



feedback from

**with us by us for us
count me in too
community event**

1st April 2009 - Friends Meeting House, Brighton

Report written by:

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In consultation with:

the Count Me In Too Research Team

Acknowledgements

The Count Me In Too research team would like to thank the following for their assistance in making the Community Consultation event a success:

- The staff at Friends Meeting House;
- The volunteers who helped at the event, including Darren Ollerton and Steph Scott;
- Everyone who attended the event and took part in the community consultation;
- Our funders: Brighton & Sussex Community Knowledge Exchange, NHS Brighton and Hove, and Brighton & Hove City Council.

Count Me In Too thanks you, as a participant/visitor at the event today, for your interest in and/or commitment to a vision of a more inclusive city. Your interest and feedback supports the project to bring about change.

Count Me In Too thanks the hundreds of individuals who took part in the questionnaire and focus groups, and all those who encouraged and organised people to be involved, Thank you so much for your time and trust. We hope your stories will make a lasting difference.

Thank you to the many people who have contributed to analysing the findings and translating them into strategy. We hope that your partnership work and evidence-led development work will progress positive change for LGBT people in Brighton and Hove.

Figure 1: Introduction in packs

Feedback on Count Me In Too - 1st April 2009,
Community Consultation event
at Friends Meeting House, Brighton

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Introducing the community event....

This community event marked the start of the next phase of the Count Me In Too project which has secured funding into 2010, and was designed to show what the project has done and also to think about ways forward.

The Count Me In Too Research Project has been exploring lives in Brighton & Hove since 2005, working in partnership with LGBT people, LGBT groups, and service providers to identify issues for local LGBT people. The project has produced 9 detailed reports with local service providers on a range of themes. These include recommendations on how to address issues and needs identified from the 819 questionnaires completed by respondents and testimonies of 69 people who took part in 19 focus groups.

- LGBT people shared moving testimonies about their personal, political and professional lives in a Speakers' Corner facilitated by researchers.
- A project exhibition highlighted the role that Brighton and Hove's LGBT community played in its development and presented findings and recommendations from the 9 reports published to date, as well as information about Count Me In Too's methods and methodology, and a retrospective on the history of the project.
- A series of Community Summary sheets, outlining key findings and issues, were launched at the event and are now available on the Count Me In Too website.
- People were invited to give feedback on the project so far by responding to questions posed by the project team, and to contribute ideas for future activities of the project.

This report outlines who attended, their feedback from the project so far, and thoughts about continued workplan for the project.

At this event, Count Me In Too invites allies, supporters, critical friends and those interested in LGBT issues to connect with Count Me In Too's research: to reflect, make suggestions, and celebrate the work undertaken, and to talk about the future and shape what is yet to come.

- The **exhibition** describes the 'Count Me In Too' project to date- the journey here. Please pick up copies of Community Summaries to add to your pack.
- **Talking and testimonies** features local LGBT people and service providers - hear presentations from people who've been involved in the research so far.
- **Your feedback** offers space to contribute critical feedback- share your thoughts on the project.
- **Where next and getting involved** gathers views on what you think the project should do next- where everyone can make suggestions and guide positive social change for LGBT people into the future, and there are opportunities to talk about getting involved in the next stage of the project.
- **Refreshments** are available in the café room and the quiet room offers space to take time out if you want to.

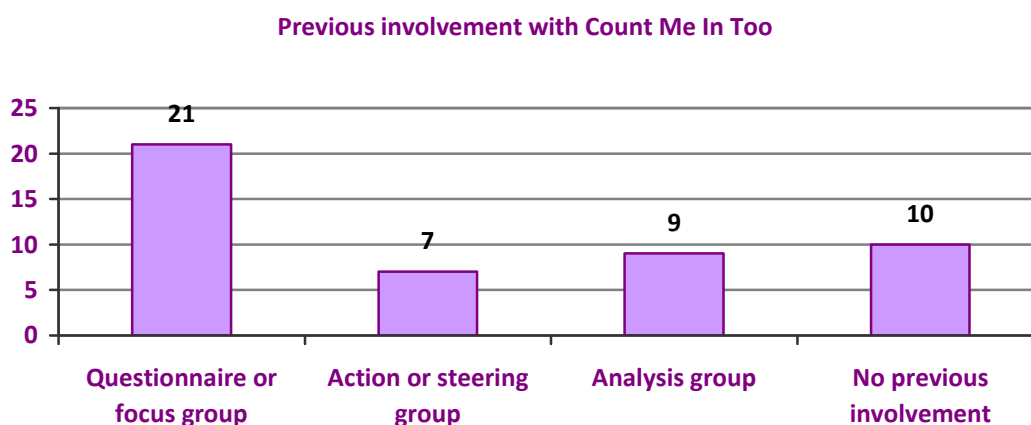
Please let us know at the welcome desk if you have any access needs.

Figure 2: Outline of the event in the packs

Who Attended?

Over 50 people, including project staff and volunteers, attended the event. Visitors and volunteers were invited to complete monitoring forms at the welcome desk: information was collated from 49 monitoring forms.

32 visitors and volunteers had been involved with Count Me In Too in some way before the event, such as through filling in the Count Me In Too questionnaire or taking part in focus, action, analysis or steering groups. Several had been involved in more than one capacity, and so they may be spread across multiple bars of the table below. 10 visitors and volunteers stated that they had had no previous involvement with Count Me In Too.



- People who filled in the Count Me In Too questionnaire and/or took part in the focus groups provided the raw data (both qualitative and quantitative) for Count Me In Too's research.
- The steering group advised on the format and content of the questionnaire and the focus groups, and helped engage in the many diverse groups within the LGBT communities.
- The action group worked with the researchers to analyse the data that shaped the Initial Findings reports.
- The analysis groups worked with the researchers to analyse the data that shaped the Additional Findings reports.

Monitoring who attended-please rip line next to each item that applies to you and place in the box.
Thank you.

Visitor	BME
Volunteer	White
	Other
LGBT community member	Lesbian
	Gay
Service Provider	Bisexual
Other	Other
No previous involvement with Count Me In Too	Female
Completed Questionnaire	Male
Did Focus Group	Trans
Steering Group	
Action Group	Under 26
Analysis Group(s)	26-55
Other involvement with Count Me In Too	Over 55

Figure 3: Monitoring form

The event attracted visitors and volunteers with a range of identities.

