

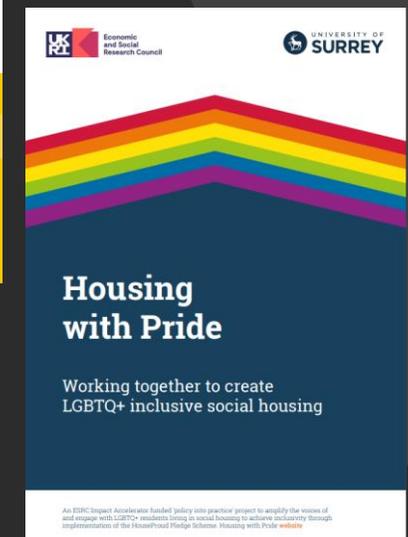
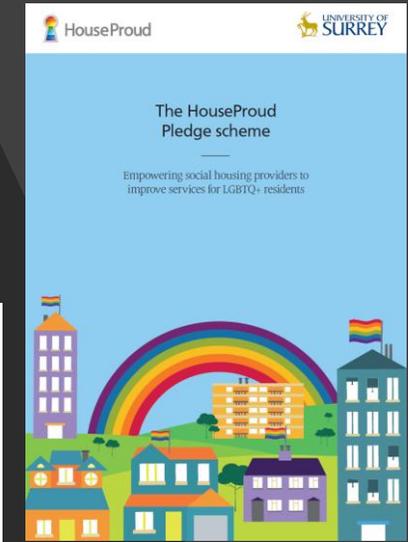
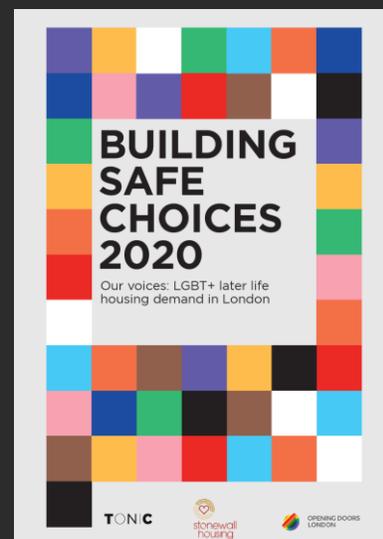
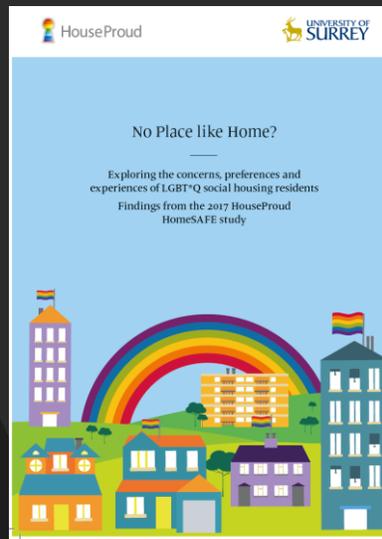
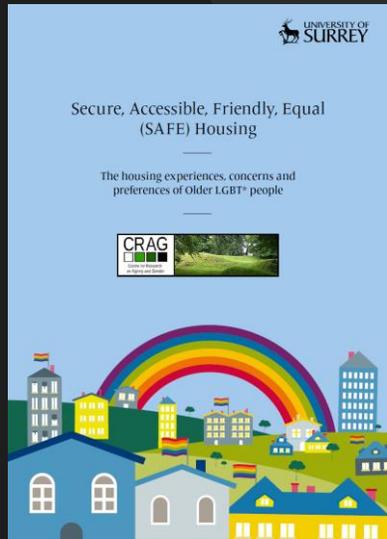
# Housing with Pride?

