

### **Trans Pride 2024 summary**

The Diversity Trust was once again privileged to be invited to be in attendance at Trans Pride Bristol which was held on November 23, 2024.

This community event marks the end to Trans Awareness week nationally, but in the South West it is an opportunity for the Trans & Non-Binary community to see what organisations, groups and services are out there to represent and them.

Through the Trust's Voice and Influence project, which has been funded by the National Lottery Community Fund, we took the decision to use this this year's event as an opportunity to focus on inequalities in Trans & Non-Binary health care.

To do this we partnered with Mendip Primary Care Network and Vitamins - talking therapies - to engage with those in attendance around three specific areas in a bid to get as much feedback and conversation as possible.

For the Diversity Trust we had a Vox Pop where we asked those in attendance "What would improve NHS services for Trans and Non-Binary People?". While our partners in Mendip Primary Care were asking questions specifically around early signs of cancer and what stops people accessing cancer screenings.

Vitamins were asking questions around their data monitoring and how they could make this more inclusive for Trans & Non-Binary people, and these results will feed into a bigger piece of work which the Diversity Trust is doing around data collection for LGBTQ+ people.

We took this approach to as it meant all three organisations got good engagement from the public, but also that the focus was clear that as a collaborative operation we are working towards improving health care services for Trans & Non-Binary people.

By collecting all this information as partnership, we can then feed this information back to healthcare providers, the NHS and integrated care boards to start the conversations around improving access to health care for Trans & Non-Binary people.

During the event as the Diversity Trust, we engaged with more than 200 people with at least 50% of those stopping to complete our Vox Pop.

Some of the most common themes which people said would improve NHS services for Trans & Non-Binary people were as follows:

- That practitioners respect people's chosen names even if that differs to their medical records.
- Better linked up shared care
- More training for staff around the needs of Trans & Non-Binary people



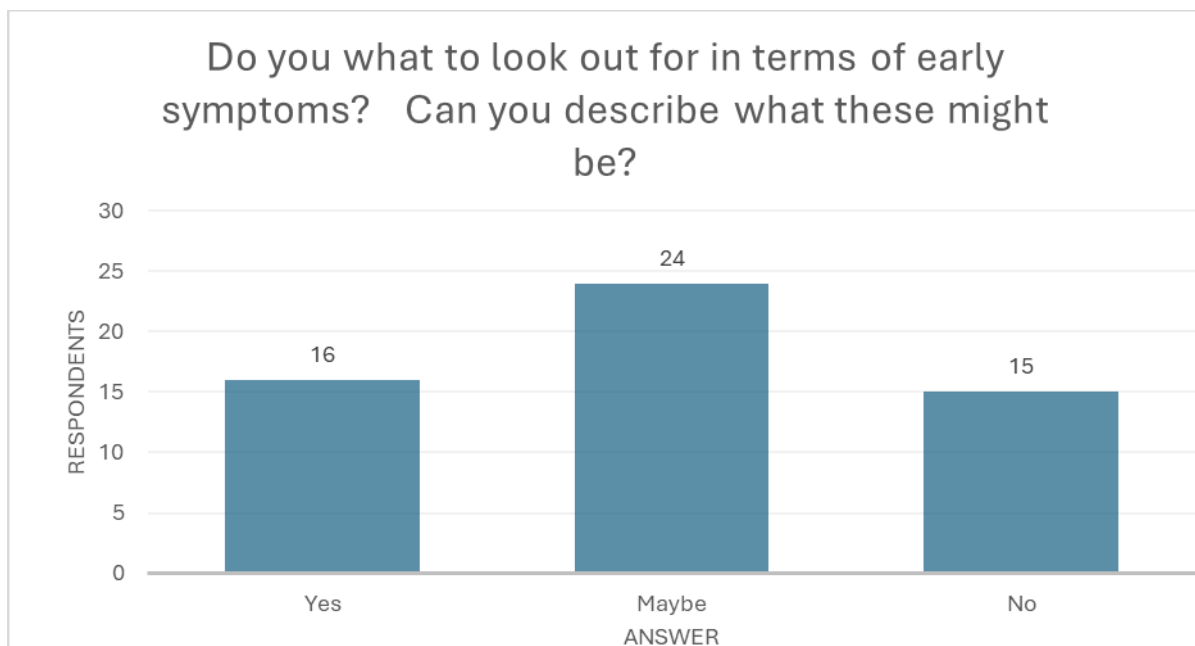
The most prominent word which came out was training, this reiterates the need for people within the health care profession needing to receive more training and awareness when it comes to supporting Trans & Non-Binary patients.