- Most visitors and volunteers were gay or lesbian and some bisexual people also attended, as well as a significant number who identified as 'other' than lesbian, gay or bisexual.
- 5 people identified as trans. Some visitors and volunteers changed the monitoring forms by writing on them to highlight other aspects of gender identity (such as genderqueer) which the event organisers had not included.
- There was a roughly even numbers of people identifying as male and female.
- 5 visitors and volunteers identified as BME or other.
- Most visitors and volunteers were aged between 26 and 55, with 5 visitors and volunteers under 26 and 10 visitors and volunteers over 55.

Speakers' Corner

The event's particular success was the Speaker's Corner area, where members of Brighton & Hove's LGBT communities shared experiences and personal testimonies.

Speakers' Corner provided an intimate auditorium where people with links to the project were invited to speak about their experiences of Count Me In Too for 5 minutes with 2/3 minutes questions. They were asked to write a one sentence strap line about 'who you are and/or what you might speak about' and this was printed in our publicity (see figure 4)

The 'speaker's corner' was envisaged as a space alongside other sections where people can drop in to listen to people talk about their experiences of/with the project, and respond with comments and questions.

All of the Speakers' Corner event was audio recorded with all presenters asked to sign a consent form and given an information sheet that outlined why we were recording them and how we might use what they said. We told the presenters that we would only use what they said as part of the project and if we wanted to do else anything with it we would contact them in advance. The audience were also taped, those who had signed a consent form had badges on their chest indicating that they had done this at reception. All attendees were given an information sheet in their packs. Only those who had signed consent forms were audio recorded.

Speakers' Corner took place in a dedicated room with audience seating grouped around the speaker's chair on a platform to create a space where the speakers shared their stories with attentive and supportive listeners close by. Most speakers chose to sit on or beside the platform. The session was facilitated by Dr Kath Browne who introduced the speakers and their topics and chaired the questions and answers.

People dropped in throughout the afternoon as they arrived or after having looked round the exhibition. Many stayed for the remainder of the event.

People who attended commented that it was rare, if not unprecedented, for such a range and mix of people from across the LGBT communities to come together in this way to explore their personal and professional connection to issues. Visitors and volunteers said they appreciated this opportunity to listen, share and discuss, and suggested that more spaces like this should be created, including opportunities to discuss other LGBT-related research.

After the event, we identified this format as a **community powwow**, that created a safe space for diverse groups of LGBT people to come together and share their experiences. The research team identified features of this model that can create safe, supportive and inclusive powwows and manage the social and emotional impacts arising from sharing powerful and sometimes painful thoughts and stories.

The session was **tied to research** that provided a politically neutral context for sharing stories, where the focus was on speaking and listening rather than protest or influence. At the same time, testimonies were captured in this supportive environment that can be communicated to a wider audience through research publications.

Speakers' Corner was **focused** and **flexible**: individuals selected what to speak about in relation to the project and prepared their own title and brief outline of their 'talk', guided by a time slot of 5 minutes and a description of the event.

The session was facilitated/chaired by a researcher known to the speakers and linked to the project which had an established reputation for striving (and succeeding in some degree) to be inclusive.

Speakers were supported by an 'inner' circle of listeners, and an 'outer' circle of visitors and volunteers at the welcome desk and in the feedback areas outside of the Speakers' Corner room. Some people left the Speakers' Corner feeling moved, distressed, or inspired by the personal stories they heard and representations constructed. The structure of the event ensured they had the opportunity to share and process their responses with supportive listeners from the project.

SPEAKERS CORNER

4.00-4.15	Open Forum
4.15-4.25	Persia West /Janie Kavanagh (Place at the Table) Grass shoots: Starting points
4.30-4.40	Petra Davis (Housing manager) Involvement in community research: a new direction for strategic development
4.45-4.55	John Walker I am discriminated by the Deaf community because I am Gay, and marginalised by the Gay community because I am Deaf: Count Me In Too has finally given me a space to exist.
5.00-5.10	Jess Wood (Allsorts Director) From research to human rights: how the epic CMI One and Too create an empowerment cycle for LGBT citizenship.
5.15-5.25	Suchi Chatterjee (Race Liaison Officer, Sussex Police) Beyond Taboo and Count Me In Too
5.30-5.40	Michelle Pooley (Anti-Domestic Violence Strategic Co-ordinator) How CMIT research has developed a co-ordinated LGB&T community response to zero tolerance of domestic violence.
5.45-6.00	Break/Open Forum
6.00-6.10	Jo Rowland-Stuart (Regard) Count Me In Too: finding a voice for one of the most marginalised groups in society?
6.15-6.25	Lisa Timerick (Brighton Bothways) Bi voices in Count Me In Too
6.30-6.40	Nick Antjoule (LGBT Community Liaison Officer, Sussex Police) Untangling the rainbow - Inside the fruit machine - A tale of terror!
6.45-6.55	Natalie Woods (Switchboard) There is no point in doing research if no one is going to listen
7.00-7.10	James Ledward Has Count Me In Too made me personally more or less committed to LGBT community development?
7.15-7.25	Dana Cohen Passion and pain: the labour of love of Count Me In Too
7.30-7.45	Leela Bakshi (Spectrum Trustee) Understanding 'me' in the context of 'us' - how being a participant and becoming a researcher has changed my life
7.45-8.00	Open Forum

with us by us for us
count me in too
community event



Figure 4: Speakers corner line up poster

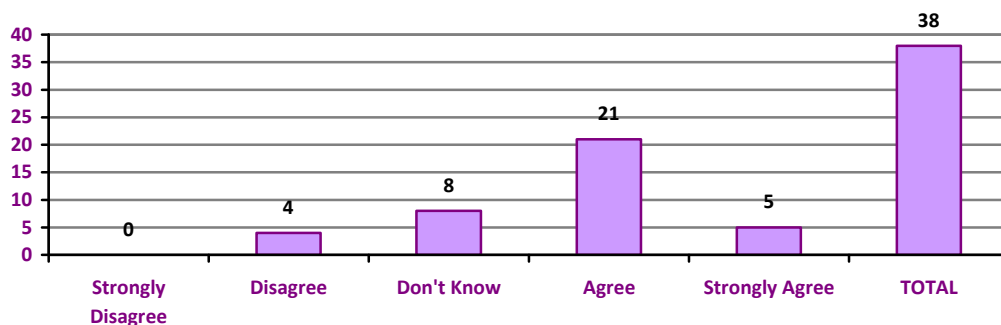
Looking back - feedback on the project so far

Visitors and volunteers were invited to give feedback to 15 statements posed by the research team in four sections, using stickers placed on a rating scale to indicate extent to which individuals (dis)agreed with the statements. They were also invited to add written comments on post-it notes, and subsequent visitors added stickers to comments they agreed with and further comments.

