

LGB&T Community in Salford



Introduction

This report presents selected findings on the lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGB&T) community in Salford from three pieces of research conducted by The Lesbian & Gay Foundation (LGF), exploring LGB&T community activity and community safety in Salford.

Methodology

This report comprises data from respondents living in Salford taken from the Village Census 2012; the “I Exist” survey, conducted in 2011; and a specially commissioned survey on LGB&T community activity in Salford, conducted in 2013.

Raw data from the three surveys was filtered by sexual orientation and geographic area and analysed. The findings are presented below.

Village Census 2012

The LGF conducts an annual census of the Village in Manchester, an area centred around Canal Street and comprising gay bars, clubs, restaurants and other facilities. The census is conducted in two phases in June and October, during which venues host census sheets and research teams conduct shifts in the Village aiming to speak to everyone in the area at that time.

In 2012, there were 419 Salford respondents to the Village Census (although some sample sizes differ per question, and this is stated where applicable as n=x). This accounts for 15% of the total sample, which was 3,459. The table below shows the sexual orientation and gender of LGB respondents from Salford. There was an 80/20 male/female split, which was a higher proportion of males than the total Village Census sample (54% male). Women were more likely to identify as bisexual (20% of all women) compared to men (6% of all men).

Sexual orientation by gender	Count	% of total	% of women	% of men
Female gay	7	1.7	8.5	
Female lesbian	58	13.8	70.7	
Female bisexual	17	4.1	20.7	
Total female LGB	82	19.6	100	
Male gay	317	75.7		94.1
Male bisexual	19	4.5		5.6
Total male GB	337	80.4		100
Total	419	100	100	100

Just over 2% identified that their gender identity now was different to the gender they had been assigned at birth, i.e. that they were trans.

The table below shows the age groups of respondents. The most common age groups were 22-55 and 26-30, accounting for around a fifth of respondents each. 60% of respondents were aged 22-35.

Age group	Count	Percentage
Under 16	3	0.7
16-21	36	8.7
22-25	85	20.4
26-30	93	22.4
31-35	68	16.3
36-40	47	11.3
41-45	36	8.7
46-49	26	6.3
50-55	9	2.2
56-60	5	1.2
61-65	3	0.7
66+	5	1.2
Total	416	100

Nearly all respondents (92%, n=404) identified as white British, white Irish or other white background.

The table below shows the frequency with which respondents said they visited the Village. Just over half visited on a weekly basis, with a quarter and a fifth visiting monthly or daily.

Frequency	Count	Percentage
Daily	77	19.8
Weekly	202	51.9
Monthly	100	25.7
Yearly	10	2.6
Total	389	100

Nearly 3 in 5 respondents (n=405) said they use LGF services. This is similar to the proportion of LGB respondents from Greater Manchester in the whole sample who said they use LGF services (56%)

These findings show that LGB people visiting the Village from Salford are more likely to be gay and bisexual men than lesbian and bisexual women, and in younger age groups. Most visit the Village monthly, but a significant proportion also visit weekly and monthly. There is good uptake of LGF services among this group.

“I Exist” Survey

The “I Exist” survey was conducted online between July-November 2011, and promoted across the LGF’s communication channels as well as at outreach events such as Prides. It aimed to explore a range of issues affecting and experiences of LGB people across the UK, such as hate crime and community involvement. A prize draw to win £500 worth of holiday vouchers, an iPad 2 or £100 worth of shopping vouchers shopping vouchers acted as an incentive for respondents.

There were 134 Salford respondents to the “I Exist” survey (although some sample sizes differ per question, and this is stated where applicable as n=x). This accounts for 18% of the total sample from Greater Manchester, which was 746. The total number of respondents from across the UK was 2,827.

The table below shows the breakdown of respondents by sexual orientation and gender. There was a roughly 60/40 male/female split. More women identified as bisexual than men (21% of women compared to 5% of men).

Sexual orientation by gender	Count	% of total	% of women	% of men
Female gay	2	1.5	3.8	
Female lesbian	39	29.1	75	
Female bisexual	11	8.2	21.2	
Total female LGB	52	38.8	100	
Male gay	78	58.2		95.1
Male bisexual	4	3		4.9
Total male GB	82	61.2		100
Total	134	100	100	100

Just over 2% identified that their gender identity now was different to the gender they had been assigned at birth, i.e. that they were trans. The three most popular age categories were 31-35, 36-40 and 41-45 at around 20% each. The majority of respondents were aged 26-45.

