

Queer to Stay

Recognising LGBTQ+ students as WP target groups and interventions to support them

Kirsty McLaren

11:30 - 11:35

About me

Senior WP Officer

Co-Chair of Proudly King's LGBTQ+ Staff Network

Not an expert, just someone who had the courage and encouragement to give something a go.

Get in touch! Send an MS Teams Message to kirsty.mclaren@kcl.ac.uk

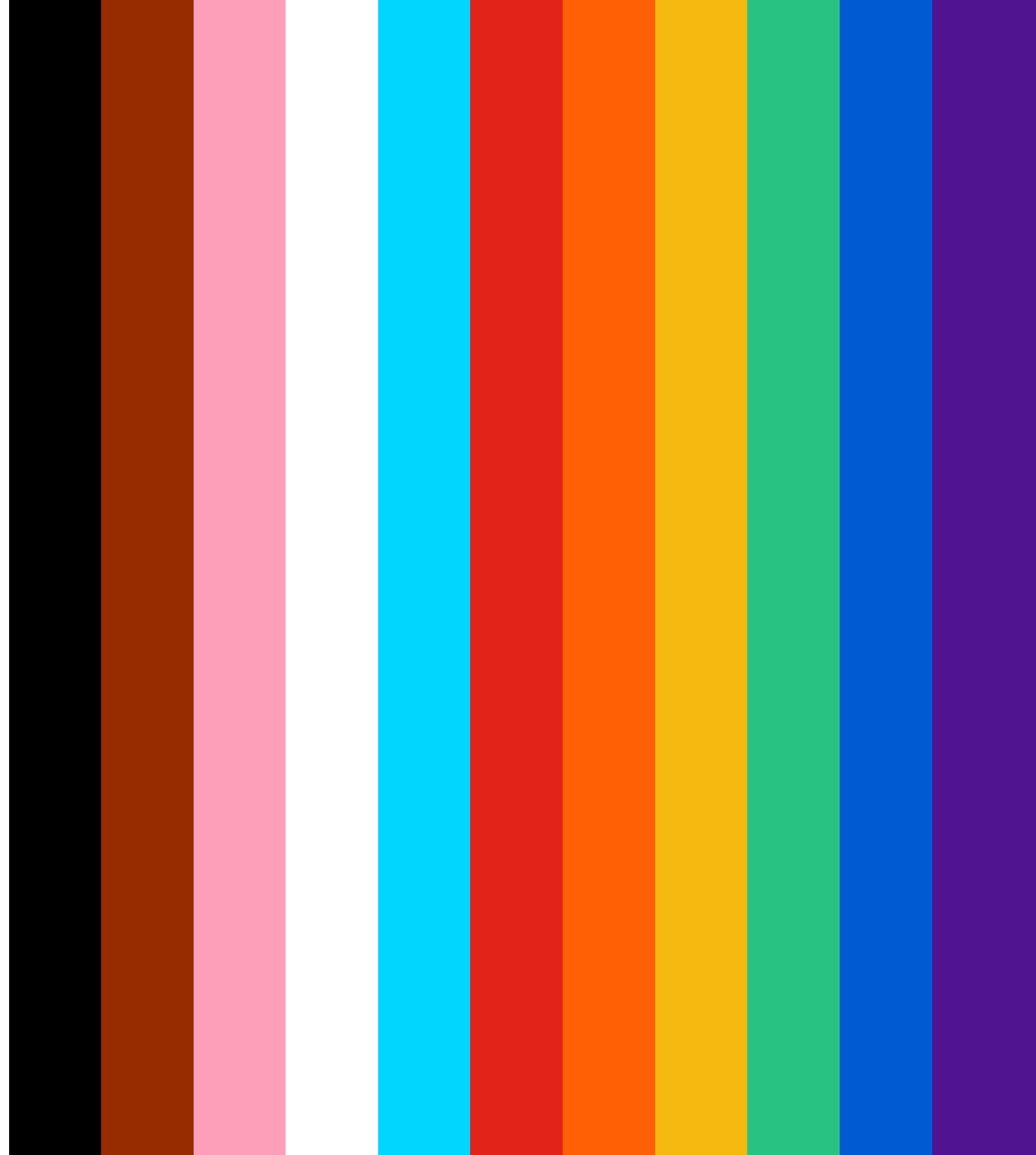


About today

- Privilege for Sale
- Overview of the barriers faced by LGBTQ+ students
- Overview of the Pride Power Programme
- Wrap up, Q&A & Feedback

House Rules

- Be open, be brave, use ‘kind eyes’
- Don’t be afraid to make mistakes.
- We’re a trans-inclusive group following what the statistics are telling us, and what we believe is the right thing to do.



Privilege for Sale

The word 'privilege' can be jarring for people, but it needn't be. It's something we all experience.