Around 45 people participated in this (although not all chose to answer every question) and their feedback, and observation from the research team, is summarised below.

Section 1 – HOW WAS THE RESEARCH?

1.1 Count Me In Too worked effectively with LGBT people in the city...

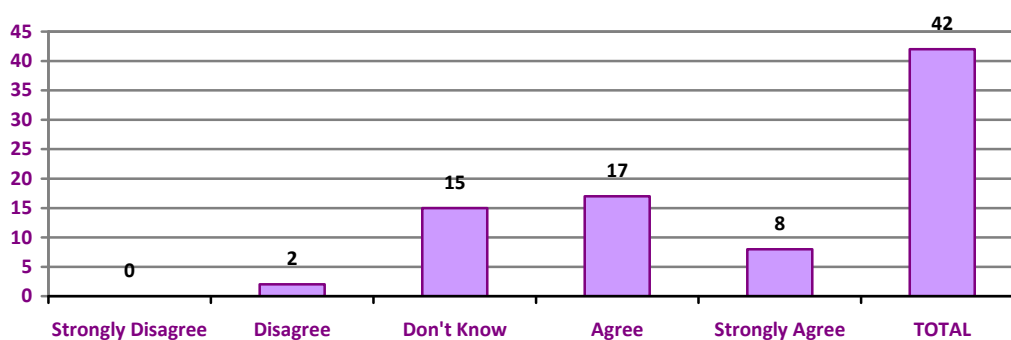


Additional comment from someone who attended the event:

- ▶ 'Depends on who is meant by "LGBT people". I think some groups may have been underrepresented or, at least, members of those groups feel they were underrepresented (eg. BME, genderqueer).'

While more than two thirds (n. 26) of respondents felt that Count Me In Too worked effectively with LGBT people in the city, around a third (n. 12) indicated that they didn't know, or disagreed with this statement.

1.2 The research findings were what I expected them to be...



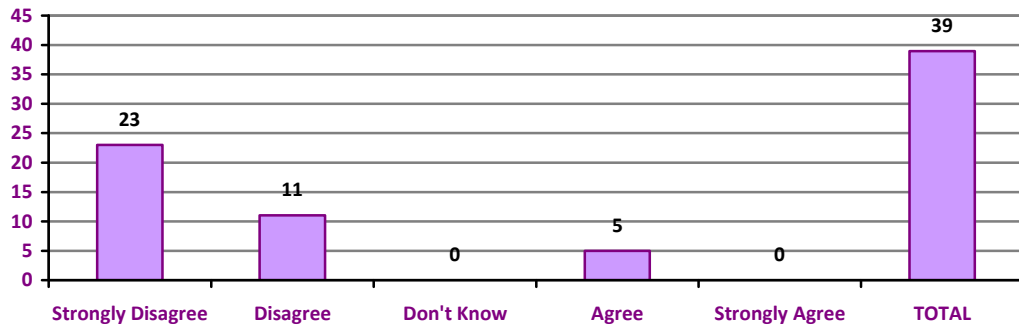
Additional comments from people who attended the event:

- ▶ 'Didn't have expectations.'
- ▶ 'I ticked agree because I think that generally 'the usual suspects' are covered in this research.'

More than half (n. 25) of the visitors and volunteers agreed or strongly agreed that the findings were what they expected them to be. Although few people disagreed (n. 2) with the statement (i.e. they felt that the findings were unexpected), more than a third (n. 15) were unsure – this could indicate that, as explained in one of the additional comments, that they read the findings without expectations.

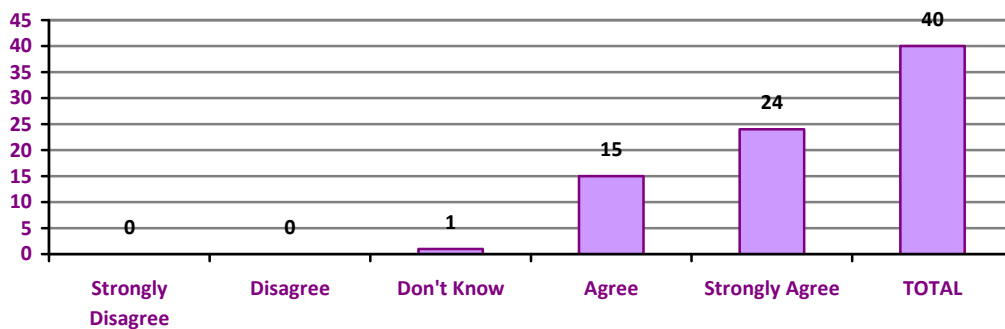
The second additional comment suggests that the findings might be as 'expected' because 'the usual suspects' are covered, suggesting that this respondent expected the research to exclude some people's experiences. The inclusion of the 'usual suspects' suggest that there are others who were not reached by this project, suggesting a need for further work to reach these people/groups.

1.3 I don't understand what Count Me In Too did...



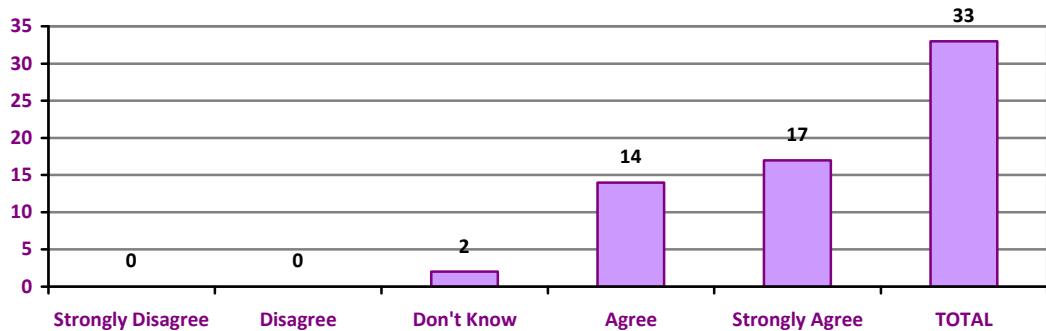
The vast majority (n. 34) of visitors and volunteers to the event indicated that they understood what Count Me In Too did. Just over a tenth of respondents (n. 5) indicated that they didn't understand what Count Me In Too did. There were no further comments to further interrogate this data.