Nearly 99% of respondents identified as white British, white Irish or other white background. Fourteen per cent identified that they had a disability. Three quarters of respondents were employed, and 1 in 10 were unemployed. Twelve per cent were students and less than 1% were retired.

Community Involvement

Respondents were asked whether they had been involved in their local community in any of the following ways over the last 12 months, shown in the next table. The most popular was signing a petition or supporting a campaign, which 63% of respondents had done. Nearly two fifths of respondents said they were active in a voluntary or community group, and 3 in 10 had taken part in fundraising activity.

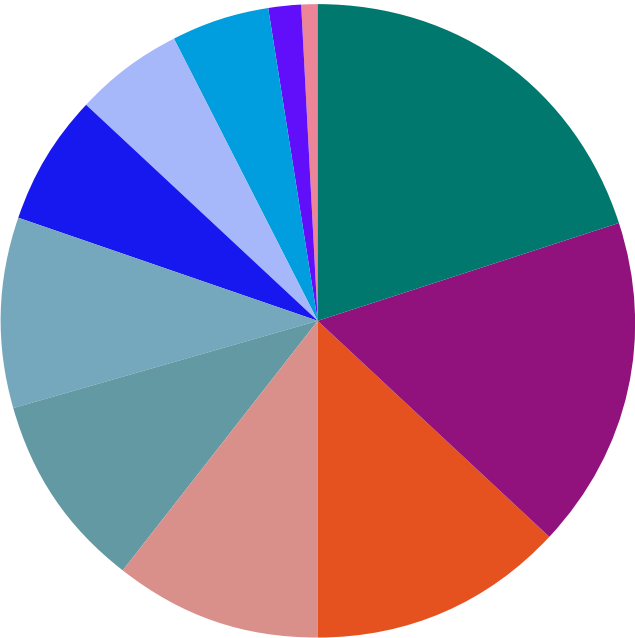
N.B. respondents could choose more than one answer.

Involvement type	Count	Percentage
Signing a petition or supporting a campaign	85	63.4
Active in a voluntary or community group	52	38.8
Taking part in fundraising activity	42	31.3
Member of a trade union	33	24.6
Taking part in a demonstration	26	19.4
Attending other community committees (incl. advisory groups, panels etc.)	16	11.9
Helping out a neighbour(s) regularly	15	11.2
Attending neighbourhood forum meetings	14	10.4
Active in a religious or faith organisation	6	4.5
Active in a school parent-teacher association or involved in after-school activities	5	3.7
Holding a public appointment	4	3.0
Member of a local political party	3	2.2
School governor	2	1.5
Applied to a Community Organiser	1	0.7

Over 3 in 10 (34%, n=129) respondents said that they volunteered for an organisation or voluntary group at least once a month.

The table and pie chart below show responses to the question, “what motivates you to volunteer?” for those who identified that they currently volunteer. The most popular motivations were: wanting to help people; the cause being important to the volunteer; and wanting to use existing skills or learn new skills (chosen by 27%, 22% and 17% of respondents respectively).

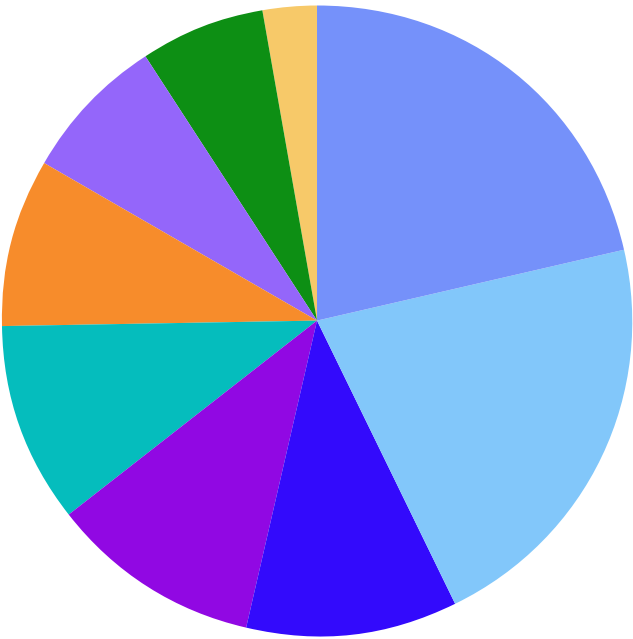
N.B. respondents could choose up to 5 answers.