Privilege for Sale

The word 'privilege' can be jarring for people, but it needn't be. It's something we all experience.

Even within the LGBTQ+ community.



Privilege for Sale

This task helps us put ourselves in the shoes of a current student and the real life experiences they face. Put yourself into groups of 4 or thereabouts.

I'll put a list of privileges on the next slide. Each person has £100 to spend on a privilege. If you do not buy a privilege, assume that you will not have it as a student. What's most important to you? What are you struck by?



Privilege for Sale

Go through your studies without being verbally attacked

Study for your degree without your identity being critiqued in the news

Study without negative remarks from staff members

Study without negative remarks from staff members

Enjoy the things you enjoy without being considered a stereotype

Go through your studies without being physically attacked

Have the emotional support of your family through university

Attend a university whose safeguarding policies include your sexual orientation

Attend a space where I feel safe to be myself when I am relaxing

Stay with my family over the university breaks without needing to hide anything

Apply to university with grades that accurately reflect your academic potential

Have support from staff that have been trained in supporting students of your identity

Hold hands with your partner without being stared at on campus

Have every part of your identity celebrated, and not have to leave any behind

Go to the doctor and getting treatment that matches your identity with doctors who know how to treat you

Have people in your community that share your interests and values

Have people within your religious community accept you and visa versa

Have professors use examples you can relate to in the curriculum

Go to the toilet without being shouted at

Have your coursemates know and accept all parts of your identity



What are the issues?



What are the issues?

Pre University

More likely to be estranged and more likely to skip school and achieve poor grades.

University and beyond

More likely to experience discrimination and harassment, more likely to drop out and less likely to achieve top results.

We categorised this into 3 areas (below)

Sources: The NUS, Stonewall, the Trevor Project and UCAS

**BULLYING/
HARRASSMENT**

LACK OF BELONGING

POOR MENTAL HEALTH



BULLYING/ HARRASSMENT

64%

of lesbian, gay, bi and trans pupils (45 per cent) – including 64 per cent of trans pupils – are bullied for being LGBT at school

9%

Of trans pupils receive death threats at school

59%

Of schools did not condemn transphobic bullying.

25%

Students say they have experienced queerphobic harassment from staff and/or students.

LACK OF BELONGING

WELLBEING/MENTAL HEALTH

LACK OF BELONGING

47%

Of non binary students have considered dropping out compared to the average of 35%

55%

Of students who seriously considered dropping out said it was because they didn't fit in.

22%

Of estranged students identify as LGBTQ+

**BULLYING/
HARRASSMENT**

WELLBEING/MENTAL HEALTH

WELLBEING/MENTAL HEALTH

45%

Of LGBTQ youth seriously considered attempting suicide in the 2023.*

52%

Of students experienced mental ill health within the past year

60%

of LGBTQ+ youth who wanted mental health care in the past year were not able to get it.

LGBTQ youth who live in a community that is accepting of LGBTQ people reported significantly lower rates of attempting suicide than those who do not.

