugs was given (see questionnaire) and respondents indicated frequency of use (if at all). Those most frequently indicated were selected for analysis. These were: cannabis, speed (amphetamines), ecstasy, coke (cocaine), and poppers (amyl nitrate). The results are shown in Table 14.2.

Table 14.2: Comparison of frequency of recreational drug use

Substance:	Ever Used		Over a Year Ago		Within Last Year		Within Last Month	
	%	(n)	%	(n)	%	(n)	%	(n)
Cannabis	39.5	(251)	24.7	(157)	6.9	(44)	7.8	(50)
Poppers	26.7	(170)	14.2	(90)	4.6	(29)	8.0	(51)
Coke	19.5	(124)	13.5	(86)	4.6	(29)	1.5	(9)
Speed	18.9	(120)	17.5	(111)	0.9	(6)	0.5	(3)

Ecstasy	18.4	(117)	12.7	(81)	3.8	(24)	1.9	(12)
---------	-------------	-------	-------------	------	------------	------	------------	------

The recreational substances of choice were cannabis and poppers. The analysis indicated a pattern of experimentation rather than habitual use when comparing the columns for 'Over a Year Ago' to 'Within Last Month'. The highest figure for 'Daily Use' of any of the substances is for cannabis at 1.4% (9/636) of the LGBT sample. All other figures are 0.3% or less for daily use. For the remaining drugs on the list (crack cocaine, tranquillisers, GHB, Heroin, Ketamine, LSD, magic mushrooms, and methamphetamines (crystal)), less than 10% of people indicated having tried any of these.

14.2.6 GP Attitudes

Nearly seven in ten of the LGBT (69.0%; 412/597) people sampled were registered with a Birmingham General Practitioner (GP).

14.2.6.1 Being Non-Judgemental

Several questions in the survey examined respondents' opinions of their GPs. Almost two in five (38.9%; 229/589) answered that they thought their GP had non-judgmental attitudes to LGBT people, although over one half (52.1%; 307/589) was not sure. The remaining 9.0% (53/589) of people answered 'No'.

The older cohort was more likely to report non-judgemental GP attitudes (Under 35s: 30.4%; 76/250; 35 plus: 45.1%; 153/339). There were slight regional differences between Birmingham and Other Areas on the subject of GPs being non-judgemental. Respondents in Birmingham (Zones 1 to 9) were slightly less likely to answer 'Yes' (38.0%; 142/ 227) than were those in Other Authorities (41.3%; 85/227). For the 'No' response, those in Birmingham were more likely to say 'No' (10.2%; 38/52) compared with Other Authorities (14/52). However for the 'Unsure' responses, the figures were the same Birmingham: 51.9%; 194/301; Other Authorities: 51.9%; 107/301). The figures therefore need to be interpreted with caution. The figures for the four LGBT groups largely depend on whether people are out to their GP.

14.2.6.2 Being Out to GP

Less than one half (45.1%; 267/592) indicated that their GPs knew about the respondent's sexual orientation. About one quarter (24.3%; 144/592) were 'Unsure' implying that they had not told their GPs and one in three (30.6%; 181/592) answered a more definite 'No'. The older cohort was more likely to indicate that their GP knew about the respondent's sexuality (Under 35s: 31.1%; 83/267, compared with 54.0%; 184/267, for the 35 and over group). There were no notable regional differences. Trans people were most likely to answer 'Yes' (65.4%; 34/52). Bisexual people were the least likely to say that their GP knew (21.4%; 12/56). About one half of Lesbian respondents answered 'Yes' (50.5%; 92/182), compared with just over two in five Gay respondents (43.5%; 120/276). One half (50.3%; 297/591) indicated that they would be comfortable discussing sexual health issues with their GP. One in five (20.0%; 118/591) were 'Unsure' and one in three (29.8%; 176/591) answered 'No'.

