

LGBTQ+ people's
experiences of housing -
“not just a ‘niche’ thing to
do”



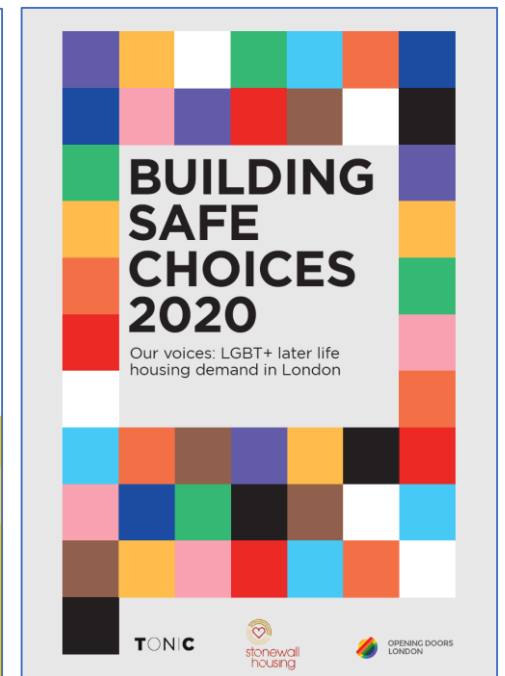
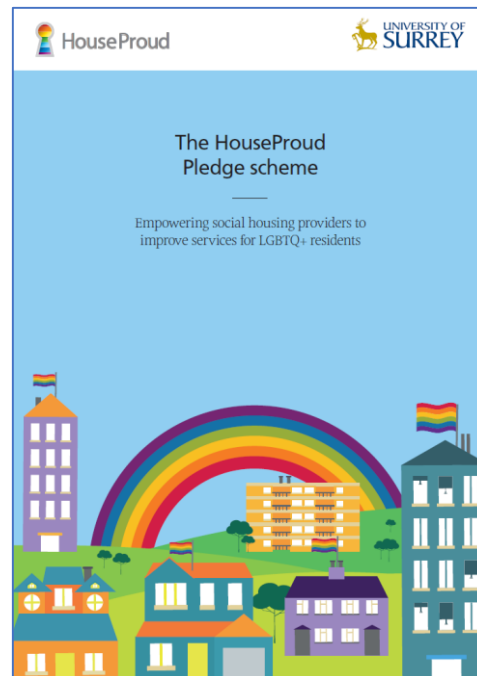
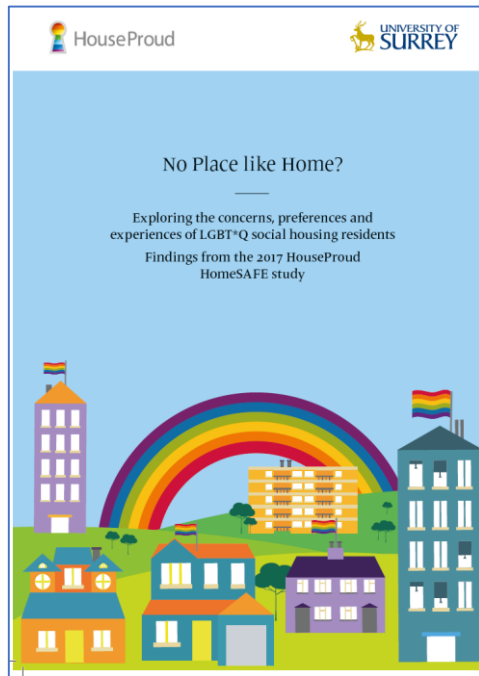
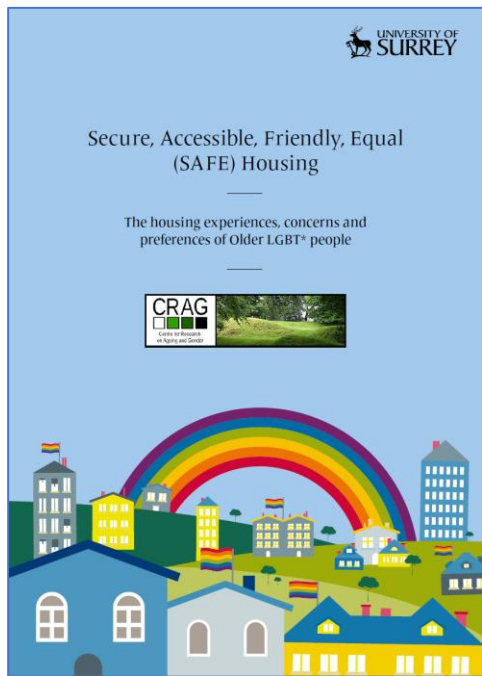
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You are welcome to circulate these slides and use them in reports etc, but if you do cite them please use the following convention:
King, A (2021) “LGBTQ+ people’s experiences of housing – not just a ‘niche’ thing to do” *HousingLIN HAPPI Hour Webinar*, 17th June.