1.4 I think it was right for the project to work closely with service providers...



Key to Count Me In Too's methodology was the inclusion of individuals representing local service providers as part of the analysis groups that worked with researchers to produce themed Additional Findings reports. This allowed Count Me In Too to produce reports that could be used by service providers along with relevant recommendations based on the findings. All but one respondent (n. 39) agreed that Count Me In Too was right to work closely with service providers.

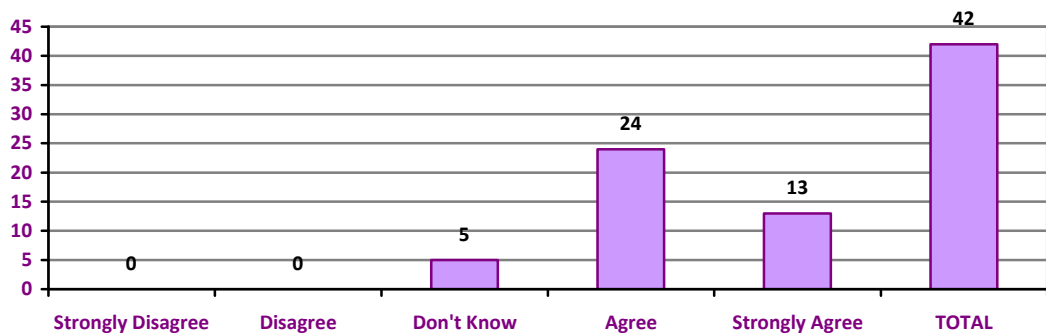
1.5 Count Me In Too makes me want to learn more about similar research...



All but two people (n. 31) indicated that Count Me In Too makes them want to learn more about similar research. This indicates an appetite to be informed about research projects and research findings.

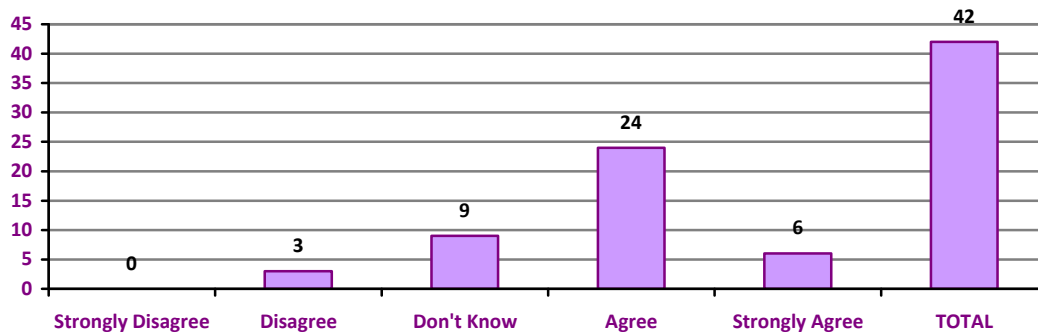
Section 2 – WHO IS INCLUDED? WHO IS EXCLUDED?

2.1 I think Count Me In Too did a good job of capturing and championing issues and concerns for many LGBT people in the city...



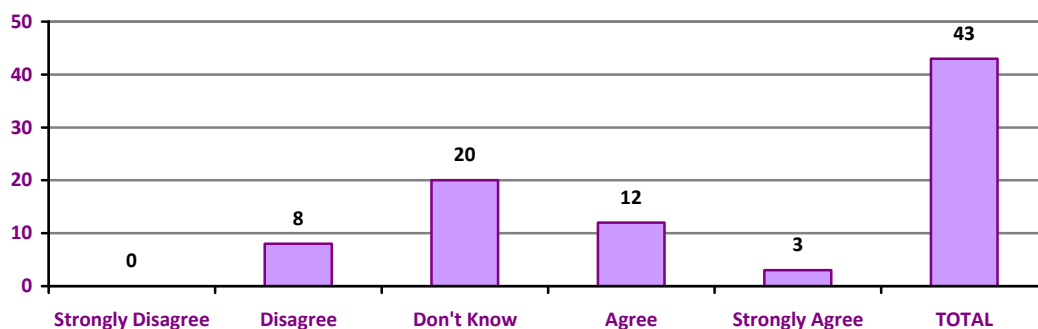
The vast majority of people responding to this statement agreed with it (n. 37), and only a few were unsure (n. 5). This points to a perception that Count Me In Too achieves the goal of identifying the needs and concerns of LGBT communities in Brighton & Hove.

2.2. I think Count Me In Too captures and champions my issues and concerns...



Although the majority of people (n. 30) agree that Count Me In Too championed their issues and concerns, there was a level of disagreement and uncertainty. 3 people did not agree that the project captures and champions their issues and concerns, and a further 9 indicated they were unsure about this. This indicates that nearly 30% (n. 12) of respondents did not feel that Count Me In Too captured their issues and concerns. This may indicate that further work is needed to ensure address other issues within LGBT communities that is not represented in the Count me In Too data. However, it may also point to the absence of certain parts of the findings at this particular event, or even the absence to date of the analysis of certain sections of the data such that visitors and volunteers may not know whether their issues and concerns have been represented in this research.