14.2.6.3 LGBT Specific GP Service

About one half (51.4%; 305/593) indicated that they would prefer a GP service specifically for LGBT people. Just less than one quarter (23.3%; 138/593) were 'Unsure' and about one quarter (25.3%; 150/593) answered 'No'. The younger cohort was slightly more likely to say it would prefer to visit an LGBT specific service (Under 35s: 54.2%; 135/249; 35 plus: 49.4%; 170/344). Of the four LGBT groups, the Bisexual group was least likely to say 'Yes' (37.5%; 21/56) and the Trans group was the most likely (60.8%; 31/51). For Lesbian and Gay, more than one half would prefer an LGBT specific GP service (Lesbian: 54.1%; 99/183; Gay: 52.0%; 144/277).

14.3 Sexual Health

The survey contained a number of questions about sexual health, in particular clinic visits, self-checks and screening.

14.3.1 Clinic Visits

When asked if they had ever visited a GUM (genito-urinary medicine) or sexual health clinic in Birmingham, almost one half answered they had not (48.7%; 279/573). About one in eleven (8.9%; 51/573) indicated that they had visited within

the past six months. The older cohort was more likely to answer 'No' than the younger (Under 35s; 40.6%; 97/239; 35 plus: 54.7%). Of the four LGBT groups, Lesbian and Trans respondents were least likely to have visited a sexual health clinic. In both groups more than three-quarters indicated 'No' (Lesbian: 78.1%; 132/169; Trans 75.0%; 36/48). Gay men were most likely to have visited with just over one quarter answering 'No' (26.5%; 64/279). For the Bisexual group, just over one half said 'No' (52.8%; 74/53).

14.3.2 Self-Checking

Almost nine out of ten (89.3%; 63/587) indicated that they performed self-checks for unusual lumps (e.g. breasts and testicles). The older cohort was slightly more likely to self-check than was the younger (Under 35s: 85.1%; 211/248; 35 plus: 92.3%; 313/339). Figures were broadly equivalent across the four LGBT groups.

14.3.3 Screening

14.3.3.1 Mammogram

Women and Trans-women (MTF) over 50 years were asked if they had been for a mammogram (breast screening) in the past five years. Almost three-quarters answered 'Yes' (74.1%; 43/58). There were 106 respondents eligible to answer this question, so the high proportion of missed responses means the figure needs to be interpreted with caution.

14.3.3.2 Cervical Smear

Just over three quarters of women and Trans-men (with a womb: FTM) had been for a cervical smear in the past three to five years (76.4%; 123/161). The responses were from those ages over 25.

14.3.3.3 Prostate Screening

Men and Trans-women (MTF) were asked if they had ever been offered prostate screening. Responses are only for the 35 plus group. Only one in ten answered 'Yes' (10.2%; 21/206).

14.3.4 Overall Ratings of GPs and Clinics

Overall ratings of respondents' experience of GPs and clinics in Birmingham were measured on a scale of one to five, where one indicated 'the worst experience' and five indicated 'the best'. The figures are shown in Table 14.3.

Table 14.3: Overall LGBT Ratings for GP and Clinic Services in Birmingham

	Worst		Rating				Best	
	1	2	3	4	5			
Region:	% (n)	% (n)	% (n)	% (n)	% (n)	% (n)	% (n)	
Birmingham (N=290)	8.3 (24)	15.9 (46)	34.1 (99)	26.6 (77)	15.2 (44)			
Other Authorities (N=112)	3.6 (4)	17.9 (20)	26.8 (30)	31.2 (35)	20.5 (23)			
All (N= 402)	7.0 (28)	16.4 (66)	32.1 (129)	27.9 (112)	16.7 (67)			

The next section looks at LGBT mental health.

15 Mental Health and Well Being

15.1 Mental Health Services

15.1.1 Accessing Services in Birmingham

About one in five (19.7%; 113/573) of the respondents had accessed services in Birmingham dealing with mental health issues. A further 3.8% (22/573) had tried unsuccessfully to access services. Over three quarters (76.4/573) indicated 'No'. More than eight out of ten who had accessed services (81.4%; 92/113) had accessed mental health services through the NHS. Almost one in ten who had accessed services (9.7%; 11/113) had accessed services through Healthy Gay Life. Respondents had also accessed services privately (7.1%; 8/113) or through other sources (8.8%; 10/113). Other providers mentioned included: *AB plus*, *Employer's counselling service*, *Freshwinds*, *St Martin's counselling service*, *THT*, and *University counsellors*. Some respondents offered more than one example, and the figures indicate that some had accessed more than one source. Almost seven out of ten (69.4%; 75/113) agreed that staff within Birmingham's mental health service was courteous and understanding. Of the remainder, 14.2% (16/109) were 'Neutral' and 15.7% (17/108) disagreed.