Five projects (2016-2020)



Each picture is hyperlinked to the relevant report

Two aims today

1) introduce research findings regarding LGBTQ+ people and housing

2) brief overview of using research findings to inform policy and practice

Secure, Accessible, Friendly, Equal (SAFE) Housing

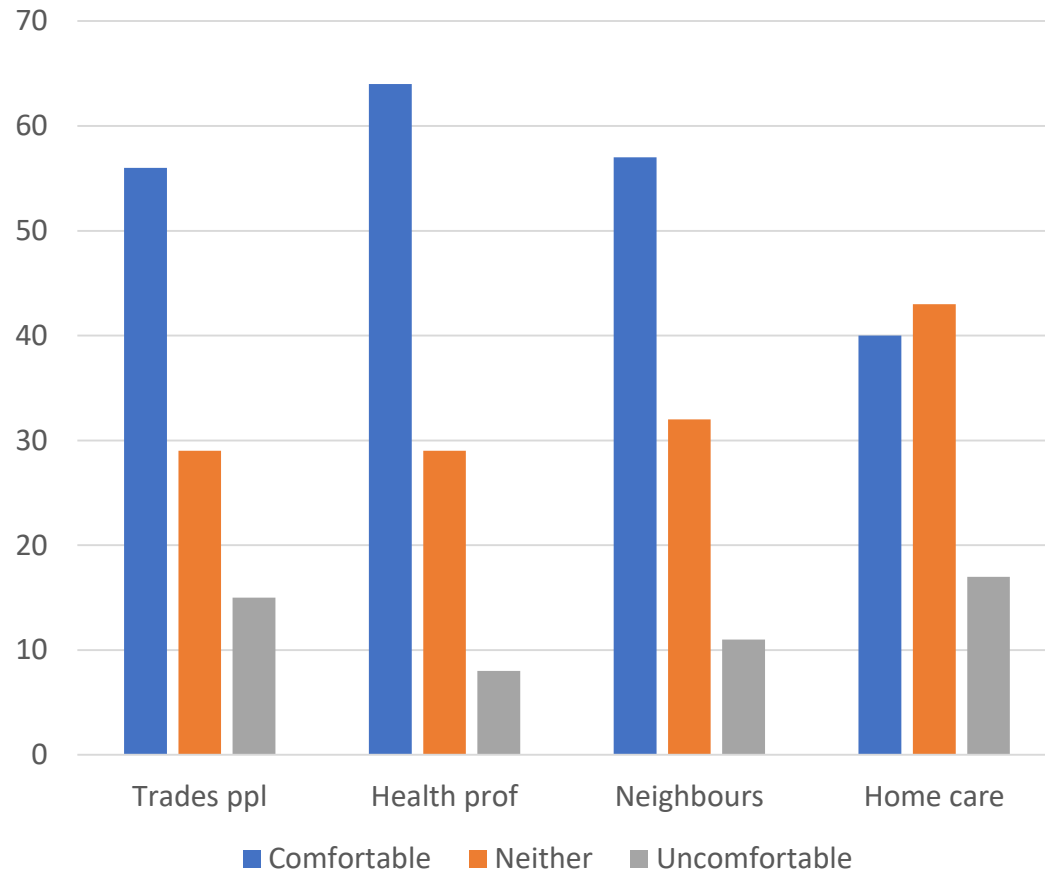
The housing experiences, concerns and
preferences of Older LGBT+ people