2.3 I think Count Me In Too missed significant issues and concerns of some LGBT people in the city...

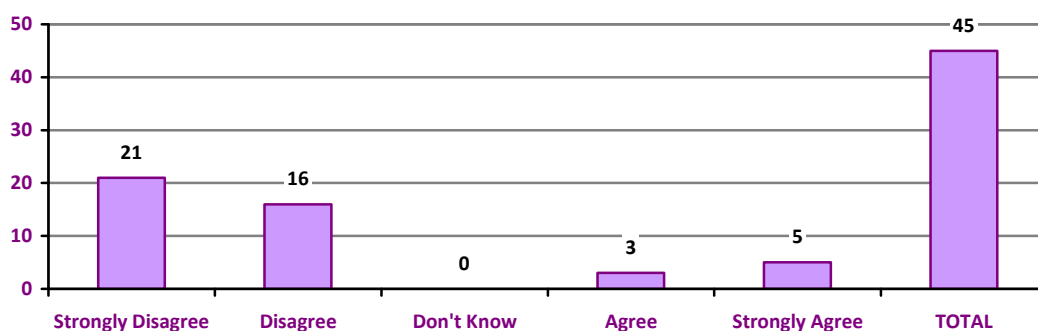


These responses indicated that only 8 people felt that the research did not miss issues and concerns of some LGBT people in the city, and that 15 felt that the project did miss issues and concerns of some people, with a further 20 indicating that they did not know whether this is the case. This indicates an

uncertainty that may be connected to what is or is not in the data, but may also be related to a lack of knowledge regarding what the 'significant issues and concerns of LGBT people in the city' are.

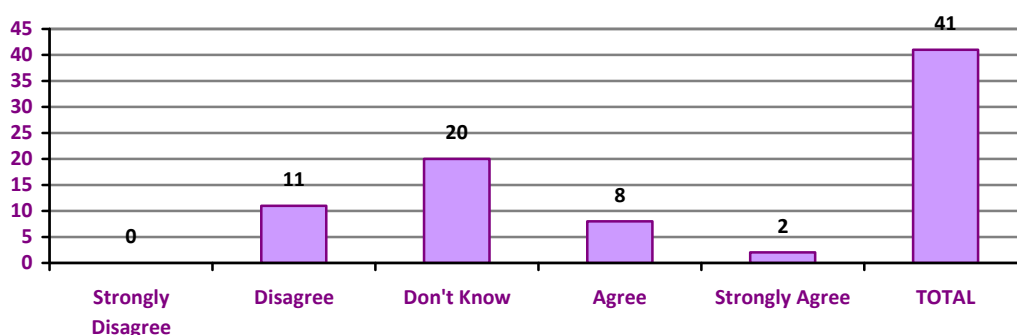
Section 3 – WHO HAS HEARD OF COUNT ME IN TOO?

3.1 I didn't know much about Count Me In Too before this event...



Analysis of the visitors' and volunteers' monitoring forms revealed that most respondents (n. 32) had previously engaged with Count Me In Too through filling in the questionnaire and/or contributing to steering and analysis groups (see table on p.3). The event also attracted 8 visitors and volunteers who did not know much about the project before attending.

3.2 Count Me In Too has reached the people who need to know about this research...



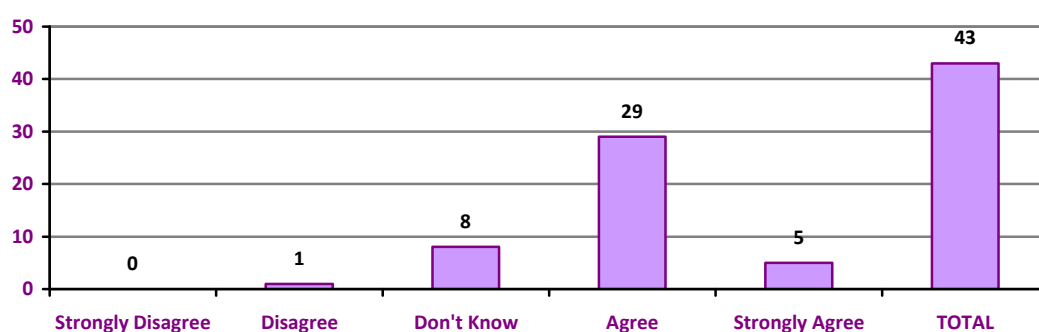
Additional comments from people who attended the event:

- ▶ 'Even as a well educated and engaged person I find the project very esoteric.'

- ▶ ‘Representing the Church (who is guilty of a lot of prejudice) I am not sure to what degree they have been informed on process and results, churches like Christ the King Claredon Centre with 800 plus congregation. Good work, keep it up.’
- ▶ ‘A big effort to present the findings to representatives of straight B&H would help the education process. We don’t want to just look at what the LGBT community can do, but how others can help too.’
- ▶ ‘An easy-read version of the findings summaries would have been good.’
- ▶ ‘It reached some people, perhaps primarily those currently or historically engaged with services and did not reach others who may not or those not politically engaged/aware of LGBT issues.’

Around two thirds of respondents (n. 20) indicated that they did not know whether Count Me In Too reached the people who need to know about the research, and a further 11 felt it hadn’t, while 10 felt it had. Comments gave opinions about constituencies that the project has not (yet) reached and mentioned the nature of the project and its communication media as obstacles. The idea of ‘those currently or historically engaged with services’ mirrors the earlier mention (in question 1.2) of the ‘usual suspects’ and perhaps indicates that there is more to be done in reaching marginalised LGBT people.

3.3 I think the Count Me In Too reports are inspiring...



Additional comments from people who attended the event:

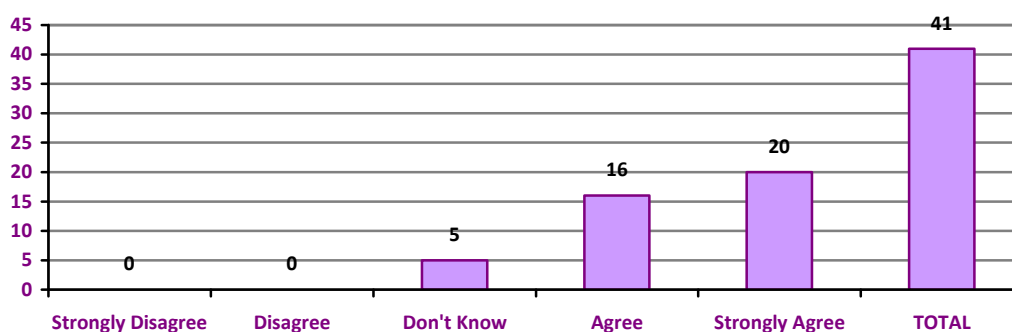
- ▶ ‘“Inspiring” is not a word I’d use really. Eye-opening certainly.’
- ▶ ‘Can’t decide about inspiring as I would say the data in the reports themselves I wouldn’t class as “inspiring” but the commitment and the process that produced them certainly was.’

- ▶ ‘Not sure about inspiring. Some are; some are depressing.’