15.1.2 Forms of Mental Health Treatment

All LGBT respondents were asked if they had ever received medication for mental health issues. About one third (32.9%; 188/571) answered 'Yes'. About three in five (60.3%; 323/536) of all respondents had received some form of counselling or psychotherapy. Of these, about one third (33.7%; 109/323) had paid privately.

15.2 Types of Mental Health Problems

Respondents were given a series of 'disorders' taken from the DSM-IV (The American Classification system). The four most cited from the list were:

- Three in ten (31.0%; 197/439) indicated that they had received some form of help for **Mood (Affective) Disorders** (including mania, depression and bipolar disorder).
- One in five (19.5%; 124/636) indicated that they had received some form of help with **Anxiety Disorders** (including post-traumatic stress, obsessive-compulsive disorder, social anxiety and phobias)
- One in ten (9.7%; 62/636) indicated that they had some help with **Adjustment Disorders** (including stress in coping with bereavement, divorce, accidents, and illnesses in relationships).
- Just over one in 20 (5.5%; 35/636) respondents indicated that they had received some form of help with **Eating Disorders** (including anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa and binge eating).

15.3 Suicide and Self Harm

Several questions were asked about suicidal thoughts, suicide attempts and self-harm. The section also looks at the possible connection between suicide and self-harm and being the victim of homophobia.

15.3.1 Suicidal Thoughts

Just fewer than one half of LGBT people surveyed answered that they had contemplated suicide (47.6%; 272/571). There were no strong differences between people who had been victims of homophobia and those who had not, and the likelihood of contemplating suicide.

15.3.2 Suicide Attempts

One in five (20.0%; 113/566) respondents indicated that they had attempted suicide. Of those who answered 'Yes', almost nine out of ten (89.2%; 99/111) indicated that it had happened more than a year ago. Of the remainder, 5.4% (6/111) answered that it had happened with the past year, a further 5.4% (6/111) that it had happened within the last six months. Respondents who had been the victim of a homophobic hate crime were slightly more likely (58.0%; 58/100) to report that they had attempted suicide than those who had not been victims (42.0%/42/100).

15.3.3 Self-harm

More than one in five (22.7%; 129/568) respondents indicated that they had self-harmed. Respondents who had been the victim of a homophobic hate crime were slightly more likely (55.6%; 65/117) to report that they had self-harmed than those who had not been victims (44.4%; 52/117).

15.3.4 Assessment of Mental Health Services (Health Authority)

15.3.4.1 Overall Assessment

Overall ratings of respondents' experience of Mental Health Services were measured on a scale of one to five, where one indicated 'the worst experience' and five indicated 'the best'. The figures are shown in Table 15.1.

Table 15.1: Overall LGBT Ratings for Mental Health Services (Health Authority)

	Worst		Rating				Best	
	1	2	3	4	5			
Region:	% (n)	% (n)	% (n)					
Birmingham (N=145)	14.5 (21)	18.6 (27)	36.6 (53)	22.1 (32)	8.3 (12)			
Other Authorities (N=66)	7.6 (5)	19.7 (13)	30.3 (20)	19.7 (13)	22.7 (15)			
All (N=211)	12.3 (26)	19.0 (40)	34.6 (73)	21.3 (45)	12.8 (27)			

15.3.4.2 Preference for LGBT Specific Services

About two in five respondents (40.5%; 214/529) indicated that they would prefer LGBT specific mental health services. Just fewer than two in five (38.9%;

206/529) expressed 'no opinion either way' and just over one in five (20.6%; 109/529) answered 'No'.