BULLYING/ HARRASSMENT

LACK OF BELONGING

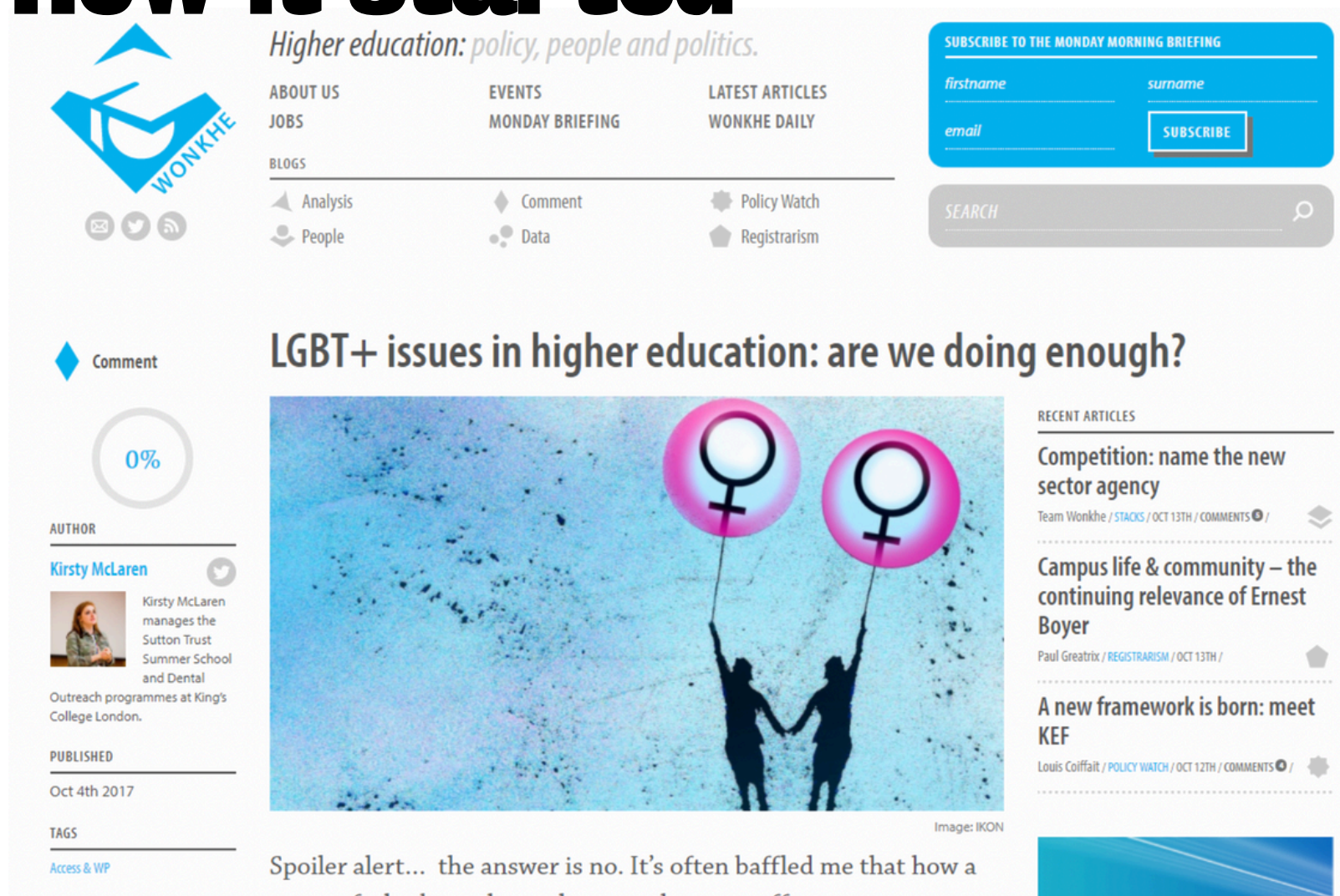
What we did

The birth of the Pride Power Programme

Where we've got to

And ways we've improved

How it started



Higher education: policy, people and politics.

WONKHE

ABOUT US
JOBS

EVENTS
MONDAY BRIEFING

LATEST ARTICLES
WONKHE DAILY

BLOGS

Analysis
People

Comment
Data

Policy Watch
Registrarism

SUBSCRIBE TO THE MONDAY MORNING BRIEFING

firstname
surname
email

SUBSCRIBE

SEARCH

LGBT+ issues in higher education: are we doing enough?

Comment 0%

AUTHOR
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Kirsty McLaren manages the Sutton Trust Summer School and Dental Outreach programmes at King's College London.

PUBLISHED
Oct 4th 2017

TAGS
Access & WP

Image: IKON

Spoiler alert... the answer is no. It's often baffled me that how a

RECENT ARTICLES

Competition: name the new sector agency
Team Wonkhe / STACKS / OCT 13TH / COMMENTS

Campus life & community – the continuing relevance of Ernest Boyer
Paul Greatrix / REGISTRARISM / OCT 13TH

A new framework is born: meet KEF
Louis Colfaiit / POLICY WATCH / OCT 12TH / COMMENTS

How it's going



What did we want to achieve?

We can't fix the queerphobia that leads to the issues we've discussed.
So what can we teach/give students that will counteract the issues of bullying/harassment?
Lack of belonging? Poor mental health?

BELONGING

Ultimately, we're trying to create a community Pride Power students belong to that will be there for them through the inevitable tough moments in their journey.

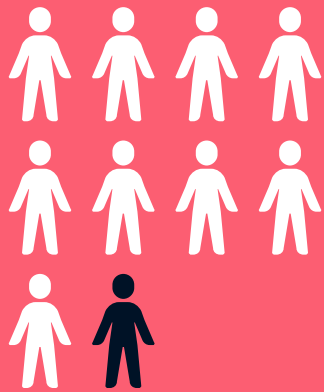
CONFIDENCE

Being confident in your own skin is a core part of resilience and boundary-setting.

WELLBEING

'The horrors persist but so do I' - encouraging students to treat their wellbeing with as much importance as their studies.

LGBTQ+



92%

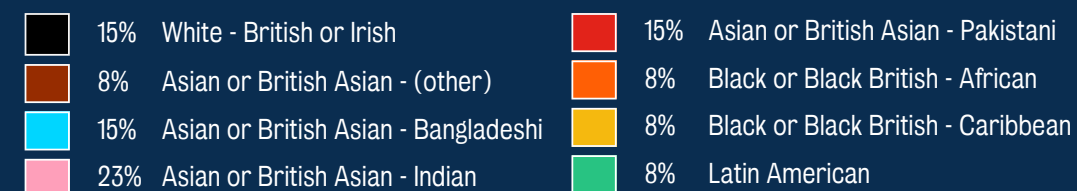
Were not 'out' to their friends, school or family/carers.



