

Organising LGBTI events in a socially distanced world

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Session Outline

Introductions

- What are you trying to do and why are you trying do it?
Breakout groups and all feedback
- Covid - All
- Adaptive planning and fluctuating restrictions.
Breakout groups and all feedback
- Comfort break
- Have you thought about...? - All
- Q&A



What are you trying to do – and why?

- Go into breakout rooms for 5-10 minutes and discuss the type of events you would like to (or normally) run and the key reasons why people participate
- Come back into main room and feed back thoughts



Covid

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Covid-19 guidelines – where to look

- The current Scottish Covid guidelines will be in effect until the 2nd of November 2020
- On the 2nd of November 2020 a new 5-level system will come into effect in Scotland to contain the Covid outbreak:
 - <https://www.gov.scot/publications/covid-19-scotlands-strategic-framework/>
 - The proposed details of the five levels are at pp 58 - 68 of the pdf document.
- English guidelines run on a 3-tier system:
 - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-covid-alert-levels-what-you-need-to-know>

Scottish guidelines

LEVEL 1 - Medium

Six people from two households can meet indoors and outdoors

LEVEL 2 - High

No indoor meeting with other households

Six people from two households can meet outdoors and in hospitality settings

Pubs permitted to sell alcohol indoors only with a main meal - and time restrictions may apply

LEVEL 3 - Very High

Alcohol sales not permitted indoors or outdoors

Restaurants may be able to remain open under strict conditions

LEVEL 0 - Nearly normal

Indoor meetings allowed – maximum eight people from three households

Fifteen people from five households can meet outdoors

LEVEL 4 - Lockdown

Closer to a full lockdown of the type the UK went into at the end of March, with non-essential shops being forced to close

Some outdoor meeting still allowed

Schools will stay open

England guidelines

Covid-19 three tier alert system in England

Medium

Follow the rule of six if meeting indoors or outdoors
Pubs and restaurants to shut at 10pm

High

No household mixing indoors
Rule of six will apply outdoors

Very high

No household mixing indoors or outdoors
Pubs and bars not serving meals will be closed
Guidance against travelling in and out of the area
Rule of six applies to outdoor places like parks and beaches

BBC

Things to consider

- Be aware of current restrictions and that the relevant authorities, including the police, have been given the powers to enforce them including through fines and dispersal of gatherings.
- We won't be under lockdown forever.
 - Scotland (and the rest of the UK) is likely to shift between levels frequently
 - How can you adapt your plans to maximise any fluctuations in restrictions?
 - Are smaller/shared/hybrid events possible?
 - Zoom is global



We're going restriction free for 3 days – can you take advantage of it?

- Go into breakout rooms for 5-10 minutes and discuss adaptive plans you could put in place to make the most of improving or short term reprieve of restrictions
- Come back into main room and feed back thoughts

Break

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Have you thought about...?

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Outdoor Events

- Think about logistics and liabilities
 - Will people want to meet indoors or outdoors?
 - Will people want a gathering among themselves or be out doing something at a venue?
 - If your gathering costs money (e.g. food or entrance) or involves travel (even to-and-from), how can you support members whose finances have been depleted
- Safety
 - Social distancing
 - Masks
 - Adhering to the current regulations
 - Accommodating those who are shielding or vulnerable?
 - E.g. Face-time to include those who can't attend



Outdoor Events (cont.)

■ Venues

- What is your budget?
- Capacity and restriction limits on numbers
- What about networking or running shared events?
- Deposits – are they refundable? What if restrictions change at the last minute?
- Check the fine print of any contracts, including insurance! Check all the terms and conditions
- Venues and performers may be running at a loss, so may be amenable to negotiating
- You may not be able to do big events with bells and whistles, but rough and ready is fine
- Any size event is good, and years from now may have legendary status among the group. “Remember the Covid Mini-Pride...?”

Outdoor Events (cont.)

- Keep people informed
 - Have ways to keep in touch with attendees
 - What do you do if restrictions change?
 - What do you do if the event is cancelled at the last minute?
 - How do you include and accommodate those who are vulnerable or shielding?
 - Manage expectations



Group meetings

- Co host, network and share
- The wave
- Think about your own and others capacity/resources
- Make it interesting – think globally
- Digital poverty – befriending? letters? mentors



Hybrid meetings

- Hybrid meetings include a mix of face-to-face and online
 - Some people are now more included than ever before
- Some issues to keep in mind:
 - Recognise that online participants might like to be there in person
 - Takes effort in a face-to-face setting to remember that online folk are there
 - Directly and specifically include and ask online folks for their input, and repeat or describe things to them that may not be directly visible or audible
 - How to schedule and accommodate the meetings e.g. alternate in-person and online meetings? Have all of them hybrid? This will be a very group specific thing
 - Consider things like data usage and cost (esp. if not on wi-fi) and tech access for members



Have you any thoughts on the above or ideas of your own?

- Go into breakout rooms for 5-10 minutes and discuss how you might some of these items and suggestions, or possible ideas of your own you've tried?
- Come back into main room and feed back thoughts



Any questions/announcements?

- Open chat for 5-10 minutes to discuss any ideas your group may have been considering and how you could plan and implement it under current conditions.

Participant comments/suggestions

The following were comments and suggestions made by participants:

- Covid restrictions brought some people together, but isolated others
 - Lack of adequate support systems, esp. for those with accessibility needs
 - Online meetings are great for some, but really difficult for others, leading to isolation
 - People over 50 and/or with disabilities tend to be forgotten
- Rise in abuse and people feeling vulnerable
 - Some feel they have to hide themselves or their identities
 - Online abuse, anti-LGBT and anti-trans rhetoric online has increased
 - Intersectional aspects e.g. being disabled and trans
 - It's okay to not want to go out at this time

Participant comments/suggestions

The following were comments and suggestions made by participants:

- Accessibility needs are important
 - Access to carers and supporters
 - People may need escorts when out and about
- A number of people don't know how to use tech and have no one to help or advise where to look
- Slow, gradual and tiny events may be the way to go – ease back into socialising

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