16 Community Infrastructure: Support and Services

16.1 Introduction

This section explores the attitudes of LGBT people to community participation; the service provision of various organizations and whether LGBT needs are being met in Birmingham. It concludes with suggestions for investment in and development of the LGBT community and how participation might be increased.

16.2 Community Participation

16.2.1 LGBT Events and Activities

16.2.1.1 Taking Part

Almost three quarters (74.0%; 421/569) of LGBT people answered that they participated in LGBT community activities and events in Birmingham. A further 6.0% (34/569) answered 'Yes, when they are somewhere else'. One in five people answered 'No' (114/569). The high uptake of LGBT events and activities was across all four LGBT groups. Almost eight out of the Gay Male Group (78.1%; 207/265) said they took part in Birmingham LGBT events and the same proportion of the Trans group (79.5%; 35/44). Over two thirds of the Lesbian group answered 'Yes' (67.2%; 119/177) and more than three-quarters of the Bisexual group (76.8%; 43/56).

Considering those who answered 'No', they scored slightly lower on the 'Out Index' (indicating less openness) than those who had participated in LGBT events. For those who said 'No' the mean was 4.05 compared with 4.48 for those who said 'Yes to Birmingham events' and 4.52 for those who said 'Yes to events elsewhere'.

16.2.1.2 LGBT Spaces: Other Places

Respondents provided a long list of places other than Birmingham where they take part in LGBT events from Sandwell to Sydney:

Amsterdam, Blackpool, Brighton, Bristol, Bromsgrove, Coventry, Dudley, Edinburgh, Evesham, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Kidderminster, Leicester, London, Malvern, Manchester, Nottingham, Sandwell, Swansea, Sydney, Telford, Warwickshire and Wolverhampton.

16.2.2 LGBT Community Resources

16.2.2.1 Community Centre – Have You Visited?

When asked if they had ever visited an LGBT community/resource centre, only one quarter answered 'Yes' (25%; 135/541). Despite this, a whole range of examples were offered including a number of Birmingham based services such as *Healthy Gay Life (HGL); AB Plus; Terence Higgins Trust (THT)* and *Freshwinds*.

Other examples given of community centres visited were: Aberdeen, Amsterdam, Australia, Brighton, Cork, Coventry, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds, Leicester, Lichfield, Liverpool, Manchester, New York, Northampton, Nottingham, Sheffield, Swansea and Toronto.

16.2.2.2 Community Centre – Would You Visit?

Almost three in five (58.0%; 328/566) said 'Yes' they would visit an LGBT community/resource centre if one existed in Birmingham. Just over one-third (35.5%; 201/566) answered 'Unsure' with the remaining 6.5% (37/566) saying 'No'.

16.2.2.3 Health & Lifestyle Workshops

Almost one half said 'Yes' (47.9%; 269/562) to the question of whether they would attend LGBT organised workshops and training events dealing with health and lifestyle issues. A little over a third answered 'Unsure' (36.8%; 207/562). The remaining 15.3% (86/562) answered 'No'.

People were also asked to suggest LGBT community events that they would like more of in Birmingham.

16.2.3 LGBT Community Events Top Ten Requests

Respondents' suggestions for community events were classified into 22 categories. Up to three suggestions were coded for each person. A total of 173 respondents offered a suggestion (47 of these offered more than one suggestion). The total numbers reflect an ideas count rather than a people count. Despite some requests for age specific activities in older and younger age ranges, there was notable agreement across all age groups. Table 16.1* shows the ten most frequently cited suggestions in rank order, the number of mentions and which segments of the LGBT community offered the suggestion. Some people offered more than one suggestion.

Table 16.1: Top Ten Suggestions LGBT Community Activities

Rank	Suggestion	Mentions	L	G	B	T
1	Non-Scene / Non-Alcohol	37	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2	Arts & Culture	35	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
3	Social / Support Groups	22	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
4	Sports / Exercise / Outdoors	20	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
5	Community / Family Events	13	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
6	Community Centre	12	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
7	Older People	10	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
8	Awareness / Information	10	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
9	Café / Coffee Bar	7	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
10	Trans	6	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
10	Young People	6	No	Yes	Yes	No

All four co-communities (L, G, B and T) suggested “Non-scene, Non-Alcohol; Arts and Culture; Social and Support Groups, Community Centre and Awareness and Information.