53%

Came from households that were actively queerphobic.

ETHNICITY



WP

Students on Pride Power are all part of the K+ programme, so will meet the programme's competitive WP criteria.

30%

Had significant accessibility needs, compared to...

0.04%

Of the K+ Cohort.

Who are the students?

Programme design

The programme was designed to address the evaluation questions, meaning we could really be sure we were achieving each aim.

	Belonging
	Confidence
	Wellbeing

Day 1

10:00	Student packs given
10:15	Start of icebreakers
11:00	Journey Mapping
12:30	Lunch
13:30	Design a society
15:00	LGBTQ+ researchers
16:00	Reflections and close

Day 2

10:00	Ambassador role models
10:15	Making change
11:00	Queer in My Career*
12:15	Lunch
13:15	Travel to the Tate
14:00	Private tour of the Tate
15:30	Reflections and close

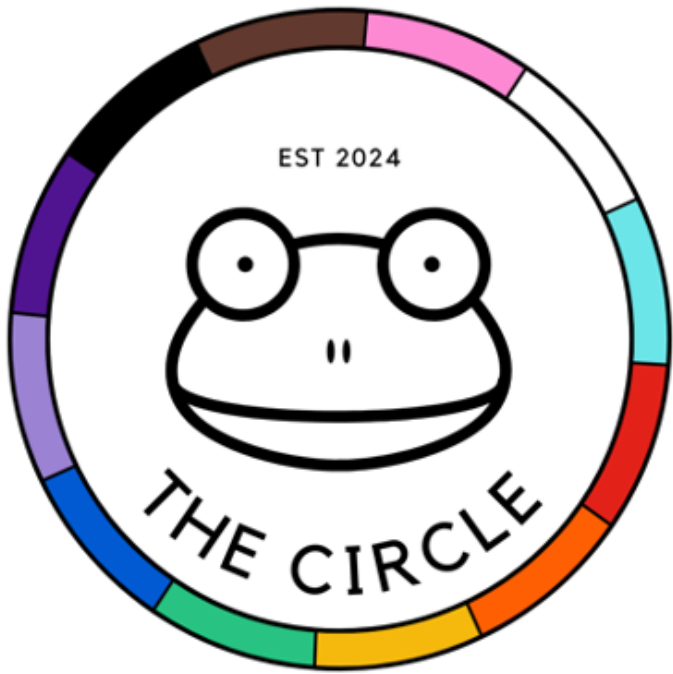
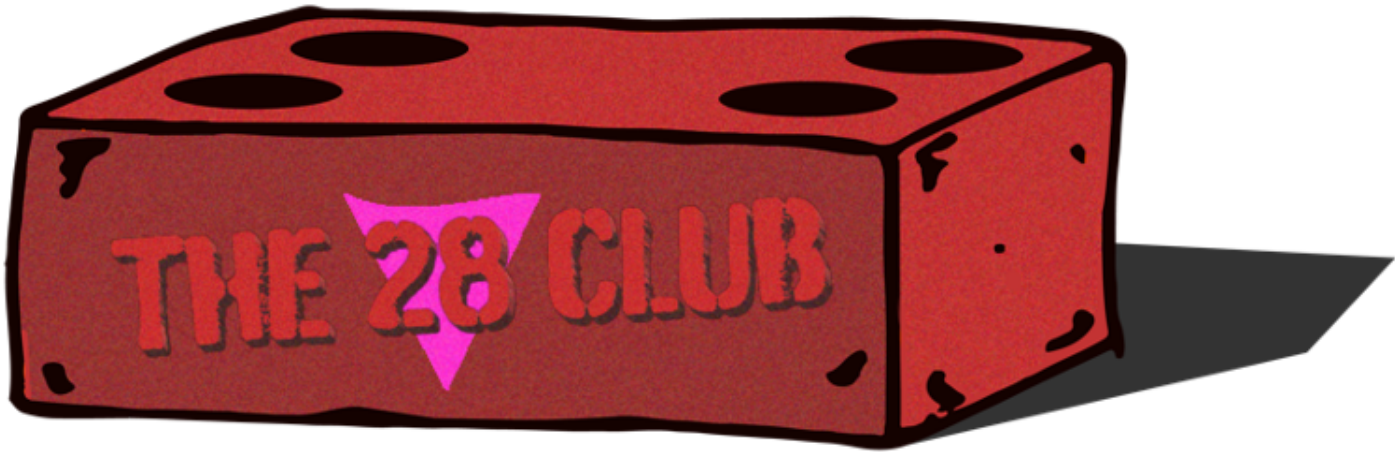
Regular reunions and check ins that made sense for them.



