



# Overview and Scrutiny Panel Presentation

Key Concerns of Southwark's LGBTQ+  
Communities

**SOUTHWARK  
LGBT  
NETWORK**

## Introduction

- What is the Network?
- Community Safety
- Community Spaces
- Other Health Concerns
  - PrEP
- Diversity within the community



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## What is the Network?



Southwark Lesbian Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Network (Southwark LGBT Network) is an unincorporated association founded in 2002.

Its purpose is to build and strengthen LGBT communities in Southwark so as to improve the quality of life of LGBT people who live, work, study or socialise in Southwark and reduce our vulnerability to hate crime, harassment and discrimination.

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## Current Situation



Southwark is the Local Authority with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Highest LGBTQ+ Population in the country.

It is estimated that:

- **12,000** people in Southwark identify as being **Gay/Lesbian**
- **2,000** people identify as being **Bisexual**
- **2,000** identified as having a sexual orientation that was **Other**
- There are no stats around gender affirmation/transitioning

All of these stats are for adults aged 16+ <sup>1</sup>

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1. 1. ONS 2017. Subnational sexual identity estimates, UK: 2013 to 2015,

## How did the Community Survey arise?



- Greater intelligence on local need.
- A lack of borough specific statistics on health and well-being issues.
- The partnership with Healthwatch Southwark arose due to their function in obtaining views of local health and social care users.

## Community Safety



### Consultation Stats

- 64% of respondents felt safe in their local area.
- 51% felt safe in the borough as a whole.
- Anxiety due to fear of abuse and lack of sanctions.

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## Metropolitan Police Service figures for Homophobic Incidents, Offences and Sanction Detections.



	Incidents	Offences	Sanction Detections
June 2018- May 2019	150	164	10
June 2019- May 2020	170	189	11

Source: MPS LGBT Advisory Group

### Concerns

- Low sanction detection
- 12 month increase in offences and incidents.

## Community Safety



Question:

*Given that the LGBT Liaison Officer role is to be replaced by the Met LGBT+ Advisors, what role will Southwark Council have in ensuring the programme is widely promoted and utilised?*

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## Community Spaces



There are no LGBTQ spaces/venues in Southwark.

- Closure of **XXL** and **The Chateau**
- **Specific vs Friendly**
- **Planning & Licensing**

*'in planning matters you have to be alert to hidden homophobia when people are objecting to, say, the hours of some bar or club.'*

## LGBTQ+ Cultural Space



### **Bankside Yards Development**

- Estimated to be due in 2022
- Retrospective Section 106
- Concerns around openness
- Operating cost – peppercorn rent?
- Community Panel

### **Other Spaces**

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## Community Spaces



Questions:

*What issues do you believe the lockdown may have on the availability of spaces for LGBTQ+ specific use?*

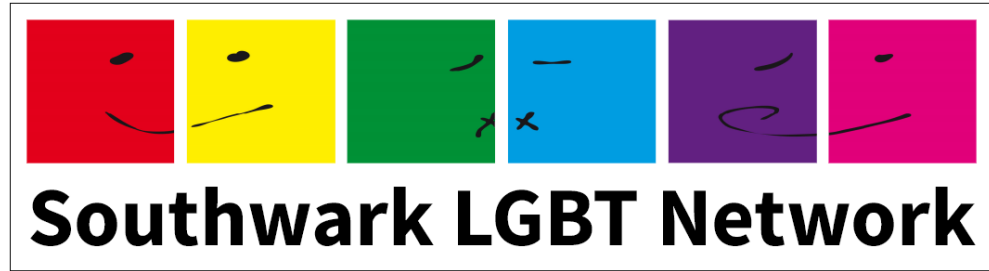
*We will be assisting Cllr Johnson Situ regarding engagement for the Southwark Cultural Space. Previous planning history highlights concerns over whether Southwark Council will stick to their word. Is there anything You will be doing different during this process?*

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## PrEP



Southwark Council has previously outlined a commitment to providing PrEP for its residents.

- Covid-19 Delays
- Department of Health £5m funding reduction
- 40% decrease in HIV infection in Men who have sex with Men.
- Anecdotal increase in chemsex in Men who have sex with men.

## Concerns regarding the £5m decrease in funding for PrEP



*Investment must be increased to ensure that those who most need PrEP know about it, can access it, and – where appropriate – are supported in using it.*

*In addition, we support calls for robust and proper investment in our creaking sexual health services, including proper investment in clinical services, peer services, and health promotion programmes.*

*Those services are facing the fallout of austerity and we should have a sexual health service that can provide PrEP – and all other sexual health services – to everyone who needs them.*

**Joint response from PrEPster, Terrence Higgins Trust & National Aids Trust**

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## PrEP



Questions:

*Will the Department of Health reduction have any effect on the availability of PrEP in Southwark?*

*The latest BME LSL Sexual Health contract outlines very little in terms of MSM provision. A key demographic has been excluded in this sense. How can we ensure provision is in place for them?*

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## Southwark Stands Together



### Southwark Council Response

Diversity of Southwark's LGBTQ+ Communities

- ParaPride
- AZ Hub
- BlackOut UK
- NAZ Project London

### Racial Gaslighting

*'As a Black woman I believe my ethnicity does, on occasion, affect interactions. It is difficult to pinpoint these as often they might go unchallenged for the sake of living an easy life.'*

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## Southwark Stands Together



### Suggestion:

*The development of an annual LGBT History Month Fund, supporting local queer organisations, groups and local individuals to host culturally appropriate events celebrating role models, progress, and the history of LGBTQ+ rights during that month.*

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## Mental Health



### Lockdown

#### *Key points from* **The LGBTQ+ Lockdown Wellbeing Report (2019)<sup>1</sup>:**

- Almost four in five (79%) LGBTQ+ people said that their mental health had been negatively impacted by the coronavirus lockdown.
- Before lockdown, 21% of LGBTQ+ people said they experienced loneliness "very often" or "every day". During lockdown this more than doubles to 56% during lockdown
- 67% of under 18 LGBTQ+ people felt lonely "very often" or "every day" during lockdown.

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1. <https://www.outlife.org.uk?the-lgbtq-lockdown-wellbeing-report>

## Next Steps

Our Aims:

- Continued collaboration with Southwark Council and other partners.
- Provision of borough specific LGBTQ+ news.
- Supporting the development of local LGBTQ+ specific spaces.



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