Motivation	Count	Percentage
I want to help people	36	26.9
The cause is really important to me	30	22.4
I want to use my existing skills or learn new skills	23	17.2
The organisation I volunteer for helps LGB people	19	14.2
I feel there is a need in my community	18	13.4
The organisation is good at what it does	17	12.7
I want to meet people and make new friends	12	9.0
I have spare time	10	7.5
The organisation has helped me or someone I care about in the past	9	6.7
It's part of my religious belief to help people	3	2.2
The organisation keeps me up to date with their work	1	0.7

Respondents who identified that they did not currently volunteer were asked what would motivate them to do so. The table and pie chart below shows these responses. The most popular motivations were if the cause were important to the respondent, and having spare time (chosen by 44% and 43% of respondents respectively).

N.B. respondents could choose up to 5 answers



Motivation	Count	Percentage
If the cause was important to me	59	44.0
If I had spare time	58	43.3
If the organisation had helped me or someone I care about in the past	30	22.4
If the organisation helped LGB people	29	21.6
If the organisation was good at what it does	28	20.9
If I felt there was a need in my community	24	17.9
If I wanted to meet people and make new friends	20	14.9
If I wanted to use my existing skills or learn new skills	18	13.4
If the organisation keeps me up to date with their work	7	5.2

Hate Crime

Over half of respondents (53%, n=124) had experienced a homophobic hate crime or hate incident.

The table below shows of those who had experienced a homophobic hate crime or hate incident, when they had last experienced this. 22% had last experienced it less than 6 months ago and 32% had last experienced in it the last year.

Hate crime or incident last experienced	Count	Percentage
Less than 6 months ago	15	22.7
More than 6 months but less than 12 months ago	6	9.1
More than 12 months but less than 2 years ago	13	19.7
More than 2 years but less than 3 years ago	5	7.6
More than 3 years ago	27	40.9
Total	66	100

Only 3 in 10 (n=66) respondents who had experienced a homophobic hate crime or incident said they had reported it. Reporting it to the police was the most common method, chosen by 85% (n=20) of respondents when asked who they had first reported the hate crime or incident to.

Respondents who did not report the last hate crime or incident they experienced were asked why they had not reported it. The table below shows these responses.

Reason not reported	Count	Percentage
I didn't think it was serious enough	21	45.7
I didn't think anything would happen	11	23.9
I didn't feel confident that any action would be taken	5	10.9
Other	5	10.9
I have reported a hate crime or incident before and nothing happened	4	8.7
I didn't want to have to disclose my sexual orientation	0	0
I didn't know how to report it	0	0
Total	46	100

These findings show a broadly similar demographic picture to that from the Village Census, but with a more even proportion of men to women (although men are still in the majority). Interest in community involvement is high, with 3 in 10 respondents volunteering regularly, and 4 in 10 active in a community or voluntary group regularly. The findings also shows high levels of homophobic hate crime but low levels of reporting, with most respondents who had experienced hate crime saying they didn't report it because they didn't think it was serious enough.

LGB&T Community Survey

The LGF conducted a survey to explore LGB&T community networks and community activities in Salford, as well as perceptions of community safety in the area, including hate crime. It was available online between March-April 2013 and promoted across the LGF's communication channels, as well as to the Salford LGBT Network and Salford CVS's communications channels.

There were 60 respondents who identified as LGB and/or T and were resident in Salford (although some sample sizes differ per question, and this is stated where applicable as n=x). The table below shows these respondents broken down by the area of Salford they were resident in. Nearly a fifth of respondents came from Broughton, closely followed by Eccles (13%).

Area	Count	Percentage
Broughton	10	16.7
Eccles	8	13.3
Claremont	6	10.0
Ordsall	6	10.0
Langworthy	5	8.3
Irwell Riverside	4	6.7
Weaste and Seedley	4	6.7
Pendlebury	3	5.0
Walkden North	3	5.0
Barton	2	3.3
Kersal	2	3.3
Little Hulton	2	3.3
Swinton North	2	3.3
Swinton South	2	3.3
Boothstown and Ellenbrook	1	1.7
Total	60	100

The table below shows the breakdown of respondents by sexual orientation and gender. There was a roughly 60/40 male/female split. More women identified as bisexual (a quarter of all women) than men (3% of all men).