Programme design

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Design a society



Programme design

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Making Change - Community Organising Techniques

The one way we could attempt
to have an impact on
bullying/harassment as an issue

Programme design

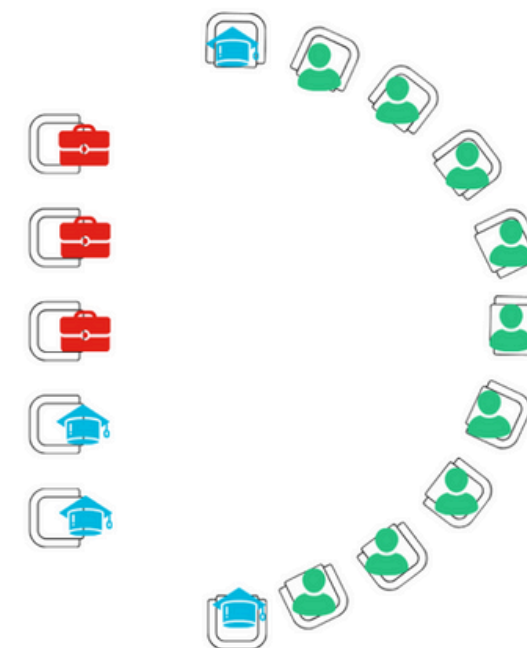
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Q.I.M.C.

Key:  Alumni volunteers (you)  Ambassadors  Pride Power students

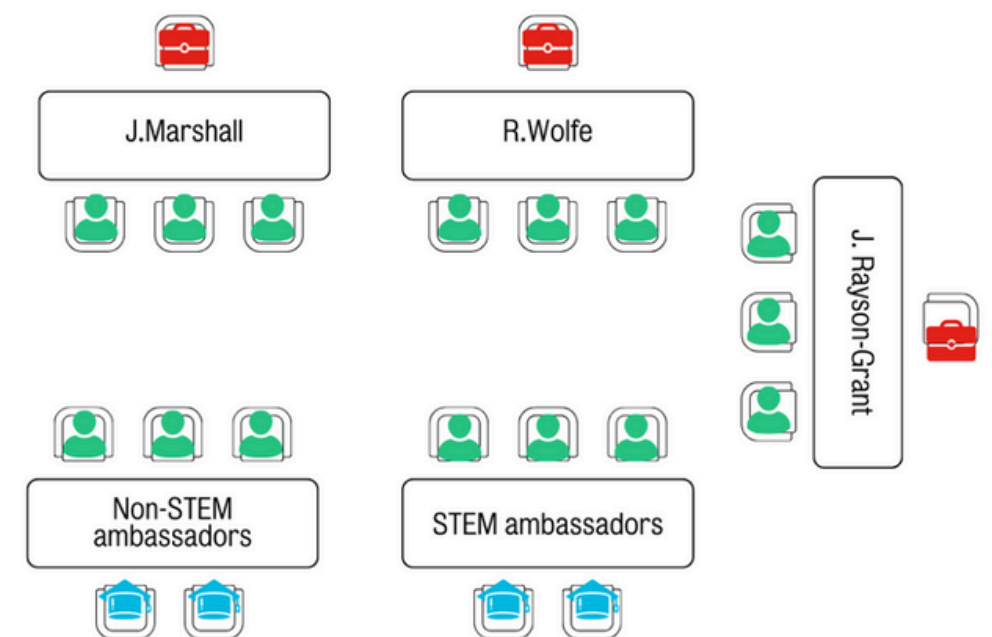
Intro section and Q&A

Start and end of session



Carousel section

Middle of session



I also used the design and the physical space to achieve the aims of Pride Power.

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Icebreaker questions

Intro questions


- Why did K+ attract you?
- What made you want to join Pride Power?
- What are your favourite subjects at the moment? Which ones are the hardest?
- If you had to go to a uni outside of London, where would you go?
- What makes you most excited about university?
- What would you love to know about being LGBTQ+ at university?

Other questions

- What's your idea of a perfect day?
- What dish is your go-to that gives you a feeling of 'home'?
- If you could live in any book, TV show, or movie world for a week, where would you go?
- What's a hobby or skill you've always wanted to pick up but never did?
- If you had a time machine, would you go to the past or the future? Why?
- What's something you're proud of but never have an excuse to talk about?
- If you had to host a podcast, what would your topic be?
- What's something you've done that pushed you out of your comfort zone?

Route to the Tate

Walk out of Strand entrance, turn right onto Surrey Street, then left onto Temple Place.



On the underground, take the Circle or District line westbound for 4 stops to Victoria. Change at Victoria for the Victoria line and ride 1 stop to Piccadilly.