Although the majority of responses to this statement agree that Count Me In Too was inspiring (n. 34), for those who wrote comments the word ‘inspiring’ did not accurately describe their feelings about Count Me In Too’s reports. One comment indicated that the reports may be ‘eye-opening’ insights into LGBT lives. One respondent contrasts this with the ‘inspiring’ commitment and process of Count Me In Too.

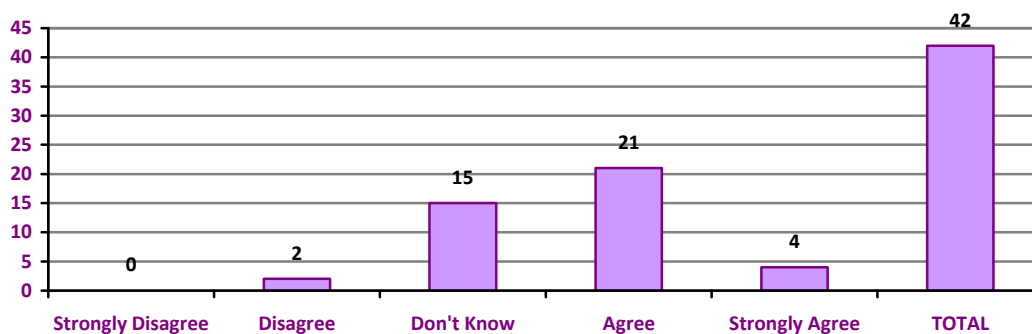
Section 4 – WILL COUNT ME IN TOO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

4.1 I think Count Me In Too could make a difference to how services meet LGBT needs in the future...



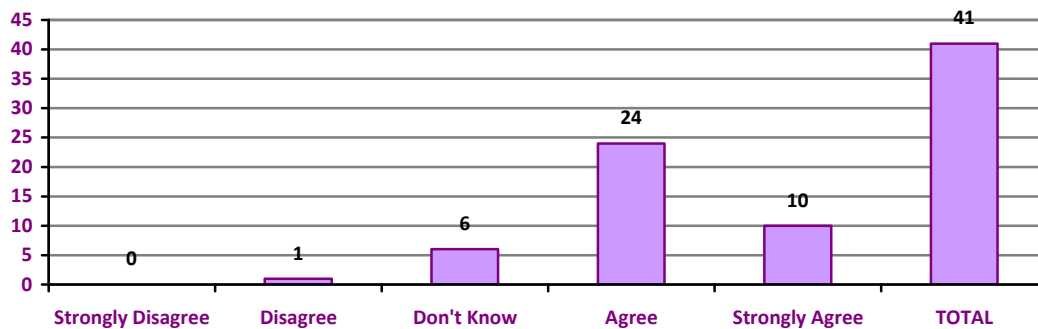
Responses are overwhelmingly positive with more than four fifths (n. 36) agreeing that the project could make a difference to who services meet LGBT needs in the future.

4.2 I think Count Me In Too has already made a positive difference to how services respond to LGBT needs...



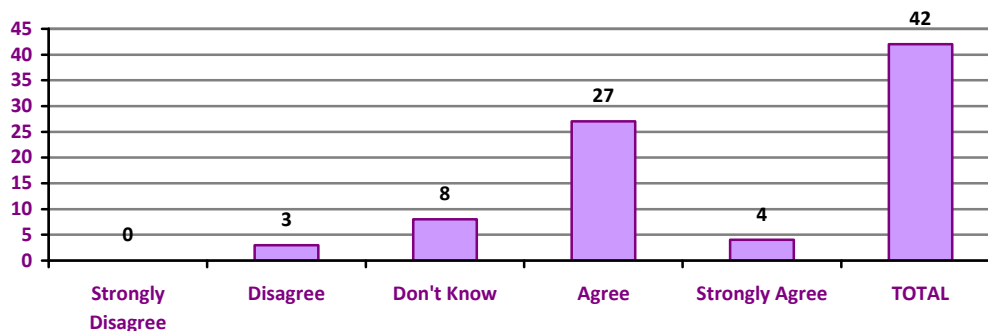
In contrast to statement 4.1, only slightly more than half of the respondents (n. 25) felt that the project had already made a positive difference to how services respond to LGBT needs. Overall, this suggests that further benefits from the project are desired.

4.3 Count Me In Too has helped me learn more about my community...



More than four fifths of respondents (n. 34) replied to this statement positively. A key tenet of Count Me In Too is that some identities and communities are more marginalised than others. As a research team, we see this response as an important affirmation of learning amongst the community regarding the diversity, as well as similarities, between LGBT people.

4.4 I think Count Me In Too will make a difference for people like me...



Nearly three quarters (n. 31) of respondents indicate that they believe Count Me In Too will have impacts for people like them. 8 people indicated that they did not know whether this would be achieved, and 3 people disagreed. Comparing this with statement 4.3 above, there was more confidence that the project would make a difference for LGBT people in general and slightly less confidence that this would be achieved for 'people like me'. However, as the Count Me In Too data has indicated, for some LGBT people change may not be desired or needed.

This feedback contributes to evaluation of the project and will inform future activity.

Looking forward – visitors’ suggestions about what next for Count Me In Too

Regarding suggestions for the future of the Count Me In Too project, three distinct areas have emerged: new resources; research; and design issues. Suggestions are outlined below with comments from visitors and volunteers.

NEW RESOURCES

The **exhibition** of Count Me In Too’s history, methods and findings was deemed both successful and important. Visitors and volunteers suggested that it is essential that this **exhibition be made accessible** to more people within LGBT and mainstream communities alike. They suggested that the exhibition could be displayed in public buildings (such as libraries or town halls) and at local events (such as Pride in Brighton and Hove or the Golden Handbag awards). Others suggested that posters like those included in the exhibition could be displayed in ‘mainstream’ spaces such as schools, council departments, GP surgeries, etc.

- ▶ ‘Take display boards to town hall, library, Pride, BCAGGS events, choruses, [Golden] Handbags, Lawson Unit.’
- ▶ ‘Person to speak about project in public places that people would pass through rather than come to specifically hear about the project.’
- ▶ ‘Bring this precious information/data to school in order to create awareness.’
- ▶ ‘More events like tonight.’
- ▶ ‘Findings need to reach “the centre” as well as the margins – engage the scene.’
- ▶ ‘Series of presentations/posters/other resources to be taken to local institutional spaces (schools, council depts, doctors’ surgeries, police stations, etc.’
- ▶ ‘This event is a resource that should be made accessible to more people – repeat, repeat, repeat.’