Housing and older LGBTQ+ people

- When conducted the study in 2016 little empirical evidence
- We wanted to understand
 - (a) what people's experiences, concerns and preferences were and
 - (b) what type of housing they'd like in the future

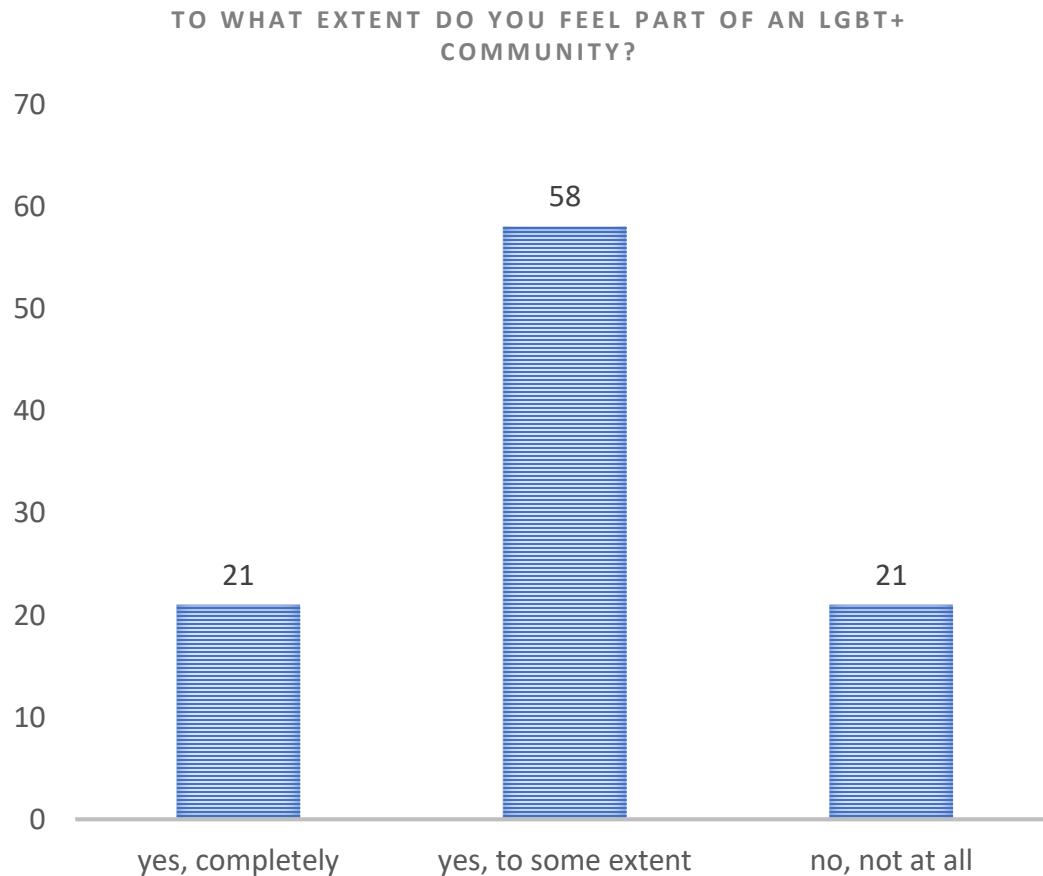
Safety, comfort and trust



This graph shows the % of respondents' feelings of comfort/discomfort to certain groups of people who may enter their home

- Most participants felt safe in their own home, however this was dependent upon the amount of control the person felt they had over their home environment.
- Trans respondents were particularly concerned about safety in their neighbourhood, with transphobia and transphobic hate crime being the main issues.
- Respondents in the survey were mostly comfortable having different groups of people (e.g. tradespeople, health professionals, home care workers) enter the home, however this was variable.
- Participants recognised that increasing frailty, poor health and reduced mobility may make them more vulnerable and feel less safe.