Victoria
Southbound

Victoria

Piccadilly

Walk to Tate Britain
Exit - Broadborough Street (North)

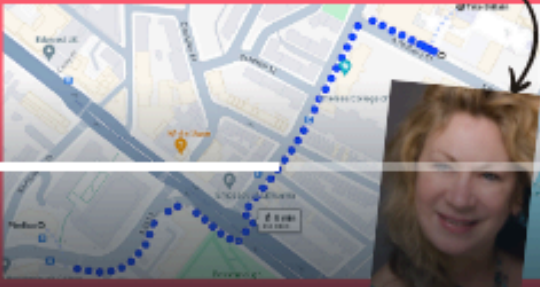
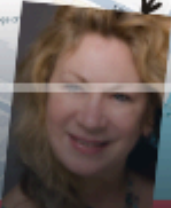
Circle or District
Westbound

Temple


4 stops
Broadborough Street (North) to Victoria

Victoria

Exit via Broadborough Street (North). Turn left and follow the road down until you need to cross the street and go down John Islip Street. Walk past the UAL campus and turn right onto Atterbury Street. We'll be using the Manton Entrance which is halfway down the road on the left hand side. Our tour guide is Rachel Barnes.

Pride Power 2024



Student pack

Thursday 15th & Friday 16th February

Things to remember

- 1 Just by being here, you've already proved you can be brave. Bravery isn't about the absence of fear, it's about recognising that something is scary (e.g. turning up alone to a Pride Power event with people you've never met), and doing it regardless of that fear.
- 2 Everyone here wants the best for you. Even if someone is applying to the same degree as you, they are your support system from now on. They aren't competition, they're your ticket to success. Staying in touch on K+ can be incredibly valuable.
- 3 You now have access to a community and a network that...

1 / 2

Never underestimate how powerful design, branding and space can be.

Evaluating the outcomes

We used a modified version of the LGBTQ+ belongingness scale and the Higher Education belongingness scale to measure Pride Power, along with letters to their future selves.

