

SUMMER OF PRIDE 2025

THE 
DIVERSITY TRUST
INFLUENCING SOCIAL CHANGE

INTRODUCTION

PRIDE season is one of the hallmark events in the calendar for the LGBTQ+ community. It is an opportunity for people to celebrate who they truly are and to express their authentic selves in a comfortable and safe space.

Even though nowadays Pride is seen as a big celebration, this doesn't detract from its history and the importance of using Pride as a tool of resistance and an opportunity to push back against the social norms, which people put onto the LGBTQ+ community.

Pride events are also a key opportunity for organisations to engage with the LGBTQ+ community, to find out what are the biggest issues that the community are facing and how improvements can be made.

For The Diversity Trust, this is exactly why we attend Pride events throughout the summer months. To speak to people who identify as LGBTQ+ and use their voice in a bid to create change at a strategic level.

At each event The Trust attended this summer, staff and volunteers in attendance would ask questions around three main topics. What people believed was missing for the LGBTQ+ community in their region, what gave them a

sense of joy / community and how the recent Supreme court ruling has impacted them or their loved ones.

The reason we chose these subjects was, in part, due to the current political climate. Where the rights of LGBTQ+ people, especially Trans and Non-Binary people, are being challenged. With the Supreme Court ruling in April 2025, it has caused a lot of fear and confusion among the LGBTQ+ community, with many people not knowing what the future would look like for them, their friends and their families.

By engaging in these conversations, our aim is to use this report and our position strategically to feed the voices of the LGBTQ+ community into local decision makers in a bid to implement change to better the lives of LGBTQ+ people across Gloucestershire, Avon and Somerset.

The reason we are focusing on these counties, is because the work falls under the Trust's Voice & Influence Project. The aim of this five-year, National Lottery Community Fund project, is to amplify the voices of the LGBTQ+ community in Somerset, Gloucestershire, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire and Bath & North East Somerset.



THIS YEAR WE ATTENDED / HOSTED EIGHT DIFFERENT PRIDE EVENTS ACROSS THE TWO REGIONS. THEY WERE:

- **WINCANTON FAMILY PRIDE**
- **CLEVEDON COMMUNITY PRIDE**
- **BRISTOL PRIDE**
- **BATH PRIDE**
- **YOUTH PRIDE**
- **GLASTONBURY PRIDE**
- **GLOWCESTERSHIRE**
- **VINTAGE PRIDE**

Our aim by producing this report is to give a breakdown of what the main issues LGBTQ+ people are currently facing in each area. As well as using the quantitative data collected to come up with recommendations which we can produce locally as to how to improve things for LGBTQ+ people.

Over the eight events we attended, we engaged with over 800 people, to gather their views and opinions.

This report will be split into small summaries from each Pride the Trust attended and pull out any common themes which run throughout.



WINCANTON FAMILY PRIDE

FOR the second year in a row the Balsam Centre in Wincanton, Somerset hosted their Family Pride event.

The free to attend event centres around taking pride in your family and providing fun day of activities in celebration and support of diversity, and the uniqueness in all our families.

Among the activities that were available to people in attendance were face painting, pizza making and a glitter hair bar. On the Trust's stall, we offered badge making, where people could either make a pronoun badge or something completely unique and original to themselves.

At this event, we asked people who we engaged with "What is missing for LGBTQ+ people in Somerset?"

Unfortunately, the weather at the event was not the greatest, so this Pride was one of the ones we had the lowest amount of engagement.

However, there was still some key information which came out of the day.

One person said: "There is not enough support or social groups for LGBTQ+ people aged 25-60, which don't involve alcohol."

At the Diversity Trust we have a track record with setting up safe, sober groups, with the success of our Alphabets Adults social groups which run in both Yate and Bath. This could be something we explore to expanding into the Somerset region.

A few people also said that there is not enough general support for Trans people across the county, with several parents also telling us that

there is not much support for parents who are supporting young LGBTQ+ people.

Subsequently, this is something which the Trust has had conversations with Somerset Council and local youth group 2BU Somerset, to see if there is any support which can be offered.