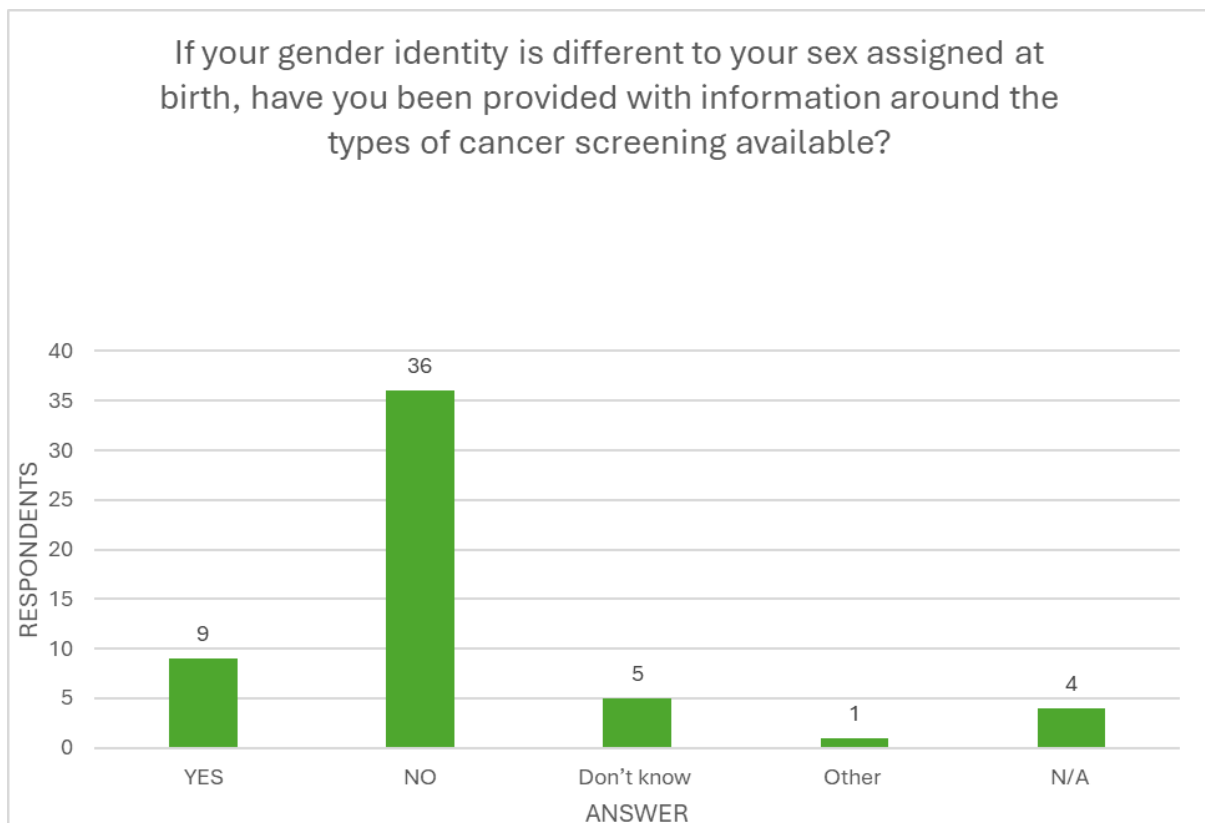
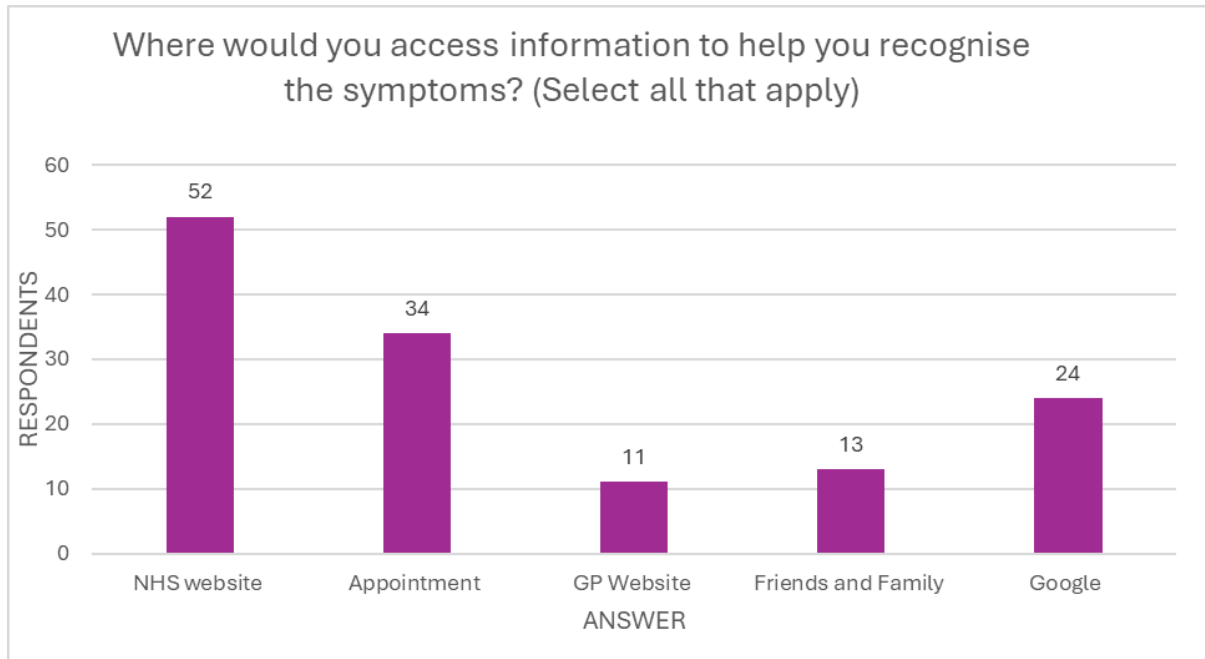
We were also joined by members of Mendip Primary Care Network (PCN) on the day who received funding from SWAG (Southwest Cancer Alliance) to conduct a cancer awareness campaign and community engagement with the LGBTQ+ community.

