

An Inclusive City for... LGBT+ Londoners

Introduction

Many of the barriers and challenges that people face are shared across different groups. As a consequence, the Mayor's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy is structured not by protected characteristics or groups, but around the issues that Londoners face. We also know that many Londoners have complex identities and that some face multiple disadvantages.

We recognise that some issues affect some groups particularly badly, and that many stakeholders and community groups have a focus on working with particular groups. This reader's guide is intended to highlight the sections of the strategy that are particularly relevant to, or make specific reference to, **LGBT+ Londoners**

The Mayor is already delivering a number of initiatives to address some of the objectives outlined in the strategy, including:

- **Community safety:** The Mayor has launched an Online Hate Crime Hub, which works with community experts to help police officers tackle online hate more effectively and improve services for victims, including those of homo/transphobic crime. The Mayor will respond to the findings of the IPCC report into the police failings associated with the Stephen Port murders when published in the coming months.
- **Cultural heritage:** To stop further closure of LGBT+ nightlife venues, the Mayor has launched the LGBT+ Venues Charter – a practical, five-point tool that developers, venues and pub companies can use to demonstrate their commitment to London's LGBT+ community.

The following sections outline the evidence-based objectives in the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy that will inform the Mayor's work on issues affecting LGBT+ Londoners:

Chapter 1 covers the Mayor's efforts to make London a great city to live in.

- Section 1.1 (page 19) outlines our strategic objectives to help improve the supply of homes available to meet Londoners' diverse housing needs and prevent and address homelessness and rough sleeping. This is informed by evidence of how older LGBT+ people can benefit from specialised and supported housing; how LGBT+ youth are vulnerable to homelessness and rough sleeping as a direct result of their sexual orientation and gender identity.
- Section 1.3 (page 37) outlines our strategic objective to protect and preserve community infrastructure – informed by evidence as part of an extensive consultation process with London's communities, including with London's LGBT+ communities.

Chapter 2 outlines the Mayor's efforts to tackle inequalities in childhood experiences.

- Section 2.2 (page 55) outlines our strategic objective to work with children and young people experiencing physical and mental health issues to access appropriate treatment and support – informed by evidence of the impact of homo/transphobic bullying in Britain's schools.

Chapter 4 covers the Mayor's work to make London an easier, cheaper and safer city to travel around.

- Section 4.4 (page 109) outlines our strategic objective to reduce homo/transphobic crime, and the fear of homo/transphobic crime, on London's streets and transport system – informed by evidence that much of the unwanted sexual behaviour experienced by LGBT+ women goes unreported.

Chapter 5 outlines the Mayor's work to help Londoners lead safe, healthy, fulfilling lives.

- Section 5.1 (page 111) outlines our strategic objective to address the rising levels, and impact of homo/transphobic hate crime on London's LGBT+ communities, and the experiences of LGBT+ people when accessing the criminal justice system. These are informed by evidence that appropriate interventions can reassure both victims of crime, and the wider LGBT+ community and the need to learn lessons from the Stephen Port murders in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham.
- Section 5.2 (page 122) outlines our strategic objective to tackle the stigma associated with mental ill health, and its impact on LGBT people – informed by evidence that recognises that LGBT+ people life experiences can make them prone to depression, and potentially suicide.
- Section 5.3 (page 130) outlines our strategic objective to address the structural barriers and ensure that LGBT+ Londoners are valued and active citizens – informed by the Mayor's commitment to tackle transphobia and promote gender diversity.
- Section 5.4 (page 137) outlines our strategic objective to save and sustain diverse cultural places and spaces. This is informed by evidence that LGBT+ venues have been closing across London at an alarming rate.