16.2.4 Disability Access

LGBT people with disabilities were asked if they had ever felt excluded or actually been excluded from accessing commercial venues or community groups.

Respondents were able to multi-code from a list of reasons. The most frequently cited reasons for exclusion were:

No ramps or lifts (20 mentions); proximity to transport routes (17); no disabled facilities (such as toilets and social areas)(16); poor lighting (14); inaccessible areas (14); attitude of staff in commercial venues (13); lack of minicom or other

communication aides (12); attitudes of other customers in commercial venues (12); activities unsuitable for disabled people (8); and no appropriate resources in community groups (3).

16.2.5 Ways Forward: In LGBT People's Own Words

A sample of respondents' comments was selected, guided by the Top Ten most frequently cited suggestions. Comments are identified only by age and sexual orientation or gender identity.

'Something aimed more toward people who don't care to go to bars or parties. Pride is just the clubs turned out on the streets and does not connect at all with a lot of LGBT people in the community.' (Male, 45-54, Bisexual)

'More events, more rallies, more community spirit, less clubbing orientated activities, more conferences, more seminars, film festival would be good as well...just more of everything. There is hardly ANYTHING LGBT focused in Birmingham. It's very depressing.' (Female, 25-34, Lesbian)

'Not enough support by city council. Not enough cafe society culture like Manchester or Soho.' (MTF Trans, 35-44, Heterosexual / Straight)

'Non alcohol (venues) focused social groups and groups for LGB&T professionals.' (Male, 25-34, Gay)

'More arts events - SHOUT is great but very short time period.' (Female, 35-44, Lesbian)

'Something more culturally sophisticated than Pride.' (Male, 25-34, Gay)

'Sporting events - anything that is not focussed on drinking/sexual promiscuity culture.' (Male, 25-34, Gay)

'LGBT family-focused events.' (Female, 24-34, Lesbian)

'Range of community, recreational activities.' (Male, 45-54, Gay)

'Broader events to attract middle and older aged LGBT.' (Female, 45-54, Gay)

'There is nothing for transmen at all - London or Sheffield are the nearest support/social groups.' (FTM Trans, 35-44, Queer)

'A community centre / resource centre to provide a non-alcohol based meeting, training and socialising space where LGBT could meet on a daily basis.' (Gender Queer, 35-44, Queer)

'LGBT centre for health and wellbeing (like Edinburgh).' (MTF Trans, 25-34, Bisexual)

'Just general places for teenagers to meet each other, to have friends that are the same, and not to feel lonely in this way.' (Male, 16 or under, Gay)

'More events like the Shout festival which promote social groups, and opportunities to socialise with other LGBT people which don't involve bars and nightclubs.' (Male, 25-34, Gay)

'Community events that integrate heterosexuals with homosexuals in an "open" environment - to take steps to make it more commonplace for people to feel they can be honest about their sexuality. I'd prefer it if people were not negative because they think you have made a "lifestyle" choice by being honest about your sexuality - involving heterosexuals and empowering homosexuals is key in encouraging increased community cohesion.' (Male, 17-24, Gay)

17 Conclusions and Recommendations

17.1 Overview

This research has provided much needed data to map the lives, needs, issues and attitudes of LGBT people living, working and socializing in Birmingham. Rather

than a homogeneous community, the big picture is one of diversity. LGBT people live in all areas of the city and surrounding areas and are from all socio-economic backgrounds. Three clear themes emerge. Firstly, there is no such thing as a typical Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans person. Although sexuality may be a defining feature in LGBT people's lives it is often not *the* defining feature. LGBT identities are multi-layered and multi-faceted. Secondly, there is no single LGBT community, but rather four co-communities. Thirdly, all co-communities want to move forward to help co-create 'something more culturally sophisticated' for Birmingham with a gay space more befitting the second city. To achieve this end, cultural, structural and attitudinal advancement need to go hand in hand. The findings on leisure indicate that a third of people visiting the city at least once a week, for LGBT cultural activities, are from other areas (zones 10 to 15). Following the suggestions from respondents, a more welcoming gay space would increase its appeal. The 'Gay Village' could be an asset to the city, not just an appendix. From respondents' comments, the aspirations for Birmingham should embrace both economic and equality issues.