The April 1st event's speakers' corner proved highly successful and visitors and volunteers suggested that they would like **safe areas for personal testimony and focused discussions** between LGBT people. This could also include the discussion of themes of other LGBT research, perhaps featuring 'expert' speakers that participants could engaged with.

- ▶ 'Discussion about what safety means? Take the concept of talking and testimonies into talking shop to speak about specific issues – making it safer through people getting together to talk about the same things.'
- ▶ 'More spaces and opportunities to share our experiences.'
- ▶ 'More feedback on research "out there" on parents/other big issues – "expert" speakers?'

Count Me In Too has a website available at www.countmeintoo.co.uk. However, given that more work has been done since the website was set up, some feedback recommended that the **website be revamped** to be more informative and engaging for LGBT people in Brighton & Hove and beyond.

- ▶ 'Website – inform, engage, educate & promote "road show".'

A key issue discussed at the event was the extent to which service providers and organisations were responding to Count Me In Too's findings. Therefore, some people suggested that Count Me In Too **keep local communities up to date on the action taken by services** in response to the research.

- ▶ 'More communication about service providers' responses to the data – want to hear more about closing the loop: gather evidence - > disseminate -> responses -> impact.'
- ▶ 'For service providers to respond to and act upon the findings of research.'

The suggestion of a **conference** in the future was well received. However, some participants debated whether or not it should be a Count Me In Too conference, or a more general LGBT research conference. One broad theme of the feedback regarding the proposed conference was that it **should not just be for academics and researchers** – it should also involve people from communities and services. In a similar vein, it was suggested that the conference should include space for the sharing of experiences and personal testimonies (similar to the event's speakers' corner), and discussion and planning by LGBT people. Although the importance of local interest was made clear, it was also proposed that there be a national and possibly international element to the conference.

- ▶ ‘Lots of opportunities for groups of people to explore, challenge, develop spaces for LGBT folk to meet & develop plans/actions/ideas.’
- ▶ ‘What did you need? What did you miss?’
- ▶ ‘Conference: Space for people to get together to talk about things – open space forum style, sharing experiences.’
- ▶ ‘Speakers’ corner / testimonies – not just research/academics.’
- ▶ ‘Count Me In Too conference -> NO! Broader LGBT research conference – focus on local research.’
- ▶ ‘Count Me In Too conference should attract people at a national level, BUT also be attractive to people who might not usually attend a “conference”.’
- ▶ ‘Inter?national as well as local – inc. community, services, and academics.’
- ▶ ‘Vitally necessary.’
- ▶ ‘Conference is essential – please arrange one.’
- ▶ ‘YES!’

Finally, some people advised that certain **findings around specific areas be promoted in a more targeted fashion** – for example, promoting the findings on physical health to exercise and health workers.

- ▶ ‘Promote health findings around aspirations about health, nutrition, exercise to providers of training around exercise and health. LGBT self determination!’
- ▶ ‘Exhibition of mental health results.’

Others were interested in a resource to make the ‘process’ of Count Me In Too clearer, so that people in the community could have a quick guide to the methods used, and so that people in other cities/areas could think about similar research..

- ▶ ‘Resources for other cities/areas who would like to replicate Count Me In Too.’
- ▶ ‘Methods community summary sheet.’

RESEARCH

Count Me In Too builds on the work of the award-winning Count Me In project. Participants at the event suggested things to think about with regard to **any research project that might build on Count Me In Too** – for example, exploring experiences of LGBT carers in the research, and looking into other aspects of physical health such as nutrition.

- ▶ ‘More research into needs of LGBT carers – feed into local & national carer’s strategy.’
- ▶ ‘Health-training. Ask about nutrition next time!’

Additionally, it was recommended that Count Me In Too should investigate what changes have been made as a result of the research. Information about this should then be fed into any plan for further research, which for some was presumed to be a follow on from Count Me In and Count Me In Too.

- ▶ ‘Research into whether actions, policies, training etc put in place by service providers etc has made a difference in progressing social change for LGBT communities. Has Count Me In Too made a difference? Bridging into Count Me In 3 – new questions.’
- ▶ ‘Test the findings by initiating solutions via action research.’

Furthermore, people also suggested **more focused projects** that might be undertaken in the future – for example, looking at how non-LGBT organisations perceive LGBT issues, the experiences of children of LGBT parents, the development of a new community strategy and the power of personal testimony.

- ▶ ‘Asking the Count Me In Too questions in reverse to schools, ethnic groups, churches and orgs to see how others perceive our issues.’
- ▶ ‘Children’s experiences of having LGBT parents/family members.’
- ▶ ‘Capture and celebrate testimonies.’
- ▶ ‘I wish for a community strategy based on Count Me In Too.’
- ▶ ‘How to engage service providers used by disabled people.’

As well as helping to guide the way forward and **celebrating the successes of the project**, participants at the event also engaged critically with the project as it currently stands, pointing out **exclusions of certain groups or identities** – for example, lesbian parents. These critiques can be taken to show the limits of a project like Count Me In Too and the need for further research in this area.

- ▶ 'Where is the representation of lesbian parents?'
- ▶ 'I think that generally 'the usual suspects' are covered in this research.'
- ▶ 'I think some groups may have been underrepresented or, at least, members of those groups feel they were underrepresented (eg. BME, genderqueer).'

DESIGN

Many resources produced by Count Me In Too so far have been text-based. Participants suggested that a **wider variety of media** should be used, such as films, audio materials and visual materials. In a similar vein, others suggested that, though important, giving personal testimony might be uncomfortable for some people, and that actors might be used to counter this. It was also recommended Count Me In Too resources be made 'fun' or 'sexy' where possible. Essentially, the design of the project must reflect an aim to make the research as accessible as possible.

- ▶ 'Hidden things – some identities are less comfortable in public – needs acknowledgement as a first step. Maybe with actors with today's testimony?'
- ▶ 'Films & visual material.'
- ▶ 'Video films. Audio materials. Headset with spoken accounts. Audio players.'
- ▶ 'A website that truly reflects the successes of the project and which integrates with future resources.'
- ▶ 'Some kind of online space for feedback.'
- ▶ 'Resources – though the truth isn't always fun or sexy, it'd be good to have resources that are if possible...'