Some observations and reflections from LGBTQ+ housing research and equality work

Professor Andrew King (he/him)

University of Surrey, UK

# Observations and reflections from 8 years of LGBTQ+ housing research and impact projects...

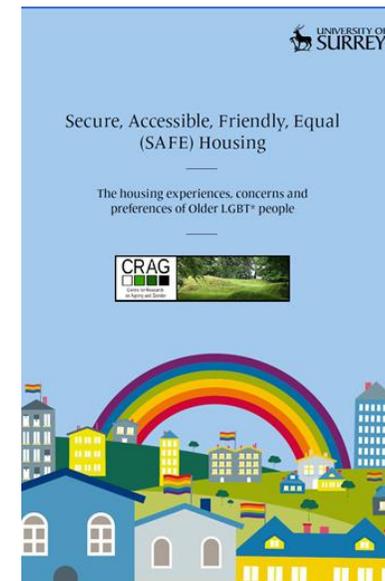
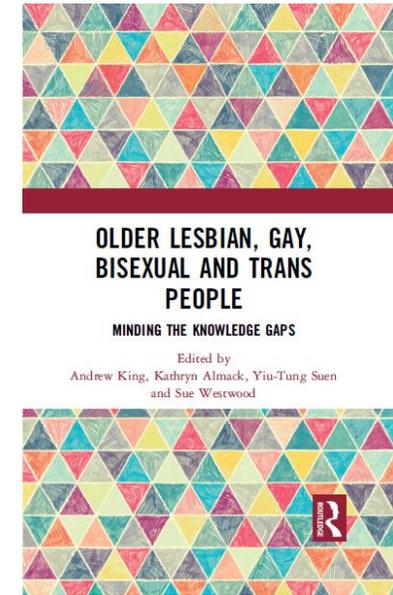


Using: Mixed-Methods and Participatory Action Research  
And collaborating with LGBTQ+ community organisations and members, and housing sector

# SAFE Housing Study 2016-17

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- When conducted little empirical evidence in UK since 1995
- Workshop series on ‘Older LGBT knowledge gaps’ highlighted need
- We wanted to understand
  - a) what Older LGBTQ+ people’s experiences, concerns and preferences were and
  - b) what type of housing they’d like in the future



# What is home like?

- Most participants felt safe in their own home, but dependent on the amount of control they felt they had over their home environment.
  - Trans participants were particularly concerned about safety in their neighbourhood, with transphobia and transphobic hate crime being the main issues.
- Vigilance at home
  - Some concern about who comes into home and provides services at home
  - Some participants felt increasing frailty, poor health and reduced mobility may make them more vulnerable to discrimination .

*"I think what would worry me... if I wasn't in a position to fight my corner. I wouldn't like that. If I was in an empowered state, yeah, you get on and you try it. But if I wasn't well... I wouldn't want to think that [homophobia] might happen to me"*

# Community and social connections

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- Social isolation was one of the biggest concerns.
- Getting support from others was mixed, almost a fifth of survey respondents had no support at all
- Feelings about belonging were also mixed, with a fifth feeling no connection with a wider LGBTQ+ community