Even though Wincanton Family Pride was one of the smaller events we attended over the Summer, it still led to important conversations and gave us vital information which we can build upon.



CLEVEDON COMMUNITY PRIDE

ACROSS the North Somerset region, the North Somerset LGBTQ+ Forum has been growing a community and safe space for LGBTQ+ in the area, each year hosting a series of community pride events.

These are held in small venues, all centred around community and community development. We were lucky enough to be invited along to the Clevedon Community Pride event in July 2025.

The event had a focus on community stalls, and services. As well as having a range of different performances for people to enjoy.

We once again asked people who we engaged with "What was missing for LGBTQ+ people in the North Somerset region?"

Several people told us that there are no specific support / social groups for Lesbians or people over the age of 50. Subsequently there has now been a Lesbian group set up in Weston-Super-Mare, with the Diversity Trust looking at doing a piece of work around how to better support LGBTQ+ people who are over 50-years-old.

Something else we were told was that there needs to be more linking up for people who live in the more rural parts of North

Somerset, and that everything shouldn't revolve around Weston.

Another issue people raised was a lack of information for older LGBTQ+ people when it comes to care provisions and what that looks like for LGBTQ+ people. One of the Trust's aims for 2026 is to look at this disparity and see how we can influence a positive shift in making this information more accessible, and that care facilities are suitable for aging LGBTQ+ people.

**"WHAT WAS MISSING
FOR LGBTQ+ PEOPLE IN THE
NORTH SOMERSET REGION?"
PEOPLE IN CLEVEDON TOLD US THERE
IS MISSING A "BIG" PRIDE
CELEBRATION IN THE AREA AFTER
THE LAST WESTON PRIDE IN 2023**

One of the big things that people said was missing was a bigger pride celebration. As much as the community appreciated the Community Pride events hosted by the North Somerset LGBTQ+ Forum, it seemed that as there has not been a large pride event in Weston since 2023, this has left a gap in a sense of the community feeling seen and welcome in the North Somerset region.

This is something that along with working in partnership with the North Somerset LGBTQ+ Forum and North Somerset Council we are looking to fill a gap of in the life span of the Voice & Influence project.

At the event we also wanted to hear from people what it was like living in North Somerset as an LGBTQ+ person. We wanted to know what some of the positives and negatives were.

When it came to some of the negatives of being a LGBTQ+ person living in North Somerset, we were told that there is still a lot of prejudice towards the LGBTQ+ community in this area. As well as there doesn't seem to be a wider respect for LGBTQ+ people who live in the region.

Someone told us there had been a lot of recent LGBTQ+ hate crimes in the area following the Supreme court judgement, and that there was still a lot of stigma surrounding LGBTQ+ people in North Somerset.

This is something as The



Trust, we are looking to work with the North Somerset LGBTQ+ Forum and North Somerset Council to seem what work can be done to ensure LGBTQ+ people in the area feel safe to live as their authentic selves.

On the positives, a lot of people praised the work of the North Somerset LGBTQ+ Forum. Saying that they have been able to cultivate a loving, long-lasting, friendly and supportive

BRISTOL PRIDE

BRISTOL Pride is one of the milestone events in the LGBTQ+ calendar across the South West. With thousands of people from across the region and further afield descending on The Downs in Bristol.

As this is one of the key engagement events in our calendar, we knew that this would be a busy event.

We partnered with South Gloucestershire Council, Age UK South Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire Race Equality Network

for this event to make sure we made full use of the opportunity to capture community voices. For the Trust and the council, it was about hearing how things can be improved for LGBTQ+ people living in the area.

Due to the volume of people who were expected in attendance, we thought this would be a great opportunity to hear how the recent Supreme Court ruling had impacted LGBTQ+ people living in Bristol and the

surrounding areas.

Our aim for this was to use these community voices and feed them into local authorities and to share these stories with local MPs to indicate how serious an issue this is for the LGBTQ+ community.

A lot of the responses to this question centred around people feeling hopeless and disappointed in the UK government, and a general sense of frustration.

