

Kirklees Your Place, Your Say Survey 2011: the LGB community

Summary of key findings for lesbian, gay & bisexual (LGB) respondents

- LGB respondents are more likely than heterosexual respondents to live in the **Huddersfield and Mirfield, Denby Dale and Kirkburton** town and valley committee areas. Almost one-half of LGB respondents **have lived in Kirklees for 15 years or less**, with one-fifth having lived in Kirklees for 3 years or less.
- LGB respondents are more likely than heterosexual respondents to be a **single-person household with no children** and to earn a **household income of below £10,000**.
- Just over one third of LGB respondents live in **rented accommodation**, and LGB respondents are **less likely than heterosexual respondents to be satisfied with their home** as a place to live and more likely to be planning to move house in the next 5 years. LGB respondents are also more likely than heterosexual respondents to rate **affordable decent housing** as being important in making somewhere a good place to live.
- LGB respondents are **less likely than heterosexual respondents to agree that their local area is a place where people trust each other and help and support each other**. However, LGB respondents are more likely to feel that their local area is a place where people from different ethnic backgrounds get on well together
- LGB respondents are **less likely than heterosexual respondents to feel safe in their local area during the day**. LGB respondents are however **less likely than heterosexual respondents to say that they feel unsafe when outside in their local town centre after dark**. LGB respondents are more likely to report noisy neighbours and loud parties as a big problem in their local area.
- LGB respondents are more likely than heterosexual respondents to be **dissatisfied with doorstep recycling, street lighting, parks and open spaces** and generally with the way the council runs things. They are also **less satisfied with their local area** as a place to live.
- LGB respondents are more likely than heterosexual respondents to **rate museums and galleries and theatres and concerns halls as important in making somewhere a good place to live**, and to rate taking part in arts and creative activities as important to them personally. Though just under three-fifths of LGB respondents are satisfied with museums and galleries, they are more likely than heterosexual respondents to **disagree that there is a good range of arts and creative activities in Kirklees**.
- Two-thirds of LGB respondents have contacted the council in the previous 12 months, with one-third of these contacts being in person. LGB respondents are more likely than heterosexual respondents **to feel that they were not listened to, not treated fairly, felt that the council did not take a genuine interest in them, and were not given an honest explanation of what was realistic when contacting the council**.
- LGB respondents are more likely than heterosexual respondents to agree that they **would like to get involved in local decision-making, to agree that people like them can really can change the way their area is run, and to rate getting involved or helping out at a local organisation or group as important** to them personally. However, LGB respondents are less likely than heterosexual respondents to currently

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volunteer for a local group or organisation, to feel they can influence decisions affecting their local area and to feel able to get involved/help out locally if they wanted to.

- **Mean well-being ratings are lower among LGB respondents** compared to heterosexual respondents in relation to life satisfaction, rating of things in life being worthwhile and overall happiness.
- LGB respondents are more likely than heterosexual respondents **to rate life goals relating to skills, learning, working and enterprise as important** to them personally. However, they were less likely than heterosexual respondents to say they already do or plan to do these life goals over the next 5 years.

Details of the survey method and LGB response rate are included as Appendix A

Please note: for analysis purposes, data has been weighted by geographical area, age and gender and ethnicity. All analysis is based on weighted data unless otherwise stated.

Characteristics of LGB Respondents

There is a lack of census data and official statistics about the LGB community, therefore analysis of the characteristics of LGB survey respondents gives an indication of their geographical and demographic make-up. A summary of the characteristics of LGB respondents to the survey is included below.