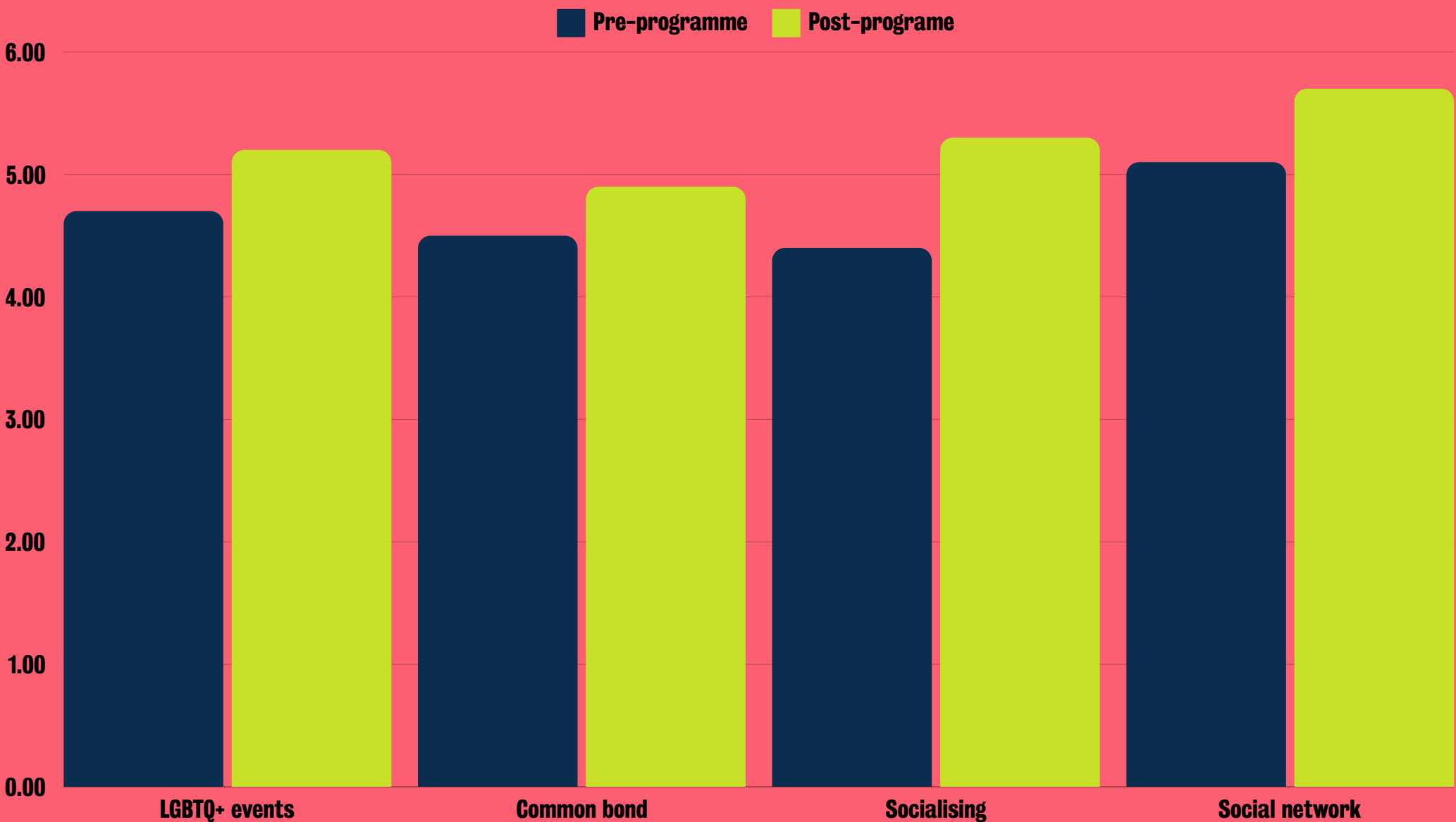
BELONGING

CONFIDENCE

WELLBEING

BELONGING

Questions relating to how important a persons’ LGBTQ+ identity is, how much they feel a bond with others, and their ability to bond with others in the community.

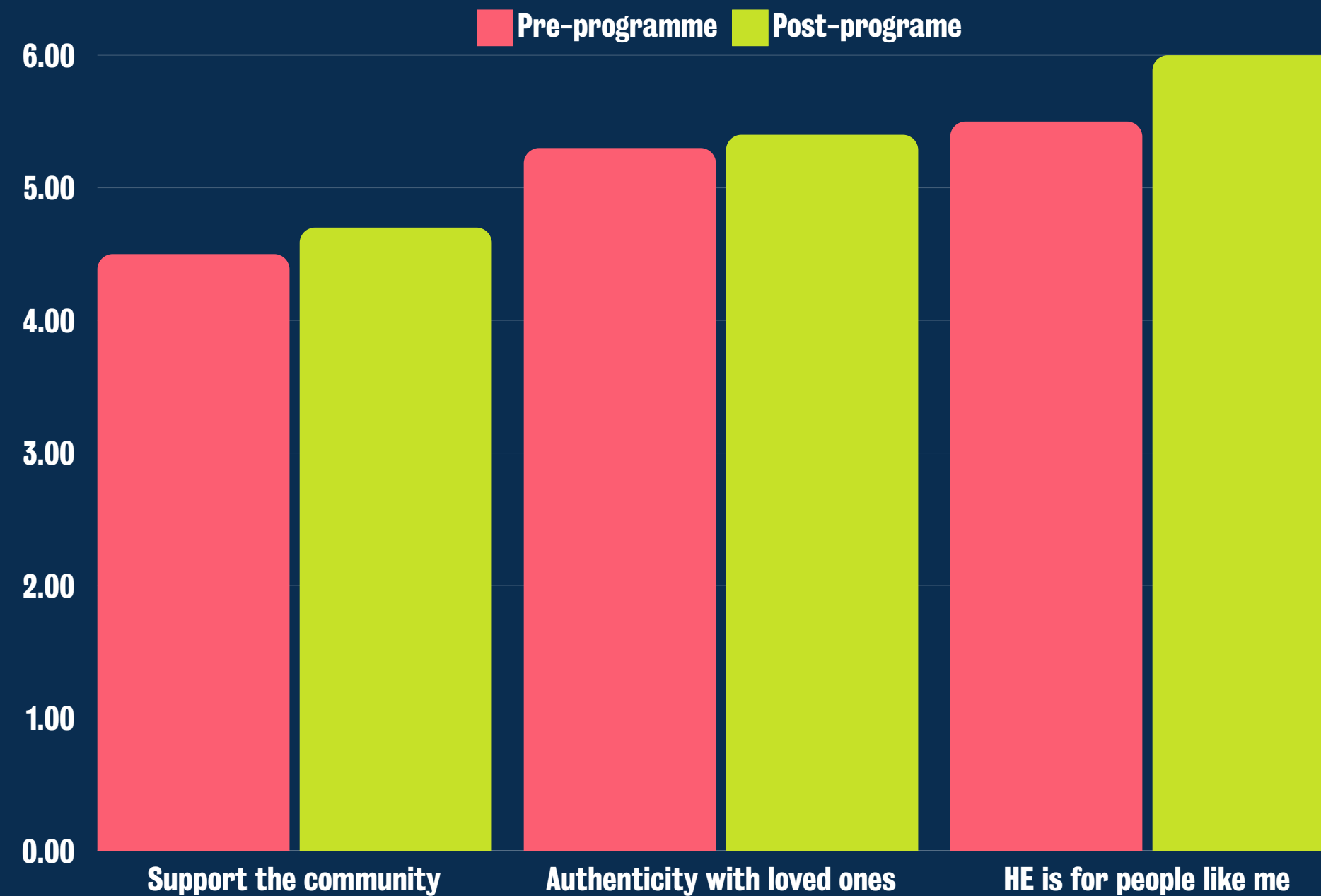


CONFIDENCE

POOR MENTAL HEALTH

CONFIDENCE

Questions relating to how important it is for students to be supportive of the community and their ability to be authentic with their loved ones.