One person told us "It has completely turned my life and potentially my future upside down, I am feeling very vulnerable and lost."

There was also a lot of frustration at people in positions of power and authority, with someone adding "This impacts all of us, and our Prime Minister doesn't care. We are expected to just accept it blindly."

We also had a lot of worried parents speak to us about how the ruling has already impacted their young people and how things are only going to get worse with the lack of clarity about things.

One parent told us "My daughter is more unsafe, and the world is becoming a more toxic place for her to live."

Many people also said they now fear going out and leaving their houses. One person said to

us they only just managed to get the courage to come to Pride, as they worried about being verbally assaulted on their way to the event.

From all the information we were able to gather, we will share this with local councils and MPs to attempt to formulate a strategic plan to ensure that Trans, Non-Binary and Intersex voices are not erased and that Trans Rights are still being fought for.



To counter some of the negativity of people's reflections on the Supreme Court ruling, we also asked "what gives you a sense of community?".

The overwhelming answer to this was having a sense of belonging within their LGBTQ+ friendships and being supported and surrounded by love.

One person shared with us that "learning I am not alone and being treated as a human being has really helped me."

Another said that the solidarity in parents who have LGBTQ+ children is something they really admired. They said: "Seeing parents at pride events who love their children unconditionally no matter what is amazing. It is something that a lot of us didn't have."

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BATH PRIDE

THIS was the second year in a row which The Trust attended Bath Pride. The event in 2024 was the first big event for the Voice & Influence team participated in since the launch of the project.

From last year's event we were able to showcase the work we have done in the last year. We were able to feedback that we have launched our LGBTQ+ Adults social space in Bath. This was something which the majority of people told us last year was missing in the Bath & North East Somerset area.



The community also told us that there weren't enough LGBTQ+ volunteer roles within the region. As a result, we have created a role within our LGBTQ+ adults' group and had further volunteers supporting us at Bath Pride.

We wanted to build on the trust and confidence we had built with the LGBTQ+ community in the Bath & North East Somerset region, so for the second year running we asked those in attendance at Bath Pride what was missing for LGBTQ+ people in the region.

Similarly to what we heard in Wincanton, people shared there is no real support for families, parents or carers.

We had at least seven different queer families tell us that this was really missing in the region. So, this is something we are going to look to explore as to how we could support this.

There were also a few people who said there was a gap of a queer coffee shop. Bath did have a wonderful queer café in Daisy & Bean, but it sadly had to close. During Pride, we did have someone who saw this noted down and offered to help create this space. As such the Trust is in discussion with them to help build this space.

On a wider scale, people told us there is still a lack of education around the needs and issues LGBTQ+ face in being visible in the Bath & North East Somerset Region. Through The Diversity Trust's B&NES LGBTQ+ Equalities Network, we are working with healthcare providers and statutory bodies to improve this across the board.

Also, similarly to Bristol Pride, as we knew there would be a large attendance at Bath Pride, we did want to hear how the Supreme Court ruling has affected LGBTQ+ people living in this area.

Likewise with what people at Bristol Pride said, there was an overwhelming sense of feeling frustrated and disappointment.

However, there were a few people who had already had first-hand experience of prejudice due to the ruling.

They told us: "Twice already I have experience verbal and sexual abuse just because of the choice of toilet I want to use. It is completely unfair; I just want to get on with my life."

We even had an LGBTQ+ lawyer speak to us and say they felt it was completely unjust, and they felt embarrassed.

WE hosted Youth Pride in July 2025. This was a second annual pride event planned by young people for young people.

We had partners attend the event and work with us to reach as many young people as possible. We had partners



from LPW, OTR and South Gloucestershire Council.

We had a range of activities including a drag performance, open mic night, safe binding workshop, open consultation, craft activities, self-expression corner and more.

We were able to get young people's feedback on the whole day and run a consultation on what matters to them as young people. Young people highlighted issues with family life and education.

This was an incredibly well received, and powerful event, and we are currently developing a report specifically on this.