Demographic characteristics

- 64% are male, 36% female
- 50% are aged 18-34, compared to 31% of heterosexual respondents.
- 31% are disabled, compared to 24% of heterosexual respondents
- 96% are from a White ethnic background, compared to 91% of heterosexual respondents
- 58% stated that they had 'no religion', compared to 31% of heterosexual respondents

Socio-economic characteristics

- 40% are single person households, compared to 26% of heterosexual respondents
- 30% earn an annual household income of below £10,000, compared to 20% of heterosexual respondents
- 23% are from Mosaic group I (lower income workers in urban terraces in often diverse areas), compared to 14% of heterosexual respondents
- 13% are from Mosaic group G (young, well-educated city dwellers), compared to 3% of heterosexual respondents.
- 56% own their own house or have a mortgage/loan, compared to 71% of heterosexual respondents
- 37% live in rented accommodation, compared to 25% of heterosexual respondents

Geographical characteristics

- 41% live in the Huddersfield town and valley committee area, compared to 30% of heterosexual respondents

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- 24% live in the Mirfield, Denby Dale and Kirkburton town and valley committee area, compared to 13% of heterosexual respondents
- 4% live in the Dewsbury town and valley committee area, compared to 13% of heterosexual respondents
- 19% have lived in Kirklees for 3 years or less, compared to 9% of heterosexual respondents
- 28% have lived in Kirklees for 4-15 years, compared to 18% of heterosexual respondents
- 15% have lived in Kirklees for 41 years or more, compared to 32% of heterosexual respondents.

Summary of Your Place, Your Say Findings for LGB respondents

The table below summarises some key Your Place, Your Say findings for LGB and heterosexual respondents. Boxes without shading are for variables where it is not appropriate to make a judgement about whether differences between responses are 'better' or 'worse'.

Key:

	significantly* better
	significantly* worse
	No significant difference

*significant at 95% level of confidence, using z testing for all indicators apart from well-being mean scores, for which significant differences have been highlighted based on the confidence intervals of the mean values (at 95% level of confidence).

The table compares data for LGB and heterosexual respondents to seven key survey questions.

Your Place, Your Say Question	LGB (%)	Heterosexual (%)
Key Survey Indicators		
% satisfied with local area as a place to live	68%	76%
% agreeing that local area is a place where people treat each other with respect and consideration	43%	49%
% feeling safe when outside in their local area during the day	78%	87%
% agreeing that Kirklees Council provides value for money	26%	32%
% satisfied with the way Kirklees Council runs things	33%	39%
% agreeing that when people like them get involved in their local community they really can change the way their area is run	44%	35%
Mean life satisfaction score (out of 10)	6.29	6.88

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The table below compares data for LGB and heterosexual respondents to selected questions from the survey where there were notable differences in responses.

Your Place, Your Say Question	LGB (%)	Heterosexual (%)
Community Cohesion, Crime and Community Safety		
% agreeing that local area is place where people from different ethnic backgrounds get on well together	54%	45%
% agreeing that local area is a place where people trust each other	28%	37%
% <u>disagreeing</u> that local area is a place where people help and support each other	27%	18%
% feeling that noisy neighbours or loud parties are a big problem in their local area	24%	15%
% feeling <u>unsafe</u> when outside in nearest town centre after dark	35%	44%
Area and Home Satisfaction, Work and Leisure		
% satisfied with their home as a place to live	80%	88%
% travelling 0-5 miles for work	26%	46%
% travelling 6-20 miles for work	66%	42%
% <u>disagreeing</u> that there is a good range of arts and creative activities in Kirklees	25%	17%
Service and Council Satisfaction		
% dissatisfied with doorstep recycling	23%	13%
% dissatisfied with street lighting	24%	12%
% dissatisfied with parks and open spaces	27%	15%
% satisfied with museums and galleries	57%	44%
% dissatisfied with the way Kirklees Council runs things	30%	24%
Customer Contact with the Council		
% that have been in direct contact with council in previous 12 months	64%	55%
% contacting the council <u>in person</u> in previous 12 months	33%	16%
% <u>not</u> feeling listened to when contacting the council in previous 12 months	28%	15%
% feeling they were <u>not</u> treated fairly when contacting the council in previous 12 months	25%	16%
% <u>not</u> feeling that person in contact with took a genuine interest in them	37%	28%
% <u>not</u> feeling that person in contact with explained honestly what was realistic	37%	24%
Information		
% that have used Kirklees Council website to find out about council	73%	65%
% that have used social media to find out about council	15%	4%
% that have used word-of-mouth to find out about council	22%	14%
% that have used finding out from friend/neighbour/relative of a council employee to find out about council	21%	9%

