

# Macmillan LGBT and Cancer Programme

**MACMILLAN**  
CANCER SUPPORT

**LGBT**  
foundation

The Macmillan LGBT and Cancer Programme worked with a group of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT) people living with and affected by cancer to raise awareness about the inequalities faced by LGBT cancer patients and to instigate service improvements.

## CO-PRO RECRUITMENT

- LGBT Foundation networks were used to invite LGBT people affected by cancer to join a co-production group to share experiences about the care they received.
- LGBT Foundation provided a venue that was recognised as a safe space.
- The group was marketed to service providers as an opportunity to find out about the perspective of rarely heard service users.

***“I was keen to ... put the ... people with lived experience of cancer first. ... I think it's especially important when you've got a seldom heard group to do that first. Some people would probably argue with me and say, 'You should have the organisations in the room at the start for buy in.' But I wanted to make sure was that people felt comfortable and safe before we took that step.”***

## CO-PRO IMPLEMENTATION

- The project focus arose from an informal exchange of experiences.
- Service providers only joined when patients had formed a trusted group.
- Meetings were kept informal to allow service users to focus on their experiences.
- The coordinator took minutes and circulated them to group members afterwards. The coordinator could also mediate when there was conflict.



## BENEFITS OF CO-PRO

### TO ORGANISATION

- Enhanced reputation with LGBT people living with cancer.
- Direct contact with service users created more commitment from service providers. Service users could react to suggestions for changes.
- Service providers learned from service user perspectives.
- Hosting multiple service providers in the co-production group engendered small collaborations between them.

### TO USERS

- ***“That's the best part of it really, that you're not just being heard, you can see that things actually happened.”***
- The existence of the co-production group made LGBT people living with cancer visible.
- The patient group provided emotional support for group members.
- Promotional materials and information resources by Macmillan are now more appropriate to the needs of LGBT cancer patients.