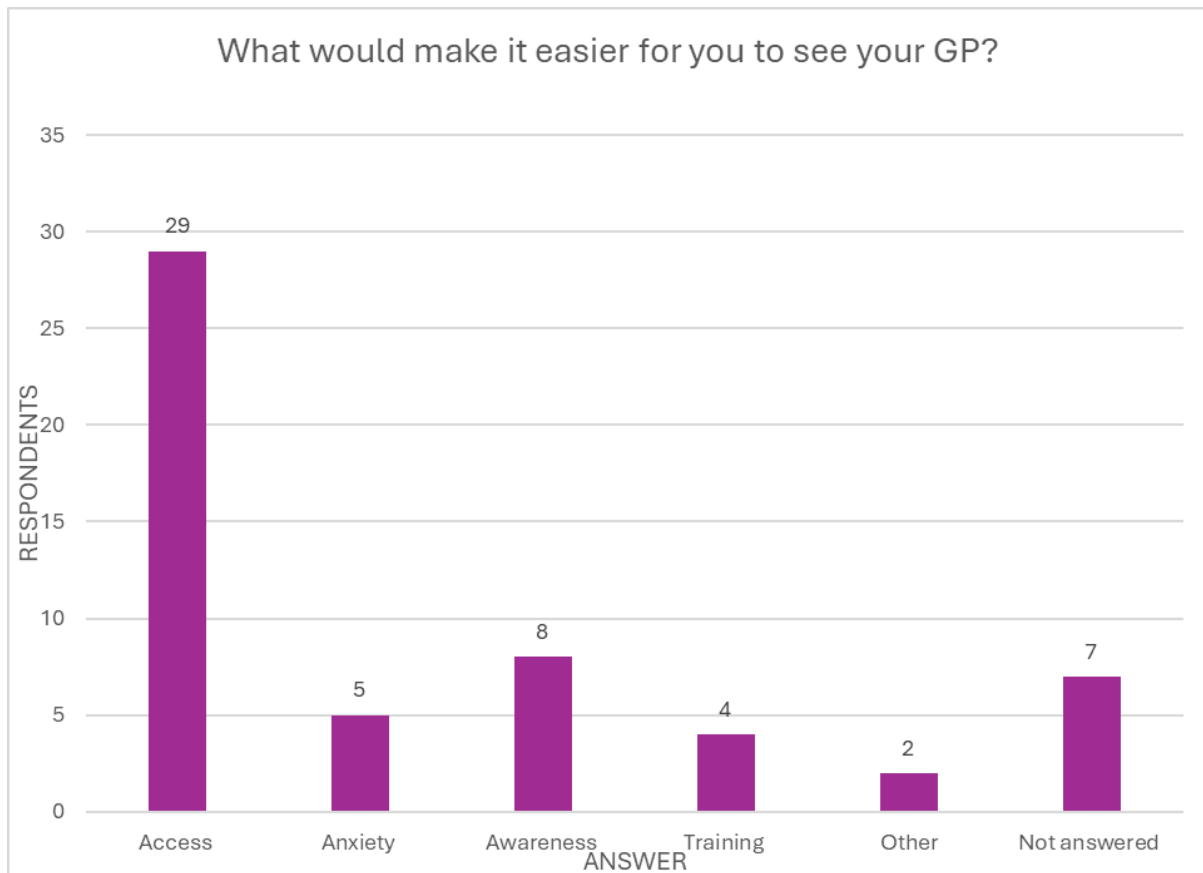
Working with the Diversity Trust in developing a questionnaire, these questions were then made available online and in paper format at Trans pride.