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Your Place, Your Say Question	LGB (%)	Heterosexual (%)
% that use Kirklees Together magazine to find out about council	37%	45%
% selecting Kirklees Council website as preferred method of finding out about the council	65%	54%
Civic Participation, Volunteering and Involvement		
% giving unpaid help to a local group, club or organisation for at least once a month or more over the last 12 months	11%	22%
% that had completed a questionnaire over the previous 12 months	46%	35%
% that have used social media to share their views over the previous 12 months	16%	9%
% <u>disagreeing</u> that they are able to get involved/help out locally if they want to	35%	16%
% <u>disagreeing</u> that they can influence decisions affecting their local area	54%	38%
% agreeing that they would like to get more involved in local decision-making	44%	32%
Well-being		
To what extent do you feel that the things you do in your life are worthwhile? (on a scale of 0 to 10)		
% giving a score of 10 - i.e. <i>completely worthwhile</i>	10%	12%
Mean things in life being worthwhile score (out of 10)	6.53	7.13
How happy did you feel yesterday? (on a scale of 0 to 10)		
% giving a score of 10 - i.e. <i>completely happy</i>	10%	13%
Mean happiness score (out of 10)	6.27	6.94
Aspirations		
% rating getting a paid job or changing jobs as an important life goal to them	74%	81%
% rating undertaking further education/training/qualifications as an important life goal to them	65%	53%
% rating starting their own business as important life goal to them	45%	32%
% rating getting involved to help provide local public services and improve the area for communities as important life goal to them	48%	35%
% rating taking part in arts and creative activities as important life goal to them	47%	36%
% rating have/adopt/foster a child as important life goal to them	44%	36%

Priorities for Local Area and Prioritisation of Services

The document online on the council's website at http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/you-kmc/kmcbudget/budgetplans2012_13.shtml called 'priorities and value for money' summarises how LGB respondents rate various things as being important in making somewhere a good place to live, what needs improving in their local area and which services are most important to them personally. In summary:

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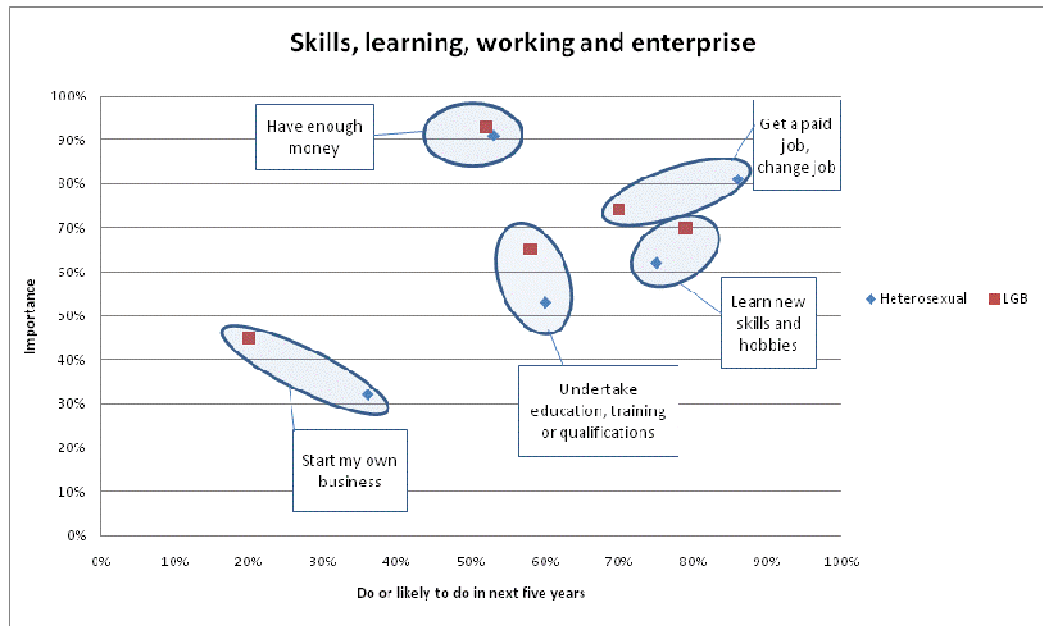
- Heterosexual and LGB respondents' rate 'a safe local environment' and a 'clean and tidy local environment' as being the two top most important aspects in making somewhere a good place to live. LGB respondents are significantly more likely than heterosexual respondents to rate **good public transport, affordable decent housing and vibrant town centre** as being important.
- Both LGB and heterosexual respondents' rate well maintained roads and pavements as being most in need of improvement in their local area. LGB respondents are more likely than heterosexual respondents to rate **good public transport links, access to arts and creative activities and access to shopping facilities** as in need of improvement.
- LGB and heterosexual respondents rate 'a safe local environment' as their number one priority for their local area. LGB respondents are more likely than heterosexual respondents to rate **good public transport links** as their number one priority.
- Respondents rated which five services are most important to them. LGB and heterosexual respondents both rate household refuse collection as most important. LGB respondents are more likely than heterosexual respondents to rate **doorstep recycling, street lighting, museums and galleries and theatres and concert halls** as important to them.