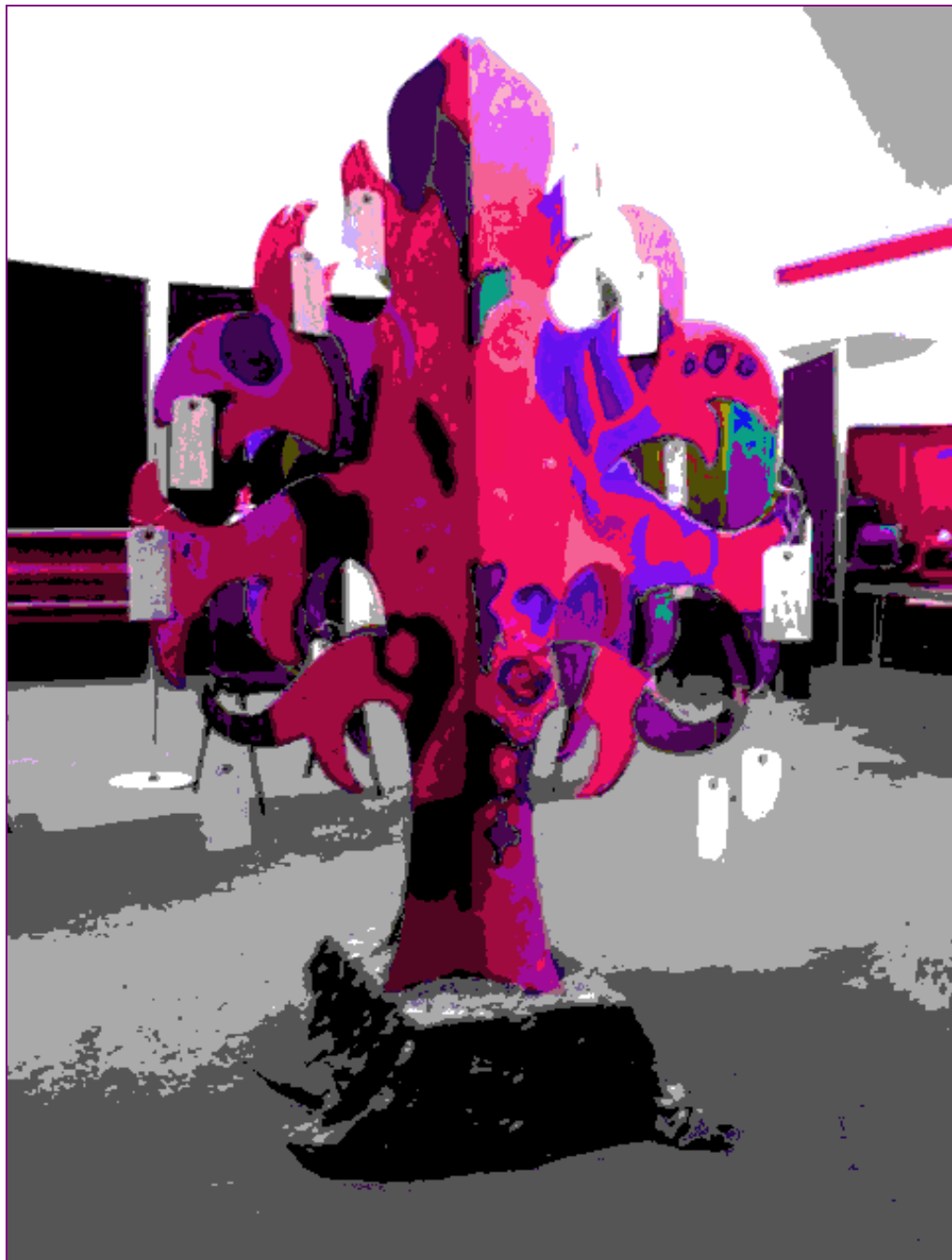
ADDITIONAL FEEDBACK

- 'It's all fantabulous. Thank you so much.'

The **wish tree** - tell me what you really really want

At the end of the exhibition and feedback area, visitors and volunteers were invited to write down what they wish for and hang it on a 'wish tree' where the wishes of all visitors and volunteers were displayed. This provided space for framing and sharing of aspirations not linked to aspects of the project.

The contributions to the wish tree will be presented as an on line display linked to the Count Me In Too website (www.countmeintoo.co.uk).



Future directions

The research team proposes four initiatives to take forward the suggestions and issues outlined above.

Action Group

From the outset, Count Me In Too has endeavoured to involve local LGBT people not only as subjects contributing data but also as participants in the design and execution of the research process.

Some participants at the community event expressed interest in volunteering to work with the project, with some indicating specific areas of interest, and these people are invited to join an action group bringing together volunteers to guide and progress the project through its next phase. This action group will work in association with the research team. The action group remains 'open' to further volunteers - if you are interested in working as part of the Count Me In Too Action Group to disseminate and widen the influence of this research, please get in touch with Nick McGlynn (n.mcglynn@brighton.ac.uk / tel: 01273 641993).

New website

The research team and the action group will commission the design and set-up of **a new Count Me In Too website**. This will eventually replace the current website which was designed to serve the research design and data collection phase, and will focus on providing access to resources and information published by the project, including downloads of the Community Summaries, posters, and information about Count Me In Too's methods of research. It will also gather further feedback.

Further exhibition of findings

Visitors and volunteers called for the exhibition to be displayed in more public places to reach both the 'general public' and the 'mainstream' LGBT community and gave some suggestions about locations and constituencies to target.

The exhibition is being revised to prepare it for unstaffed display at public locations in Brighton and Hove and at LGBT community events. Proposed locations include the Jubilee Library. Locations we have already agreed are at the Golden Handbag awards, during Pride week in the Grand parade exhibition space and at Pride in Brighton & Hove park event. We will also look into the option of in the future displaying the exhibition at other national Pride events. The exhibition is a living thing and can be changed and added to. For the Pride event there will be an additional poster presenting information about local service providers responses to the research findings which is being gathered, in response to the comment expressing a desire 'For service providers to respond to and act upon the findings of research'.

Conference

In addition to this, a conference for 2010 will be planned in conjunction with the Action Group that will include academic and community contributions and discussions.