GLASTONBURY PRIDE

GLASTONBURY

Pride is one of the key pride events in the Somerset calendar and had a real family friendly feel to it. The whole town got involved, with many of the local businesses displaying Progress Pride flags in their windows or doing something special for the day.

Organisers had set a up a "community garden" for charities, stalls and organisations to be situated where people who were in attendance could come along and get information on a whole host of different groups.

Similarly to Wincanton and Clevedon Pride, we asked the people who we engaged with what was missing for LGBTQ+ people in Somerset. As well as what the pros and cons are of being an LGBTQ+ person in the Somerset area.

When it comes to what is missing for LGBTQ+ people in Somerset, one common theme was the lack of connecting links between all the towns and villages across Somerset.

With Somerset being such a large county, it can mean that people struggle to access groups or services, and this can lead to isolation. There are pockets of grassroots groups who are doing great work, but they are really spread out across the county.



The Trust has begun conversations with B.L.I.S.S, 2BU Somerset and Yeovil Diversity Project to see if there is a way to make these links between groups and locations stronger.

Another common answer was there needs to be more education / help when it comes to accessing healthcare. This is a piece of work which is already being developed with Somerset Integrated Care Board creating more accessible pathways to support Trans healthcare.

Linking all these themes together was the lack of safe spaces for LGBTQ+ people to meet and seek friendship, support and shared interest.



We know that 2BU Somerset does this extremely well for young people who identify as LGBTQ+, but there is a gap for people who are 18+.

Similarly to the work The Trust has already done in South Gloucestershire and Bath, we are looking to roll out our Alphabets Adults group in Somerset. However, as already stated with the county being so large, it is a matter of finding a location where it would be most suitable.

When it came to what were the pros and cons of being an LGBTQ+ person in Somerset, one of the themes which linked to what was missing again related to the sense of rural isolation. A few people had said that there weren't many other LGBTQ+ people in the small rural towns.

Similarly, we had several people saying things aren't linked up enough, and that people don't know what else is happening across the county and that there is not enough education around LGBTQ+ issues.

This highlighted a wider issue that, even though the LGBTQ+ community is supportive of each other. It is the wider community and neighbourhood lack of understanding and empathy which can lead to issues.

However, on a positive note a lot of people praised how good the LGBTQ+ community in Glastonbury is, as well as there being a general welcoming community across Somerset.

IN 2025 our Voice & Influence team has made huge inroads into raising the profile of the Trust, as well as making connections across the Gloucestershire area.

This led to us attending our first Gloucester Pride. And despite the rainy weather in the morning, there was a great attendance and interactions with those in attendance.

Following from the theme throughout our attendance of Prides this year, we asked people what was missing for LGBTQ+ people in Gloucestershire. We also wanted to hear what already exists and what brings people in Gloucestershire queer joy.

When it came to what is missing for LGBTQ+ people in the region, again the common thread was not enough safe spaces for LGBTQ+ people or social groups for LGBTQ+ adults. People also mentioned there is a severe lack of LGBTQ+ venues across the area.



GLOUCESTER PRIDE

Overall, the fact there is not enough social spaces is one of the biggest issues across the board for LGBTQ+ people.

"SEEING PEOPLE WALK AROUND BEING AUTHENTICALLY THEM IS THE BEST THING... WHEN YOU ARE OUT IN THE COMMUNITY AND YOU CAN SEE SOMEONE JUST BEING UNAPOLOGETICALLY QUEER."

When it came to hearing what brought people of Gloucestershire queer joy. One of the overwhelming sentiments was feeling part of a community and that people could be their true authentic selves in the region.

One person told us "Our queer community in Gloucester is amazing. There may not be lots going on, but we can really rely on each other and support each other."

Another said: "Seeing people walk around being authentically them is the best thing. At Pride events you see everyone, but when you are out in the community and you can see someone just being unapologetically queer, that's the best."