# Housing in the future

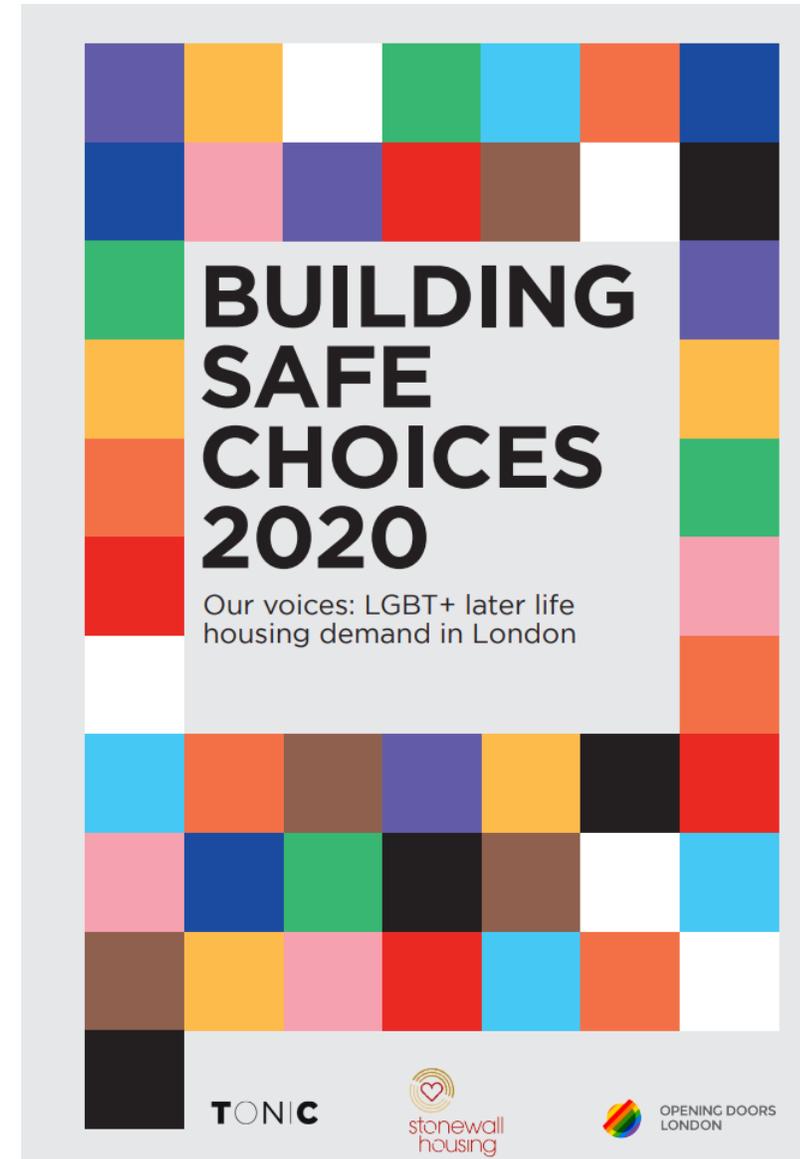
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- 58% of survey respondents had concerns about housing later in life but 72% had not made any plans in relation to their future housing.
- Concerns expressed about discrimination in mainstream housing for older people.
- When care included, most wanted LGBTQ+ specific provision, trans respondents concerned about transphobia in LGBTQ+ settings too
- 75% felt that an equality scheme/framework to identify inclusive housing and care organisations would be useful.

# Housing in the future

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- Staying connected to LGBTQ+ networks important
- Geographical preferences and strong preference for LGBTQ+ specific retirement community options
- In relation to care:
  - Majority (64%) wanted LGBTQ+ specific care provider, with fewer (25%) an LGBTQ+ accredited general provider. Only 2% would prefer an unaccredited general provider