Aspirations and Life Goals

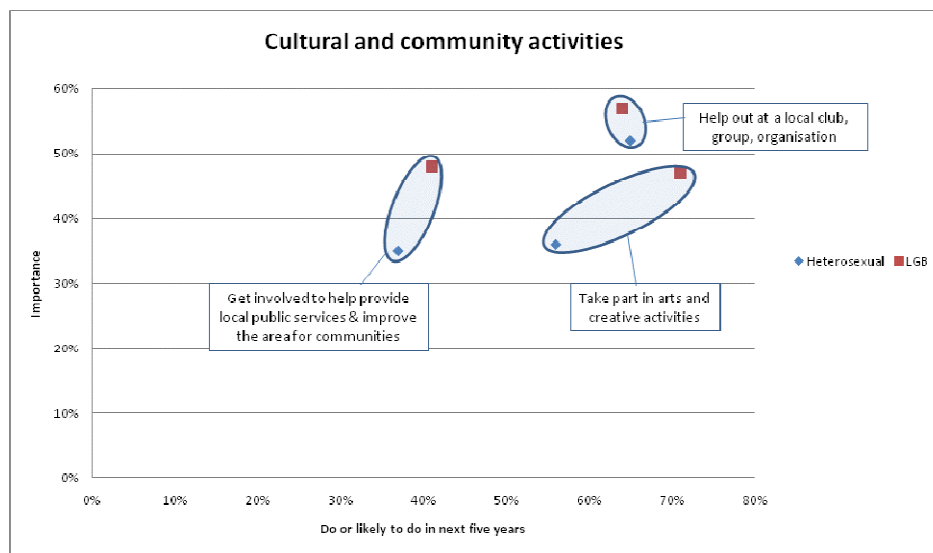
Respondents rated how important a number of life goals are to them, and whether they are already carrying out these activities or likely to carry them out in the next five years. The charts below compare the responses of LGB and heterosexual respondents.

In relation to life goals about skills, learning, working and enterprise, the graph below shows that with the exception of getting or changing jobs, **LGB respondents are more likely than heterosexual respondents to rate each goal as important to them**, particularly 'undertaking education, training or qualifications' and 'starting my own business'. However, with the exception of 'learning new skills and hobbies', **LGB respondents are less likely than heterosexual respondents to already be or planning to do each activity** over the next five years.