VINTAGE PRIDE

IN SEPTEMBER

2025, The Diversity Trust and Age UK South Gloucestershire hosted the first ever Vintage Pride at Winterbourne & District Community Association in South Gloucestershire. This event came about following the success of the Youth Pride event, which The Trust also hosts.

The aim of Vintage Pride was to provide people who identify as LGBTQ+ and aged 50 or over, to have a safe space where they can be their true authentic selves without fear of judgement. We also know that a lot of people in this age demographic sometimes don't like the overwhelming, and overstimulating "big" pride events. We wanted to create something which was catered specifically with this section of the LGBTQ+ community in mind.

The night itself was a very successful, with this being the first time either organisation had attempted this specific event.

We had 14 people in attendance as well as three volunteers supporting the event. Even though it was small numbers, the impact it had on the people who attended was great as we had a few attendees tell us that it was the first time they'd been to an event which was aimed specifically for their age group.



Every guest who attended the event was given a free tote bag with the Vintage Pride logo on it; inside the bag we had freebies and further information from both organisations.

For this year's Vintage Pride to be the first year we held the event, it was an overwhelming success. However, there are some areas where improvements could be made.

One of the main things we will have to address next year will be how we advertise the event to ensure we get as many people through the door as

possible. We will also have to consider the type of entertainment or more specifically the volume of it throughout the event.

We will also have to investigate how we can reach people from more diverse background to attend the event. It could be that we link in with South Gloucestershire Race Equality Network or the Black South West Network to see how we can utilise their contacts.

As a result of the feedback we received, The Diversity Trust and Age UK South Gloucestershire are also going to explore the possibility of hosting a more regular social group for this



VOLUNTEERS

VOLUNTEERS supported the Voice & Influence team throughout the summer with our stalls.

They helped in setting up and packing down our stall. During the event they offered a friendly, approachable presence to those stopping by to chat with us, they offered information around the Trust as well as gathering feedback which has held shape this report.

Having volunteers present at Pride events is essential in promoting inclusion in that we are able to reflect the diverse range of people who might want to engage with us through our range of 'lived experiences'.

The benefits of volunteering for and with us extends not only to those wanting to engage with us at events but also to those who volunteer with us as it provides an opportunity for them to share knowledge and experience, make connections and increase confidence.

VOLUNTEER CASE STUDY: ALEX (SHE / HER)

"VOLUNTEERING HAS BEEN REALLY BENEFICIAL TO ME. I HAVE FINALLY FOUND A SPACE WHERE I AM ACCEPTED AND VALUED. I GET SO MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO TRY NEW THINGS AND TO PUSH MYSELF OUTSIDE OF MY COMFORT ZONE."

"I LOVE WORKING WITH THE DIVERSITY TRUST BECAUSE I FEEL LISTENED TO. THEY GENUINELY CARE ABOUT LGBTQ+ ISSUES AND WORK TOWARDS POSITIVE CHANGE. IT'S SO INSPIRING TO SEE THE OTHER QUEER PEOPLE WHO WORK FOR THE DIVERSITY TRUST WHO ARE PROUD AND HARDWORKING."

CONCLUSIONS & NEXT STEPS



OVERALL, one of the biggest themes we saw which came out throughout this Pride season, was that there are not enough safe, sober spaces / social spaces for LGBTQ+ people.

As the Trust has had success with this in both South Gloucestershire and Bath, this is a model which could be rolled out into different areas. However, we would have to look at capacity as to where we could develop these spaces.

We will also be looking to share this information with our LGBTQ+ Equalities Networks, in each area, to see how we could potentially work in partnership to address some of the wider issues raised. For example, what could local councils be doing around the Supreme Court ruling or how Integrated Care

Boards can ensure that healthcare is more LGBTQ+ inclusive.

Our aim is to build off the success that we had during 2025 in terms of engagement. We are already planning our own Trans celebration event in Bath in November 2025, and we look to attend more Pride events in 2026 and support more volunteers.

A big thank you to South Gloucestershire Council for making Youth Pride and Vintage Pride possible. We also want to extend our thanks to the National Lottery Community Fund, for making this whole project possible and allowing us this high level of community engagement.



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