

THE SOMERSET LGBTQ + NETWORK

The second Somerset LGBTQ Network Event took place on Monday 3rd October 2022 at the spacious Westlands Entertainment Venue in Yeovil. Together, The Diversity Trust, SARI, and Yeovil Diversity Project, hosted the event which focused on the discussion of hate crime and how best to support the LGBTQ community in recognising and reporting incidents.

"IT'S GREAT TO BE DIVERSIFYING, ESPECIALLY ACROSS LOCATIONS. HOLDING ONE MEETING IN TAUNTON, ANOTHER IN YEOVIL, AND OTHERS ONLINE, HAS BEEN A GREAT WAY TO ENGAGE PEOPLE IN AREAS WHICH ARE NORMALLY ISOLATED COMPARED TO BIGGER TOWNS AND CITIES."

HARRY NUTT
THE DIVERSITY TRUST

Sixteen people joined the event, including representatives from The Diversity Trust (Harry Nutt), SARI (Tim Birkbeck) and Avon & Somerset Police (ASP). The Yeovil Diversity Project had created a display showcasing local community events and projects including recent Pride photos, collaborative art, and comments from service users.

Harry Nutt (The Diversity Trust) opened the event, introducing the topic of Hate Crime and then handing over to ASP, who explored hate crime statistics relevant to the LGBTQ+ community, and how these have risen in the past five years, examined the different types of hate crime and how they're classified and reported.

An open discussion around historic mistrust of the police in the LGBTQ+ community was also held, providing key insights from attendees who are members of the community, and from ASP. This included how to build trust and develop better relationships between the police and the LGBTQ community.

The difference between police officers and PCSO's was explored and the LGBTQ+ Staff Network and Champion systems within ASP were highlighted as a way forward for better community relationships.

Tim Birkbeck presented information about hate crime and the support offered through SARI, citing case studies and example of reporting within the community. Lydia Gardiner from Victim Support provided information about the support for victims of crime.





KEY POINTS

1. CREATING ENVELOPING SERVICES

Preventative work with young people is foundational to life-long support in the community; joined up with early intervention models, services to support during and after experiences, and then closing the gaps in provision will serve to improve the experiences and outcomes for the LGBTQ community. Particular attention is needed for older and elder populations in the community, as the gaps here are significant.

2. SOMERSET LGBTQ NETWORK

Attendees spent time discussing the next steps for the network, including exploring moving operations online, identifying different venues for in-person events, which connect different locations throughout Somerset and are accessible to participants, and creating a cohesive way to communicate. For example, creating an online group and scheduling regular meetups. Collaboration is central to the network development.

3. SUPPORTING LGBTQ STUDENTS

Addressing discrimination in schools is paramount, and issues around creating and implementing effective and inclusive policy within schools were identified.

4. AREAS TO EXPLORE TOGETHER

Young people and schools, including advice and policies; older LGBTQ+ people and care; connection and community.

NEXT STEPS:

Together, we discussed organising the next meeting for 2023 and proposed that it be held online to increase accessibility across Somerset and allow more people to attend. The key points drawn for the session will be taken forward, with an LGBT+ & Ageing online events scheduled for January and schools' engagement moved into planning.

FEEDBACK

"VERY INTERESTING. LEARNT A LOT ABOUT HATE CRIME."

"IT WAS A REALLY NICE, INFORMAL EVENT WHICH LEAD TO SOME GREAT DISCUSSIONS AROUND HOW WE CAN SUPPORT PEOPLE FROM THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY WHEN IT COMES TO HATE CRIME...IT'S BEEN REALLY FRUITFUL TO GET A RANGE OF DIFFERENT VIEWS OF HOW WE MAINTAIN THIS GROUP AND MAKE IT SOMETHING WHICH IS SUSTAINABLE AND BENEFICIAL TO PEOPLE IN SOMERSET."

TIM BIRKBECK
SARI

"VERY GOOD NETWORKING EVENT, GREAT TO HEAR LOTS OF GREAT WORK FROM VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS."

"REALLY GOOD TO HEAR FROM THE POLICE, SARI AND VICTIM SUPPORT ABOUT HOW TO RESPOND TO HATE CRIME AND HOW TO SUPPORT MEMBERS OF THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY."

"GREAT EVENT AND SOME REALLY GOOD DISCUSSIONS."

"IT WAS GOOD BEING ABLE TO TALK TO SO MANY PEOPLE."