Sexual orientation by gender	Count	% of total	% of women	% of men
Female gay	3	5.0	13.0	
Female lesbian	14	23.3	60.9	
Female bisexual	6	10.0	26.1	
Total female LGB	23	38.3	100	
Male gay	36	60.0		97.3
Male bisexual	2	1.7		2.7
Total male GB	37	61.7		100
Total	60	100	100	100

Just over 3% of respondents identified that their gender identity now was different to the gender they had been assigned at birth, i.e. that they were trans.

The table below shows the age groups of respondents. The most common age groups were 26-30 (accounting for 27% of respondents) and 31-35 (accounting for 23% of respondents). Eight in 10 respondents were aged between 26-50.

Age Group	Count	Percentage
Under 16	0	0
16-20	4	6.7
21-25	3	5.0
26-30	16	26.7
31-35	14	23.3
36-40	4	6.7
41-45	9	15.0
46-50	6	10.0
51-55	2	3.3
56-60	0	0
61-65	2	3.3
66+	0	0
Total	60	100

Nearly all respondents (97%) identified as white British, white Irish or other white background (n=59). Three-quarters of respondents said that they had no religion, and a fifth said that they were Christian (n=58). Twenty per cent identified that they had a disability. Three quarters of respondents were employed, and 2 in 10 were unemployed. Three per cent were students and 3% were retired. Nearly 50% of respondents said that they were single. 1 in 10 were in a relationship (not co-habiting), 13% in a relationship (and co-habiting) and 13% were in a civil partnership.

Salford LGB&T Community Activity

Respondents were asked a series of questions about their sense of the LGB&T community in Salford and elsewhere.

38% of respondents said that they thought there is an LGB&T community in Salford. 36% said they didn't, and 26% said they weren't sure (n=58).

Those who said they thought there is an LGB&T community in Salford were asked if they feel part of it. Half of these respondents said they did and half said they didn't (n=22).

Those who said they didn't think there is an LGB&T community in Salford were asked if they feel part of an LGB&T community elsewhere. Just over half (56%) said they did, and just under half (44%) said they didn't (n=46). When asked where this LGB&T community outside Salford was, the most common answer was Manchester, chosen by 84% of those respondents.

The table below shows responses to the question: To what extent do you agree with the following statement: "I can influence decisions affecting my local area"?

Half of respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement, and 3 in 10 either agreed or strongly agreed.

Agreement	Count	Percentage
Strongly agree	3	5.2
Agree	14	24.1
Neither agree nor disagree	12	20.7
Disagree	21	36.2
Strongly disagree	8	13.8
Total	58	100

The table below shows responses to the question: How important is it for you to be able to influence decisions affecting your local area?

Nearly 7 in 10 respondents said it was either important or very important, and no respondents said it was unimportant or very unimportant.

Agreement	Count	Percentage
Very important	18	31.0
Important	21	36.2
Neither important nor unimportant	19	32.8
Unimportant	0	0
Very unimportant	0	0
Total	58	100

The table below shows responses to the question: Are you involved in LGB&T community activities in Salford? The majority of respondents (47%) were not, but would like to be.

Involved in LGB&T community activities	Count	Percentage
Yes	10	17.2
No, but I would like to be	27	46.6
No, and I do not want to be	21	36.2
Total	58	100

A quarter of respondents said they were involved in other community activities in Salford that aren't LGB&T specific (n=57).

43% of respondents said that LGB&T community activities are supported in Salford (n=53), and 57% said that they weren't.

Those who said that they weren't were asked to state what further support needs to be available. A reflection of the responses is given below:

Anything! I don't know of anything that happens in Salford, no community spirit at all and not just the lgbt people.

Funding and recognition for the needs of the LGBT community in Salford.

I don't know to be honest, Salford is so close to Manchester that it should just merge services to make them bigger and better rather than bits and pieces everywhere. Salford is so awful a place to be anyway that what ever they did wouldn't really make much difference.

Maybe an event for family and friends of LGBT community without it been a Pride event without the Money making scams that Manchester City Council have done over the years.

More for younger lgbt groups. Education in schools and communities to try and stop homophobia.

Some visible presence.

Something for over 30s and under 60s

Specific advice with regarding to sexual health. I don't know where the reporting centres are for hate crime either. No social groups that I know of eg. LGB&T parents groups etc

The same that Manchester has

There is still a lot of stigma surrounding LGBT people in and around Salford, particularly at young ages i.e. high school and colleges. Support needs to exist for young people in education, and there need to be activities available for young LGBT people to meet those like themselves.