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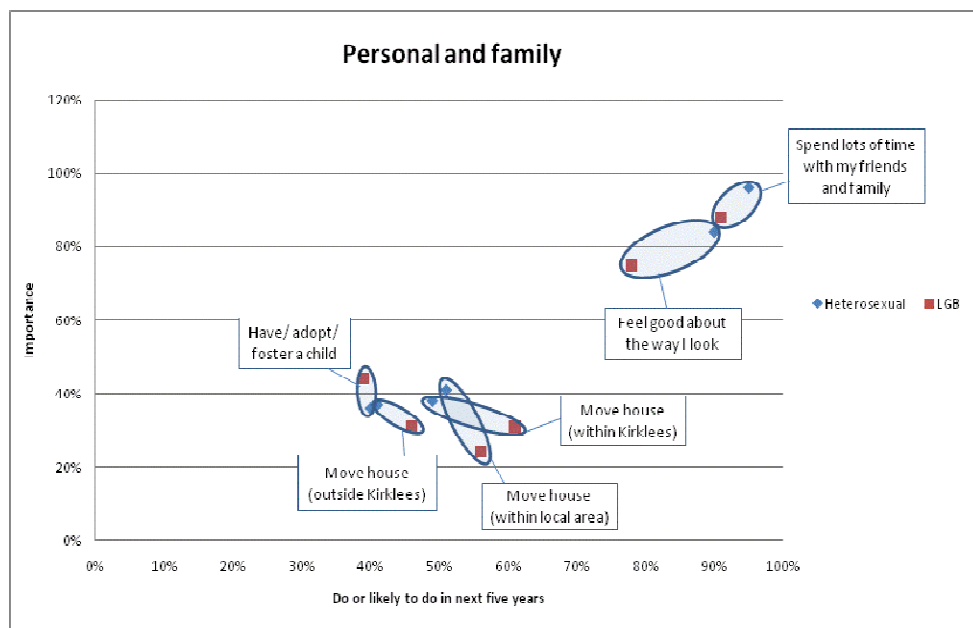


In relation to life goals about cultural and community activities, the graph overleaf shows that LGB respondents are more likely than heterosexual respondents to rate each goal as important to them, particularly **taking part in arts and creative activities and getting involved in local public services**.



In relation to goals about personal and family life, the graph below shows that LGB respondents are less likely than heterosexual respondents to rate each goal as important to them, with the exception of **'have/adopt/foster a child'**, which LGB respondents were more likely to rate as important to them. Even though **moving house** was less important to LGB respondents compared to heterosexual respondents, LGB respondents were more likely to already do or be planning to do this over the next five years.

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APPENDIX A – Your Place, Your Say Methodology and LGB Response Rate

About the Your Place, Your Say survey: Was a household postal survey carried out in Kirklees between October-December 2011. A random sample of 35,000 households were sent a postal survey, and additional activity such as an online version of the survey, booster sampling and engagement with voluntary and community organisations were undertaken to boost responses from groups traditionally less likely to respond to postal surveys.

The survey sample: 8,244 responses were received to the random postal survey. This document summarises data from the random element of the sample only. Data from the non-random approaches will be used for more detailed exploration of community of interest responses, following this initial analysis of random survey data. Data based on 8,244 responses is subject to +/- 1 percentage point margin of error. Responses to the survey have been weighted by geographical area, age and gender and ethnicity to ensure that survey responses are representative of the Kirklees district.

How would you describe your sexual orientation?

Question 33 of the survey asked respondents to describe their sexual orientation:

- 7,657 people responded to this question:

Sexual orientation	Frequency	%
Heterosexual	6,102	80%
Bisexual	58	1%
Lesbian	33	0.5%
Gay man	45	0.6%
I am not prepared to say	432	6%
None of these	587	8%

(Unweighted totals)

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- 987 people (12%) of all respondents to the survey did not respond to this question. This compares to 9% of respondents not answering this question when last asked in a borough-wide postal survey – the 2008 Current Living in Kirklees Survey.
- 14% of those who responded to the question indicated that they were 'not prepared to say' or were 'none of these'. This compares to 19% of respondents indicating that they were 'not prepared to say' or were 'none of these' when last asked in a borough-wide postal survey – the 2008 Current Living in Kirklees Survey.
- Of those indicating their sexual orientation, **98%** (n=6,102) were heterosexual and **2%** (n=136) were **lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB)**.

[For comparison, in the 2008 Current Living in Kirklees Survey, 2% of those indicating their sexual orientation were lesbian, gay or bisexual]