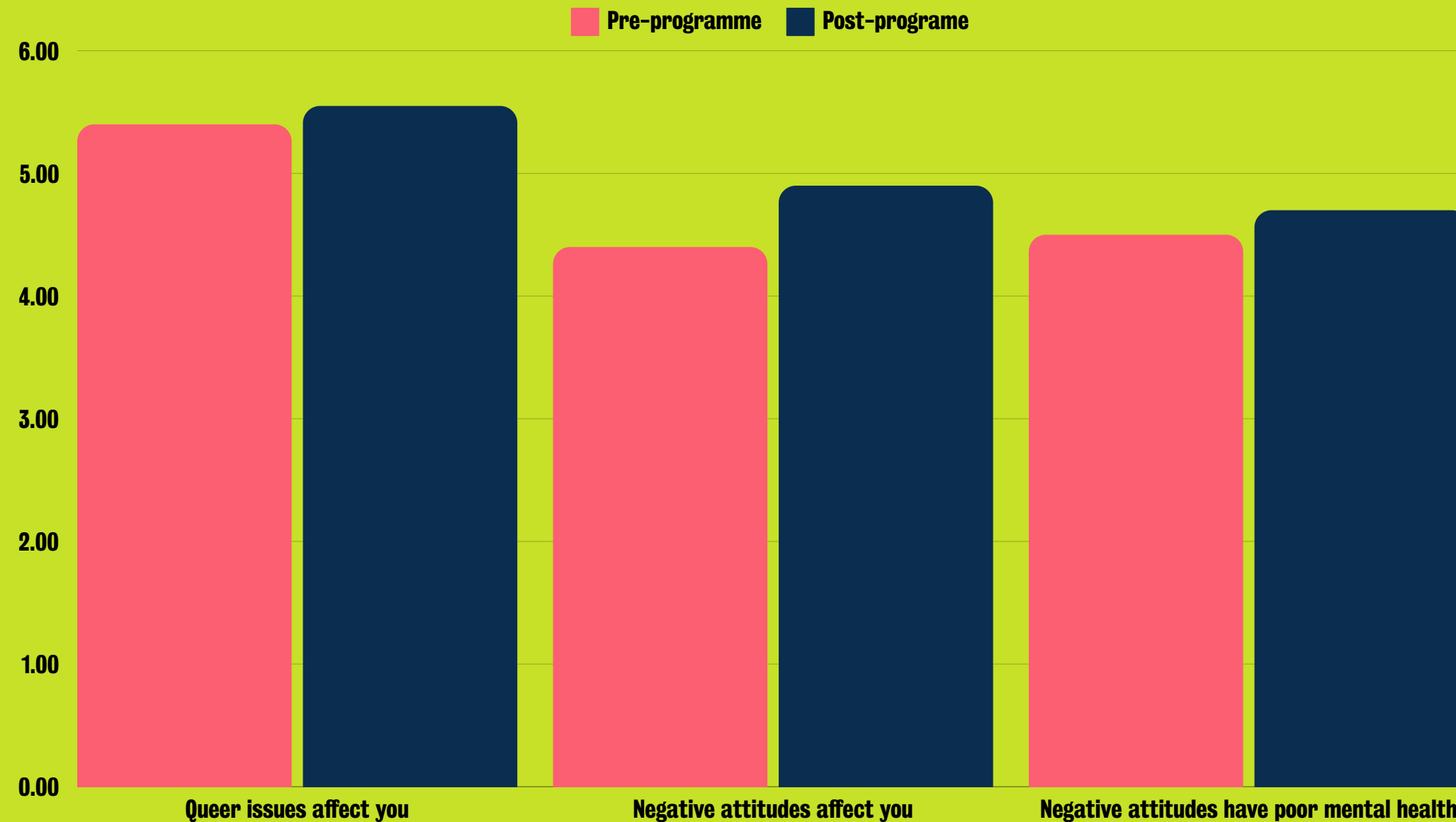
BELONGING

WELLBEING

WELLBEING

Questions relating to how affected students are by negative LGBTQ+ attitudes.

These are the most interesting results.



BELONGING

CONFIDENCE

Questions