

Make Room!

Project Planning and Research Journey



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



This document will share how we planned our most recent six month project on accessibility in LGBTQIA+ venues.



Accessible means that something includes disabled people.

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



We have learned that **accessible LGBTQIA+ spaces** is important to Disabled people in the LGBTQIA+ community in the South West of England.



We learnt accessibility was a very important issue through bringing together Disabled LGBTQIA+ people across the South West to talk about the things that they felt needed more attention.



This kind of research is called a 'working group.'

This is a group of people who help shape what they think the project should be about, by sharing their ideas and opinions.



The working group talked about lots of issues for Disabled LGBTQIA+ people in the South West such as:

- Lack of events in areas outside cities
- Difficulties getting to busy cities
- Others treating them disrespectfully



The working group helped us decide to focus our project specifically on accessible LGBTQIA+ spaces as an important first step.



We started by looking at what makes the South West unique, such as the difference between life in rural areas and life in big cities.



We thought about how those living in more rural areas might feel isolated.



We looked at reports and studies, which highlighted that our creative workshops needed to meet the needs of all ages and generations.



Our research also revealed the stress and loneliness experienced by LGBTQIA+ people.

It also told us how two thirds of disabled people in the UK experience loneliness.



We wanted our workshops to challenge loneliness for Disabled and LGBTQIA+ people and bring people together of all ages.

Due to the limited time and funding of this project, we decided it should have three parts:



1. A simple survey



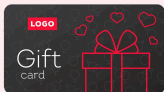
2. Creative workshops for people to make art and share ideas.



3. Reports and presentations to share our findings from the workshop and surveys.



Importantly, the research should be helpful to those who participated in the workshops and surveys, not just for the researchers.



We thought about how sharing lived experience should be treated sensitively and as work itself.

Participants should be compensated with £50 vouchers for their time in the workshops.



We thought about the importance of control for participants in workshops, such as whether they wanted to share their experiences with us or have their artworks shared with others.



Whilst the workshops were not a form of therapy, we wanted participants to feel safe if they wanted to share difficult experiences.



**Talk to the
Rainbow**

Here we decided to work with the therapy teams Talk To The Rainbow and Reframe Talking Therapy to ensure support and quiet spaces were provided.



We felt that art should be a very important part of our research project.

This is because of arts power to connect different groups and share their experiences.



Finally, we went back to share our plan with the working group and asked how it could be improved.



The group talked about how our work could reach a wider audience, as accessibility will impact all of us in our life.



Want to find out more?
Follow us on Instagram at:

@Wearethepeople_bsu

or email us at:

wearethepeople@bathspa.ac.uk