# Reflections

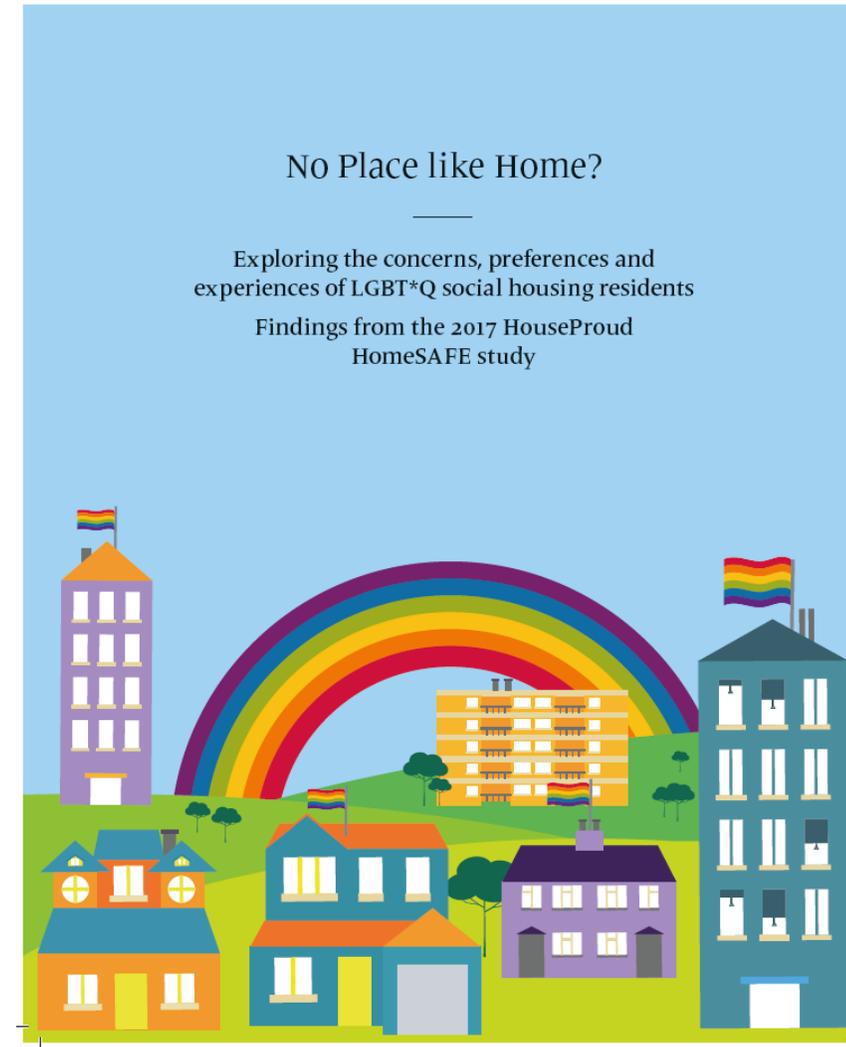
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- A range of housing options for older LGBTQ+ people are required now and in the future
- Sharing what works, what doesn't and engaging LGBTQ+ communities in the process vital
- Housing precarity amongst older LGBTQ+ people is an issue and homelessness very under-researched



# The experiences, preferences and concerns of LGBTQ+ social housing residents

- Commissioned by HouseProud (2017-2018)
  - Need for a resident focused study
  - Need for evidence that could impact policy and practice



# What is home like?

## 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.

## Vigilance at home

- Concerns expressed about people coming into the home:
  - 36% uncomfortable with neighbours (91% for trans respondents).
  - 21% uncomfortable with repairs person, 24% landlord.
  - home modification practices.

## Harassment

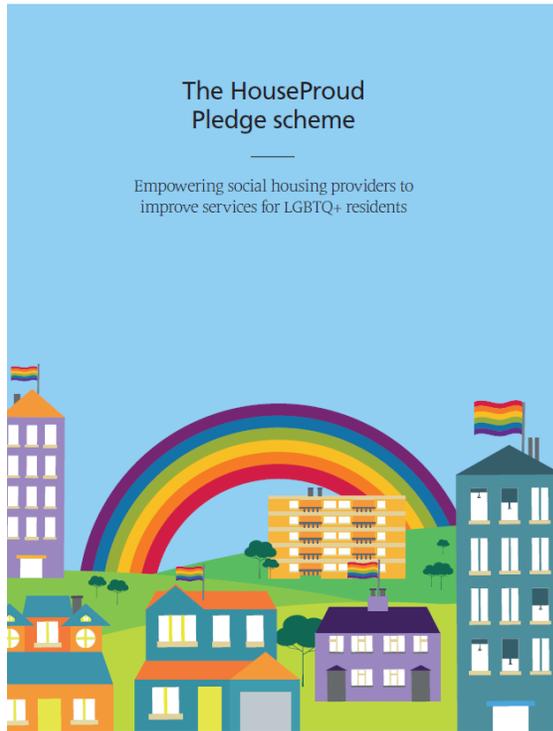
- When asked if housing providers deal effectively with it:
  - 31% agreed they do, 35% neither agreed nor disagreed, 34% they do not.

