Pride Roadshow 2026

Overview

For the third year of The Diversity Trust running our Voice & Influence Project, our team has used attending Pride events throughout the summer as a key engagement opportunity.

These events across the five regions which we are delivering the project – South Gloucestershire, Bath & North East Somerset, North Somerset, Somerset & Gloucestershire – act as a chance for us to hear from members of the LGBTQ+ community about how we should develop- our work, in a bid to make people's lives better.

Summary

This year we increased the number of Pride events we attended by being present at 14 different community events across the five regions.

There included:

- Cheltenham
- Martock
- Weston-Super-Mare
- Bath
- Bath Rainbow Family Day
- Stroud
- Wotton-Under-Edge
- Clevedon
- Glastonbury
- Bristol
- Cheltenham
- South Gloucestershire Youth Pride
- South Gloucestershire Vintage Pride
- Trans Pride Bristol



Objectives

At all events we attended we asked communities two key questions. "What are the needs of LGBTQ+ people?" and "What makes a good social space?"

During the summer we directly engaged with more that 1,500 people through informal conversations and through written answers to our questions.

From these conversations we found common themes across the different regions. We have taken the most regularly raised topics - and made them priority actions for us to work towards in the next year of the Voice & Influence Project.

Priorities

As informed by local communities our key priorities are:

Creating more social support for LGBTQ+ people

Making more LGBTQ+ venues and spaces available to people

Increased inclusion / acceptance / visibility for LGBTQ+ people

Better training & education for people on LGBTQ+ issues

Better understanding around accessibility and individual needs of LGBTQ+, especially when it comes to intersectionality.

Next Steps

The Voice & Influence team has set out to try and identify how these top five prioritises can be addressed.

Over the next year, we will be looking at potentially expanding our offer of LGBTQ+ social spaces for people over the age of 18. We will be speaking to organisations who run existing youth groups and young adult social spaces and see if we can help develop something for once people age out of those services.

We will also be looking to develop a campaign sharing stories and case studies on the experiences of LGBTQ+ people from the region.

We will also be consulting with our existing networks to see what training and development organisations may need to better support LGBTQ+ people when they access services.

Our long-term goal will be to work with local councils, MPs, and VCSE organisations to see how we can establish dedicated LGBTQ+ venues across the five regions.

Our hope is that by this time next year, work will have begun to make some of these things a reality and to continue to push to improve the lives of LGBTQ+ people in these areas.


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