

Make Room! Survey Results



We Are The People is a group of disabled people and allies learning about disability issues at Bath Spa University.



We have learned that **accessible LGBTQ+ spaces** are important to Disabled people in the LGBTQ+ community in the Southwest of England.

Accessible means that something includes disabled people.



For instance, a LGBTQ+ space that is **not** wheelchair accessible, would be an example of an **inaccessible** LGBTQ+ venue.



To learn more about this subject we made a survey to hear about people's experiences of accessibility around LGBTQIA+ events in their local areas.



We asked people where in the South West they lived in, and whether this was a city, town, village or rural areas.



Many people we heard from were based in Bristol, but we also heard from places ranging from Cornwall to rural Wiltshire.

This allowed us to find out a range of experiences related to LGBTQIA+ events and accessibility.



We also asked participants what kind of LGBTQIA+ events they'd like to see in their area.



Crafts and creative workshops were the most popular option.



Other popular choices were board games, book nights, sober socials and film screening.



Of course, not everyone who answered the survey agreed.



One answer in Bristol felt they didn't need any more events.

But others pointed out events were not available outside of big cities like Bristol.



We asked participants what other thoughts they had on accessibility and LGBTQIA+ events, including any barriers they faced.



Many answers shared that they'd like to have more LGBTQIA+ than just club nights and drinking culture, such as sober socials or events during the day.



Answers shared that events should be available to different age groups, such as older and younger people.

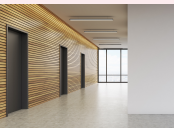


Sadly, many answers felt that when it comes to LGBTQIA+ events, accessibility is often an 'afterthought' and not the top priority of those who put on events.



Answers pointed out that sharing clear information in advance about the accessibility of an event is very helpful.

This can make Disabled people feel more confident and likely to attend.



A guided visual tour on the venue or event's webpage with photographs of each room is a great way to let people know what to expect.



Another theme was how attending events alone stops some people wanting to attend.



Answers shared that having a dedicated host to meet them at the start is a great help.



Answers shared that quiet spaces are very important for people who find loud, busy spaces difficult.



Participants shared that it was important for any instructions provided verbally (spoken out loud) at events be:

- Clear
- Have visual prompts to support them.
- To not be too fast paced.



Many answers pointed out that many buildings in cities in the South West like Plymouth were inaccessible for wheelchair users.

One reason for this was because many buildings were old and protected from updates because of this.



As many disabilities are invisible, survey answers highlighted it was equally important to think beyond wheelchair access when it comes to accessibility.



One important point was recognising that COVID is not over, and considering safety provisions such as masks.



Providing seating for rest was also seen as helpful.



In some regions, particularly Dorset, a lack of safety is a concern, because of hatred, violence and prejudice.



Answers shared that providing diversity and inclusion training for events and door staff could help events be safer and more accessible.



Answers across the survey shared concerns on LGBTQIA+ spaces not including all identities and experiences.



The cost of, and lack of, public transport for those outside of city centres was also seen as a barrier to accessing events.



The cost of the events was seen as another barrier and shows a need for cheaper or free events.



We then asked what creative activities participants enjoyed, what they'd like to try, and what activities they are uncomfortable with.



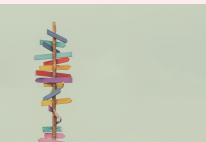
Clay and ceramics came out on top.



Creative writing had the highest votes for an activity not yet listed.



Taking the pressure and competition out of making art was seen as very important.



There are many ways our research could be developed and shared further such as making posters, guides and working with different venues and organisations.

Want to find out more?
Follow us on Instagram at:
[@Wearethepeople_bsu](https://www.instagram.com/wearethepeople_bsu)
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