“<Housing association> have got various different engineers for whatever it is and I'm very, very wary of who they're going to be sending here. Are they going to pick up the fact that I'm gay? When it's a male that's coming here, the pictures all come off the shelf.”

# Equality and Diversity

72% thought some form of accreditation scheme of LGBT+ inclusivity a good idea.

- Diversity and intersectionality
  - Focus group and interview participants emphasised their multiples identities and experiences of inequality and the need for housing providers to understand this



# HouseProud Pledge Scheme

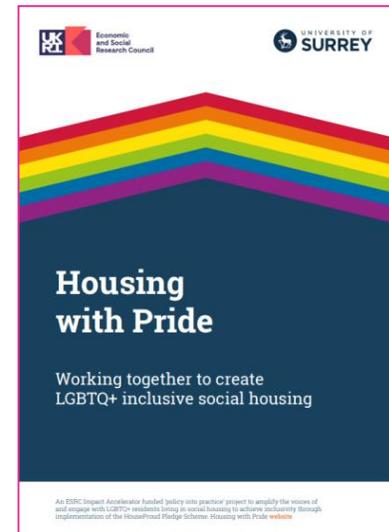
- Sharing NPLH findings with key stakeholders (CEOs/Senior Execs, frontline staff, LGBTQ+ residents) undertaking series of workshop consultations
- Steering group – housing providers, Stonewall, Stonewall Housing, Tonic Housing, Greater London Authority
- Produced framework for housing provider/resident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



# Housing with Pride projects

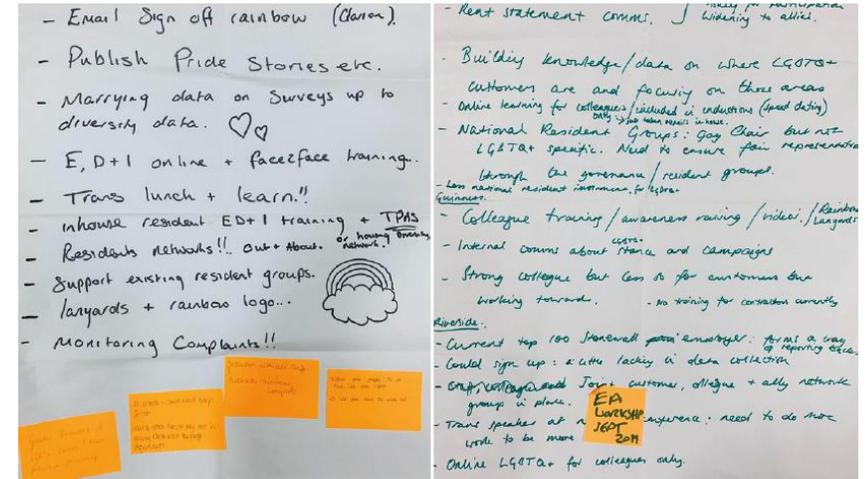
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- Stage One (funded by the UK Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence)(May 2019-Feb 2020)
  - Raising awareness in the sector about the Pledge Scheme
  - Working with housing providers who were putting it into practice
  - Created an Animation Video to communicate findings of [‘No Place Like Home’](#)
- Stage Two (funded by the Economic and Social Research Council)(April 2021- April 2023)
  - An initial assessment of the Pledge Scheme
  - Create an education toolkit for Pledge signatories and share wider good practices
  - Increase and amplify resident voices and concerns
  - Create a new delivery partnership between HouseProud and Stonewall Housing



# Reflections

- Working with LGBTQ+ residents is key to success and they should be in active and engaged positions i.e. co design and implementation
- Collaboration with housing organizations (providers and charities) as well as LGBTQ+ support organizations and local and central government is needed
- Accreditation schemes need a lot of thought and planning and sustainability and governance are key
- Putting research into policy and practice is challenging, frustrating, a long-term commitment and very rewarding





<https://queeringshelter.surrey.ac.uk/>

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# QUEERING SHELTER



LGBTQ+ LED STUDY OF SHELTER,  
SAFE SPACES & HOME

# Thank you

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