Community, Connections and Care



- Social isolation was one of the biggest concerns.
- The majority of respondents currently had access to support networks from which they could get practical help, however 18% of participants had no-one whom they could rely on.
- The majority of lesbian and bisexual women respondents expressed a preference for a carer of the same gender as them, the majority of gay and bisexual men expressed a preference for a carer with the same sexuality as them. Trans respondents were very concerned about care

Future Housing

- 58% of survey respondents had concerns about housing later in life but 72% had not made any plans in relation to their future housing.
- Concerns expressed about discrimination in mainstream housing for older people.
- When asked about housing with care, older lesbians, bisexual women and gay men all preferred more specific types of housing. Trans people were more divided and concerned about transphobia in LGBTQ+ specific housing as well.
- 75% felt that an accreditation scheme to identify LGBTQ+ inclusive organisations would be useful.

Secure, Accessible, Friendly, Equal (SAFE) Housing

The housing experiences, concerns and preferences of Older LGBT* people





Future Housing

Needs identified around accessibility and wanting to maintain connections to LGBT+ friends and communities

56% wanted LGBT+ specific/affirmative housing provision

64% wanted LGBT+ specific/affirmative care providers

25% wanted LGBT+ accredited care provider

For social housing residents

Safety in Neighbourhood

- 78% felt they lived in a safe area, but 32% felt it wasn't safe being LGBTQ+ in their neighbourhood.
- 60% of trans respondents felt it wasn't safe.

Comfort and Trust

- Concerns expressed about people coming into the home:
- 36% uncomfortable with neighbours (91% for trans respondents).
- 21% uncomfortable with repairs person, 24% landlord.
- A fifth of gay men stated they modified their home.

Harassment

- When asked if housing providers deal effectively with it:
- 31% agreed they do, 35% neither agreed nor disagreed, 34% they do not.

Accreditation

- 72% thought some form of certification of LGBT+ inclusivity a good idea.
- Staff training is essential

No Place like Home?

Exploring the concerns, preferences and experiences of LGBT*Q social housing residents
Findings from the 2017 HouseProud HomeSAFE study



Key
messages
from the
research

LGBTQ+ people need choices that ensure their safety, dignity and social connections (now and in future)

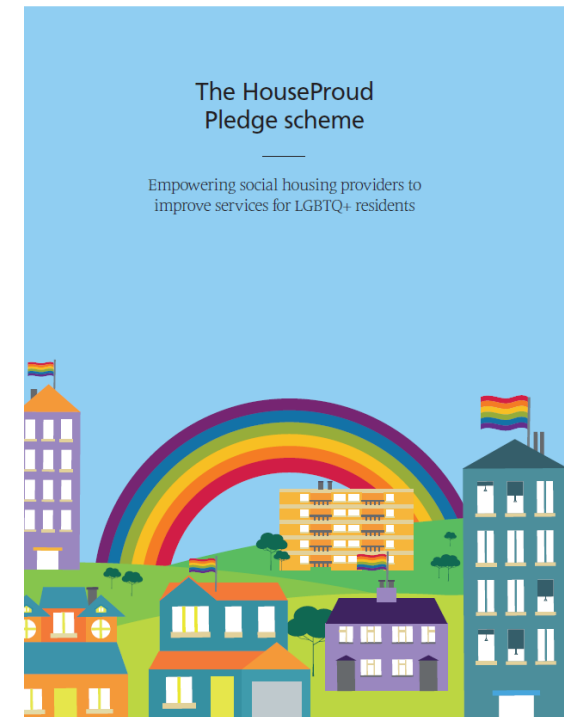
Diversity and intersectionality are important – not all want the same thing, have the same options

What to do with
this?