There's the Peel Park Pink Picnic...which is supported a little by the council; but I'm gay 365 days a year - not one weekend in July! Let's have visibility all year round; like disabled communities, BME communities, faith communities and other communities have all year.

Unsure.... A place like lgbt foundation in manchester would be great

Hate crime

Respondents were asked whether homophobic, biphobic and transphobic hate crimes and incidents are a problem in Salford. The table below shows these responses. The majority of respondents said it wasn't a big problem, although 46% said it was either a problem or a big problem.

Hate crime	Count	Percentage
Yes, it's a big problem	6	10.7
Yes, it's a problem	20	35.7
No, it's not a big problem	27	48.2
No, it's not a problem at all	3	5.4
Total	56	100

Respondents were asked whether they feel safe being 'out' about their sexual orientation and/or gender identity in Salford. 54% of LGB respondents said did (n=56). Half of the trans respondents who answered the question said they felt safe about both, and half said they did not feel safe about either(n=2). However, as the sample size for this question is very small (only 2 people answered the question) it may not be applicable across the trans population in Salford and should be used with caution.

Respondents were asked where they mainly socialise with other LGB&T people. 86% of respondents said they socialise in Manchester, and 2% said they socialise in Salford (n=54). 7% said they don't socialise with other LGB&T people.

Respondents were asked what websites and social networks they use regularly. The table below shows these responses. The most popular network was Facebook, chosen by 87% of respondents. The LGF website was chosen by 30% of respondents.

NB. Respondents could choose more than one option

Website/social network	Count	Percentage
Facebook	52	86.7
Twitter	30	50.0
LGF website	18	30.0
Grindr	18	30.0
Gaydar	13	21.7
Other	13	21.7
Gaydar Girls	2	3.3
None	2	3.3
Qrushr	0	0.0
Total	148	100

These findings show a broadly similar demographic picture to that from the "I Exist" survey, although slightly higher proportions of respondents were disabled and were unemployed.

Responses as to whether there is an LGB&T community were fairly evenly split between yes and no. Those who didn't think there was one in Salford identified Manchester as a place with LGB&T community, and when asked about where they socialise with other LGB&T people, Manchester was the most common answer given. Most respondents said it was important for them to be able to influence decisions affecting their local area, but a minority of respondents said they felt able to do this. A majority of respondents said LGB&T community activities weren't adequately supported in Salford and suggestions to improve this ranged from more funding to regular events and increased visibility.

A majority of respondents felt hate crime wasn't a big problem in Salford, and felt safe being 'out'. However, a significant proportion said hate crime was either a problem or a big problem in Salford and did not feel safe being 'out'.

Conclusions

The three pieces of research show a broadly similar demographic picture of the LGB community in Salford: respondents were more likely to identify as gay and bisexual men than lesbian and bisexual women; 2-3% trans identified as trans; were in younger age groups; were majority white British/white Irish/other white background. 14-20% of this group were disabled and 10-20% were unemployed.

When looked at together, the findings show that Manchester is a popular place for LGB&T people in Salford to socialise in, and that many see Manchester as having an LGB&T community. Some respondents were involved in community activity in Salford, but more wanted to be involved, and felt that more support was needed for LGB&T community activity in Salford.

In relation to homophobic, biphobic and transphobic hate crime, experience of hate crime was common, but reporting was not. Perceptions of whether hate crime was a problem or not and whether people felt safe being 'out' about their sexual orientation and/or gender identity in Salford were not conclusive, especially as the sample of trans respondents who answered this question was too small for meaningful analysis.

Further research could be conducted to explore the issues of community activity and community safety among groups within LGB&T, such as bisexuals and trans people.

Further information

For information on the data contained within this report, please contact Heather Williams, Policy & Research Manager at The Lesbian & Gay Foundation: **heather.williams@lgf.org.uk**

For access to LGB&T statistics on a range of topics, visit The Lesbian & Gay Foundation's Evidence Exchange: **www.lgf.org.uk/evidence**

For information and advice on engaging with LGB&T communities, please contact Darren Knight, Head of Policy & Engagement at The Lesbian & Gay Foundation: **darren.knight@lgf.org.uk**

We believe in a fair and equal society where all lesbian, gay and bisexual people can achieve their full potential.



Published in May 2013.

The Lesbian & Gay Foundation

Number 5, Richmond Street,
Manchester. M1 3HF.

Tel: 0845 3 30 30 30

Email: info@lgf.org.uk

Web: www.lgf.org.uk

Reg. Company No. 3476576 Reg. Charity No. 1070904