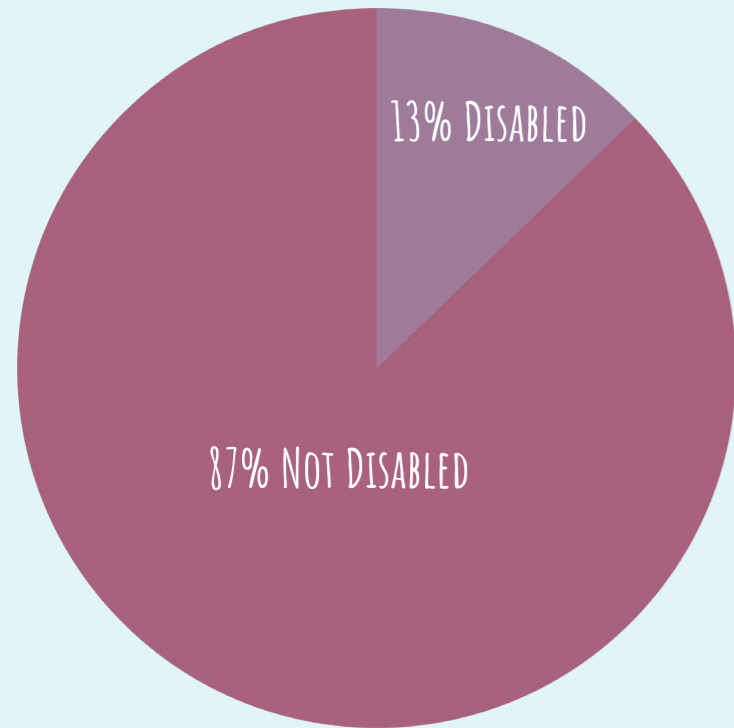
"REALLY HELPFUL AND INFORMATIVE. I FOUND IT GREAT TO BE ABLE TO LISTEN AND SPEAK TO OTHERS FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO HEAR ABOUT THE WORK THEY DO."

"REALLY INTERESTING AND INFORMATIVE."