HouseProud Pledge Scheme

- Sharing NPLH findings with key stakeholders (CEOs/Senior Execs, frontline staff, LGBTQ+ residents) undertaking series of workshop consultations
- Steering group – housing providers, Stonewall, Stonewall Housing, Tonic Housing, Greater London Authority
- Produced framework for housing provider/resident engagement
 - Pledge Pioneer – 3 core commitments
 - Pledge Plus – setting goals
- Pledge Scheme launched May 2019
- First 'sign-ups' June 2019



Core Commitments



Resident Voice	Residents can input at a strategic level through consultation
Training and Education	Begin a comprehensive programme of staff training
Visibility	Increase LGBTQ+ visibility by clearly displaying support for scheme

Next steps...



HouseProud

Pledge Plus

Housing with Pride

A knowledge exchange project to increase LGBTQ+ resident inclusivity in the social housing sector

Professor Andrew King and Frances Sanders (University of Surrey) and John Stevens (Clarion Housing Group and Co-Chair, HouseProud)

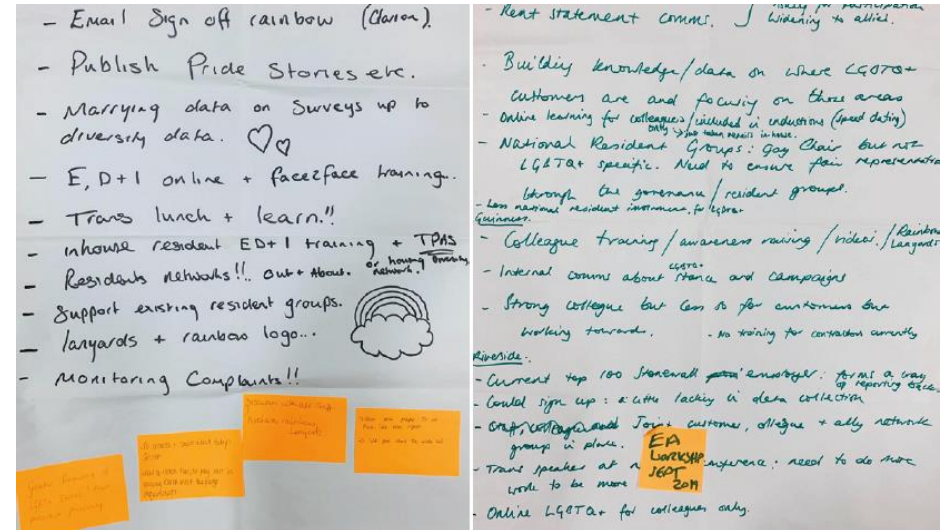
XX November 2020

Housing with Pride

- May 2019 – Feb 2020 (Stage One)
- To raise awareness of issues faced by LGBTQ+ social housing residents
- Raise awareness in the sector of the Pledge Scheme
- To support progress of those adopting the Pledge Scheme
- Collect data about the knowledge exchange process and what was learned
- Created an Animation Video to communicate findings of [‘No Place Like Home’](#)
- Blog and report available [here](#)
- Stage Two underway now

Engagement with LGBTQ+ residents should be...

- **Supportive** - initiated by residents' concerns and issues (not organizational targets).
- **Regular** – not a one off, but a series of planned meetings and actions.
- **Purposeful** – providing the space and resources for residents concerns to be addressed is essential.
- **Enabling** – LGBTQ+ residents have an enormous range of skills and providing ways to enable these skills to be brought to any diversity and inclusion initiative is important and empowering.



Pledge Scheme Progress Report (Jan 2021)

- 31 Housing Providers expressed interest or signed up
- 16 Housing Providers are underway
- 7 have achieved Pledge Pioneer Status for 2020
- 2 have achieved Pledge Plus Status for 2020
- Report available on HouseProud website



HouseProud

Not just a 'niche' thing to do?

Housing is much more than 'bricks and mortar'

For LGBTQ+ people housing is a pivotal issue especially in later life

There are moral, legal and customer service imperatives to act

This isn't an issue that is going away!



Thank you

- For more information
- HouseProud www.houseproud-lgbt.com

including downloadable brochures for No Place Like Home and HouseProud Pledge Scheme

- My profile for links to my publications
www.surrey.ac.uk/people/andrew-king