Abby Harrinton from Mendip PCN said: "We were delighted in the number of responses currently standing at 56. Our engagement strategy was very successful, as in return for completing the questionnaire, respondents were able to pick up a crochet genital/breast to take home. The idea for this was to encourage people to self-check the anatomy they have regardless of the gender they identify as and that everyone has a different "normal".

Below are some of the results to the questions which Mendip PCN were asking those in attendance at Trans Pride Bristol:







Mendip PCN also gave people the opportunity to say what barriers they face when it comes to seeking medical advice and support, as well as how could things be easier to see their GP and get the healthcare they wish for.

Here are word clouds which represent the most common themes which came up from speaking to people at Trans Pride Bristol around this subject:



Abby continued: "Our results showed that access to health care services is an important issue across the board, not just particularly in this community, though there are some delays in referrals to the Gender clinics.

"The other common theme was that people just wanted to be felt heard by their health care professional and not everything was down to their Non-Binary & Transgender identity."

Some of the people who attended Trans Pride Bristol also said the following to Mendip PCN around the issue of accessing health care and what good health care would look like for them:

"Being misgendered. Not knowing how a GP will react to talking about trans healthcare. Having to call as soon as the surgery opens or not getting an appointment. Being misunderstood or talked down to by a GP."

"I believe I have reasonably good health care but anything Trans related makes my GP uneasy as she doesn't have GIC Support, still on waiting list (8 years now)."

The Diversity Trust were also fortunate to have some of our dedicated volunteer team supporting us at Trans Pride. Our volunteers bring with them 'lived experience' which truly enhances our engagement and interactions with the communities we serve. We are incredibly grateful for the ongoing contribution and commitment demonstrated by our volunteers. Having volunteers at Trans Pride positively impacted the people we were able to engage with, not only in terms of quantity but also by adding diverse opportunities for connection with others.

From the information we were able to gather and by producing this executive summary, we will be feeding this information back into healthcare professionals and services to continue the conversation around how we can help to improve these services.

We will also be working closely with VitaMinds to further develop their data capturing form and this will lead into a wider piece of work which the Diversity Trust is doing around data monitoring.

With the voices and engagement, we have been able to capture, we hope it goes some of the way towards implementing change within the NHS experience for Trans & Non-Binary people.

And finally, special thanks to our local authority partners at South Gloucestershire who were there to support us and enable us to attend Trans Pride Bristol.

**Tim Birkbeck**  
**Voice & Representation Coordinator**  
[Tim.birkbeck@diversitytrust.org.uk](mailto:Tim.birkbeck@diversitytrust.org.uk)

**Trudie Speed**  
**Volunteer coordinator**  
[volunteer@diversitytrust.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@diversitytrust.org.uk)