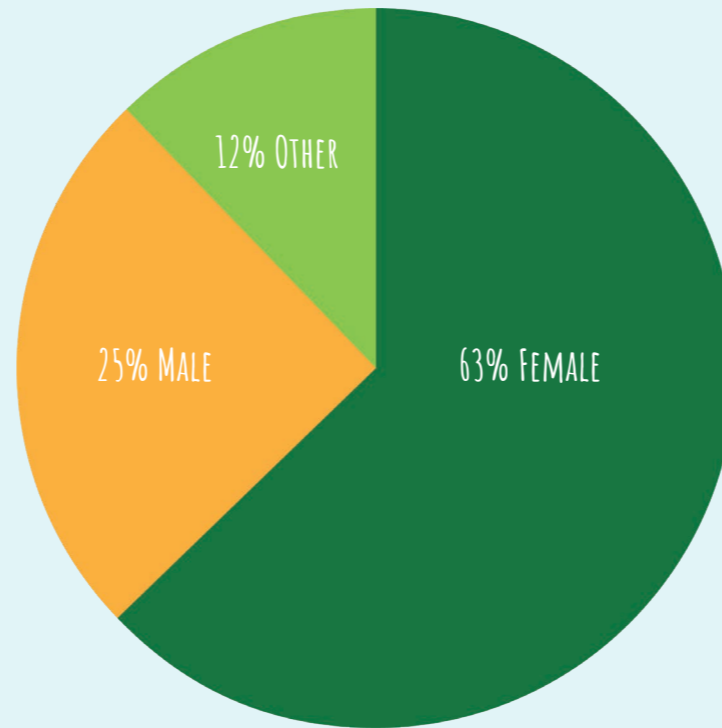


EQUALITIES MONITORING

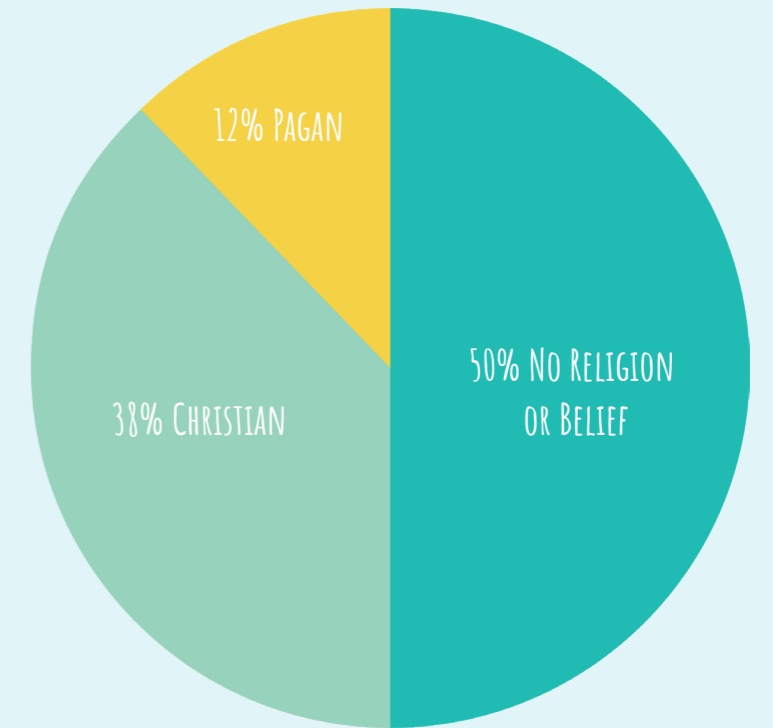
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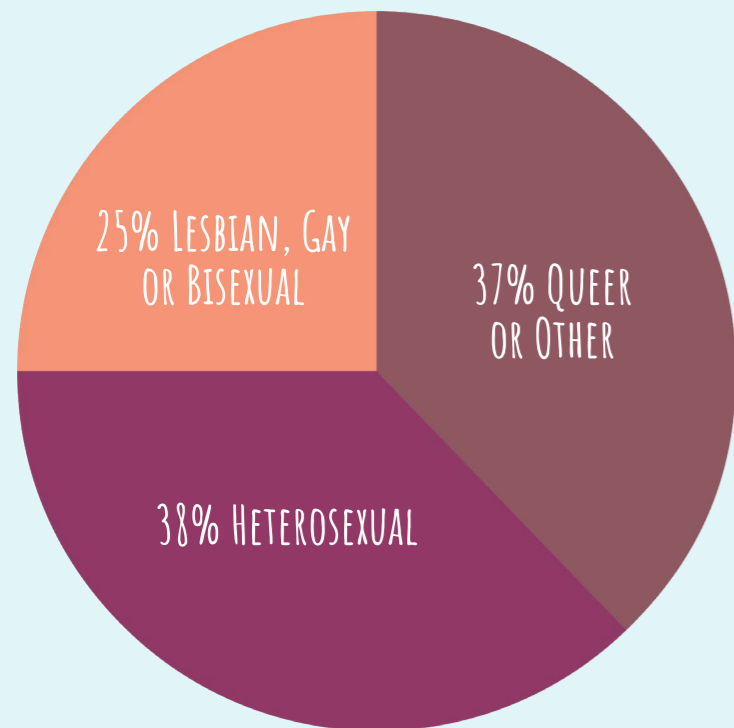
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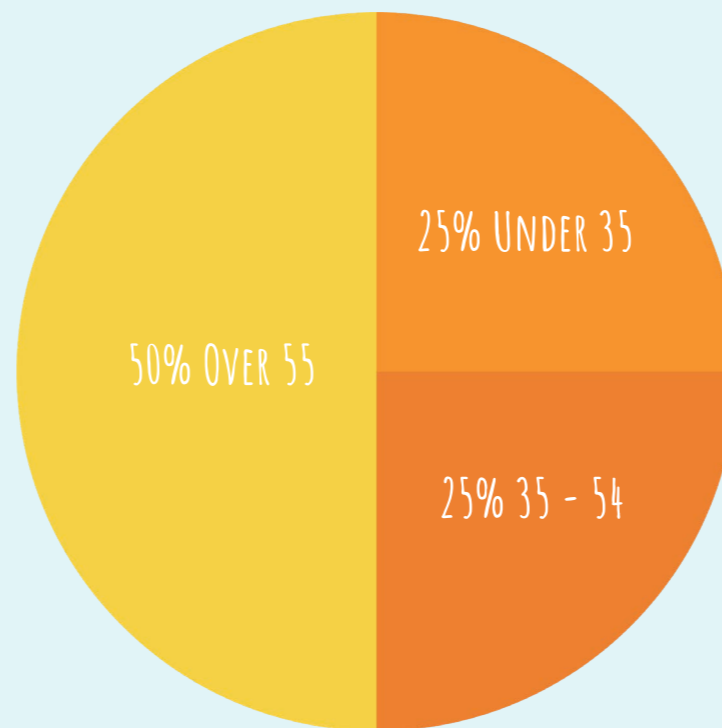
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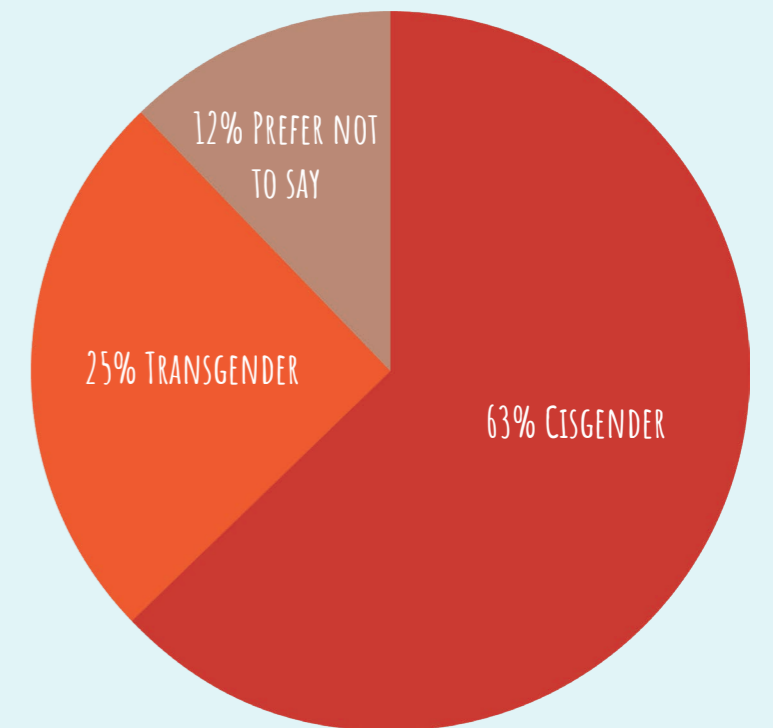
SEXUAL ORIENTATION



