

**Sandwell Health and Wellbeing Board
June 2023**

Report Topic:	Sandwell LGBTQ+ Health Needs Report
Contact Officer:	Dr Anna Blennerhassett -Consultant in Public Health Anna_blennerhassett@sandwell.gov.uk
Link to board priorities	Please include in your report how your work links to one or more of our board priorities: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We will help keep people healthier for longer 2. We will help keep people safe and support communities 3. We will work together to join up services 4. We will work closely with local people, partners and providers of services
Purpose of Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update Health & Wellbeing Board on the LGBTQ+ Health Needs report, which was published in spring 2023 and provide an overview of progress with implementation of recommendations from the report.
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Health and Wellbeing Board note and endorse the Sandwell LGBTQ+ Health Needs Report and ongoing work.
Key Discussion points:	<p>In September 2022 Public Health commissioned a quantitative engagement & consultation exercise to gather insight & understand the needs and experiences of LGBTQ+ adults and young people in the Sandwell.</p> <p>This led to the publication of the LGBTQ+ Health Needs report in March 2023 and was followed by a launch event to engage local partners and stakeholders.</p>

The four key theme areas of the report are:

- Physical health & health behaviours
- Mental Health & wellbeing
- Health Services and access to health services
- Social Capital

We will help keep people healthier for longer

National evidence shows that people who identify as LGBTQ+ face health inequalities and worse health outcomes and experiences of healthcare than the rest of the population. The engagement and consultation exercise which took place with the LGBTQ+ community in Sandwell, provided the opportunity to gain insight into health experiences and develop opportunities to develop work to improve these outcomes.

We will help keep people safe and support communities

Providing accessible and safe spaces for members of the LGBTQ+ community to meet and access relevant support and information is one of the recommendations within the report. There will be opportunities to address this through the work which has progressed since the publication of the report.

We will work together to join up services

A partnership Task & Finish group has been established to drive the implementation of the recommendations. This includes local partners from SMBC, NHS, Schools and Further Education and the voluntary and community sector. This partnership will continue to drive the recommendations from the Health Needs report.

We will work closely with local people,

	<p>partners and providers of services</p> <p>A key outcome of the engagement and consultation work has been the proposal to run a small grants scheme with Sandwell Community and Voluntary Sector Organisation (SCVO) to support the council to address the health inequalities faced by the LGBTQ+ community. The fund will seek bids from community organisations that help to improve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access to healthcare services • physical activity • mental health and wellbeing • social isolation
<p>Implications (e.g. Financial, Statutory etc)</p>	
<p>There are no financial or statutory implications to be considered by the Board</p>	
<p>What engagement has or will take place with people, partners and providers?</p>	<p>The LGBTQ+ Health Needs report has been published following an engagement and consultation exercise with local people. The report outcome has been shared with local partners through the launch event and the work of the multi-agency Task & Finish group.</p>