The results reveal that, in several key areas, the experience of LGBT people is not a picture of inclusion. The findings on education, especially those examining cohort differences, suggest that there has been little advancement on information and resources in schools. Comments regarding IVF illustrate that LGBT people may be refused treatment because of incompatible 'lifestyle choice'. In the workplace, LGBT people are not always aware of workplace policies and whether or not they enjoy the same rights as heterosexual counterparts. One third indicated that they had been discriminated against in the workplace. More than two in five indicated that they had been victims of hate crime and one in four had been victims of domestic violence. Findings indicate high levels of suicide attempts and self-harm and provide tentative evidence that being a victim of a hate crime may have a detrimental effect on mental health. From the comments offered, homophobia is increasingly a problem in the so-called 'Gay Village'.

17.2 Recommendations: Ways Forward

The research outlines several key needs and ways forward to improve LGBT life experiences in Birmingham and to improve the city's LGBT cultural appeal.

- At the most basic level, a more visible LGBT presence on the Birmingham Council City website is needed. It should have a simple, memorable web address (URL). This would address significant concerns that people do not know what is on offer in Birmingham, whether they are residents or visitors.
- An LGBT Community/Resource Centre in Birmingham which acts as a hub for services, information and social and support groups.
- A strategy is needed to address homophobic bullying in schools, including better provision of information and resources on sexual orientation and gender identity.
- Improved information is needed for LGBT people's rights such as in the workplace and in accessing services.
- The Council could address the issue of monitoring safety across all neighbourhood areas and could/should develop strategies for addressing homophobic/transphobic hate crime.
- Improved LGBT monitoring in Council departments for service delivery would provide data and demonstrate the extent to which LGBT people are represented, and their needs met.
- Addressing issues of safety, security and hate crime in Birmingham's 'Gay Village' (Hurst Street area) is also a key concern. This includes a continuing programme of regeneration of the area, such as addressing derelict buildings.
- Incentives for new businesses in the Gay Village area needed, to broaden appeal beyond pubs and clubs and to help with regeneration of the area.
- A strategy is needed to address same-sex (LGBT) domestic violence.
- Strategies need to be developed to address health inequalities, in particular to address the mental health impact of homophobia, with special attention to the links between hate crime and suicide attempts.
- Further research is needed to understand LGBT attitudes to ageing and being cared for and specific needs.
- Further research is needed to assess the needs and improve the participation of some groups within the LGBT co-communities such as Trans people, Bisexual people and BAME people.

References

1. Government Equality Office, <http://www.equalities.gov.uk/> accessed: 6/7/2011
2. Ryrie, I; McDonnell, S.; Allman, K.; & Pralat, R. (2010). *Experiences of and barriers to participation in public and political life for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people*. London: Government Equalities Office.
3. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Equality (Birmingham City Council)
<http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/cs/Satellite?c=Page&childpagename=Equalities%2FPageLayout&cid=1223092717792&pagename=BCC%2FCommon%2FWrapper%2FinlineWrapper>, accessed: 05/07/2011
5. Birmingham LGBT (2011). Birmingham: Birmingham LGBT. *Shout. Birmingham's Festival of Queer Culture. 2010 Evaluation Document*.
6. Browne, K. (2007). *Count Me In Too. LGBT Lives in Brighton & Hove*. Brighton: University of Brighton & Spectrum.
7. *Are you being Served? Consultation report Birmingham LGBT 2010*

Commissioned by



EQUALITY  DIVERSITY



Birmingham LGBT

www.blgbt.org

enquiry@blgbt.org

0121 773 0693