AGE



GENDER IDENTITY



YEOVIL DOES PRIDE



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ORGANISATION PROFILES



THE DIVERSITY TRUST

The Diversity Trust CIC is a Community Interest Company, established in 2012 in the UK. Our mission is to 'influence social change to create a fairer and safer society'.

The Diversity Trust has undertaken large scale auditing, consultancy projects, research, training and strategic projects across the corporate, public, private, voluntary, community and social enterprise sectors across the UK, as well as internationally. We are specialists in equality, diversity, equity and inclusion.

STAND AGAINST RACISM & INEQUALITY (SARI)



**STAND AGAINST
RACISM & INEQUALITY**

SARI is a charitable organisation supports victims of hate within the community. They aim to promote equality and good relations between people with protected characteristics, as defined by law.

Most of SARI's employees have some direct experience of facing hate-motivated behaviour, and are engaged in casework and supporting victims of hate crime.

SARI also works with children, young people and schools and other education establishments, providing support to pupils facing racist and other hate incidents, and delivering anti-hate, equality, diversity and inclusion, and cultural awareness sessions to pupils, staff and governors.

YEOVIL DIVERSITY PROJECT



Established in Yeovil in August 2021, Yeovil Diversity Project is a charity with a passion for equality and diversity. While they're only small, they've got big plans to bring people together, break down barriers and foster tolerance and acceptance of differences.

Their aim and motto is "Encouraging unity in Yeovil's community" and this is at the heart of everything they do. They believe that education is one of the best tools we have to help to reduce racism, homophobia, ableism and other forms of discrimination; building more inclusive societies.

AVON AND SOMERSET POLICE



Avon and Somerset Police operate across the areas of Bristol, North Somerset, Bath & North East Somerset, Somerset and South Gloucestershire in their mission to serve and protect communities through a caring and inclusive model.

VICTIM SUPPORT



Victim Support is an independent charity. They are dedicated to supporting people affected by crime and traumatic incidents in England and Wales, and they put them at the heart of the organisation. Their support and campaigns are informed and shaped by services users and their experiences.

Victim Support provides specialist services to help people cope and recover, and to empower them to ensure their voices are heard individually and collectively at a local and national level.

HOSTED BY:



SUPPORTED BY:



**Somerset
Equalities**
Officer Group

OUT IN SOMERSET

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https://www.diversitytrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/OIS_May22_5.pdf

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