

# Family Matters: Insights from Our Community



A service for LGBT parents and their children, and LGBT parents to be.





## Family Matters: Insights from Our Community

### *Forewords*

At Proud 2 b Parents, we recognise that LGBT+ families still face distinct challenges despite advances in legal rights and societal acceptance. Although progress in areas like LGBT+ marriage and parenthood has been made, many families continue to struggle with limited visibility and community support.

We are pleased to present our recent consultation report, Family Matters: Insights from Our Community, which explores how seeing families like their own and having strong community support impacts our members' lives. The findings emphasise how crucial representation is in creating a sense of belonging and providing support.

Our consultation has shown that despite the hurdles posed by recent challenges, Proud 2 b Parents remains dedicated to meeting the needs of our community. We have identified several key areas where our services are making a significant impact, such as regular social interactions, youth programs, and educational resources.

This report highlights the importance of visibility and community support in enhancing the well-being of LGBT+ families. It also calls for ongoing efforts to ensure that every family feels supported and included within Proud 2 b Parents. We hope these insights inspire continued collaboration and innovation to further support and uplift LGBT+ families across the UK.



[Matt Taylor-Roberts](#)

Founder and Managing Director of the award winning Proud 2 b Parents

# Annual Consultation 2024-2025

## Introduction

We're excited to share the results from our Annual Consultation for 2024-2025, which saw a record-breaking response of over 130 people — our highest ever! This incredible level of engagement shows that our community is more connected and supportive than ever, providing us with invaluable insights into the lives of our families.

This year's survey explored how families are becoming parents, how connected they feel to Proud 2 b Parents, and how much they enjoy being part of our group. We also delved into the challenges families face and gathered ideas for how we can improve.

The results showcase a vibrant and diverse community with varying needs. The feedback highlights both our strengths and areas for growth — from ensuring everyone feels included to enhancing the support we provide.

This year, we are thrilled to share that our services reached a total of 1,061 individuals, including 460 children and 601 adults. With an overall attendance of 3,529 across all our services, these figures underscore the necessity of what we do and the critical role Proud 2 b Parents plays in supporting our community. *Please note, that this total excludes attendance at our regional Pride events, Family Space, and Family Pride MCR, where attendance numbers cannot be monitored due to the scale of participation.*

A huge thank you to everyone who participated in the consultation and shared their thoughts. Your feedback is essential in helping Proud 2 b Parents continue to meet the unique needs of every family we serve, while ensuring we remain a welcoming and inclusive space for all LGBT+ families.

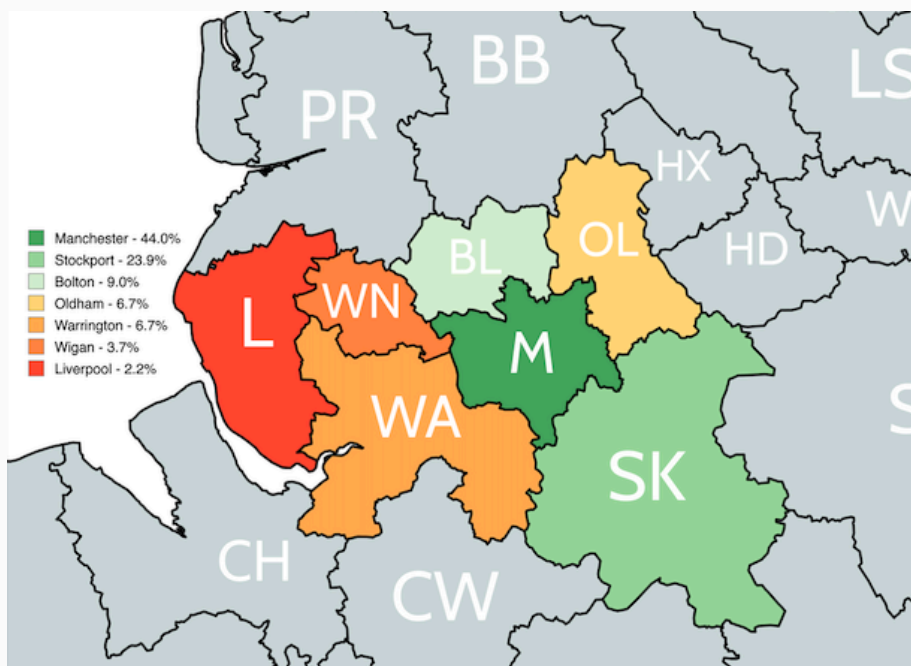


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## 1. Location of our Families

To better understand where our families are located, we analysed the first part of their postcodes. This geographic breakdown provides valuable insights into the distribution of our community across different areas. Most of our families live in and around Manchester, with significant clusters in Stockport and Bolton. There are fewer families in areas such as Oldham, Warrington, Wigan, and Liverpool.



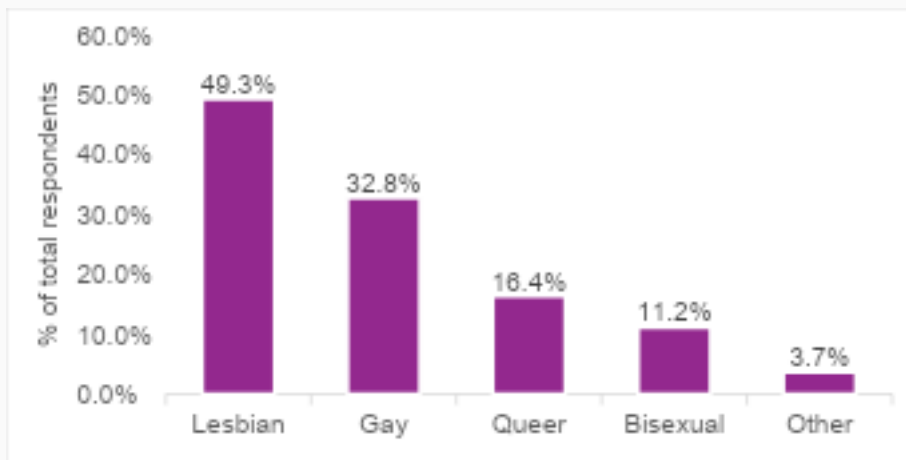
Question: What is the first part of your postcode?

Note: Created using <https://www.mapchart.net/uk-postcodes.html>

By examining the frequency and distribution of postcodes, we can identify key regions where our families reside, allowing us to tailor our support and outreach efforts more effectively.

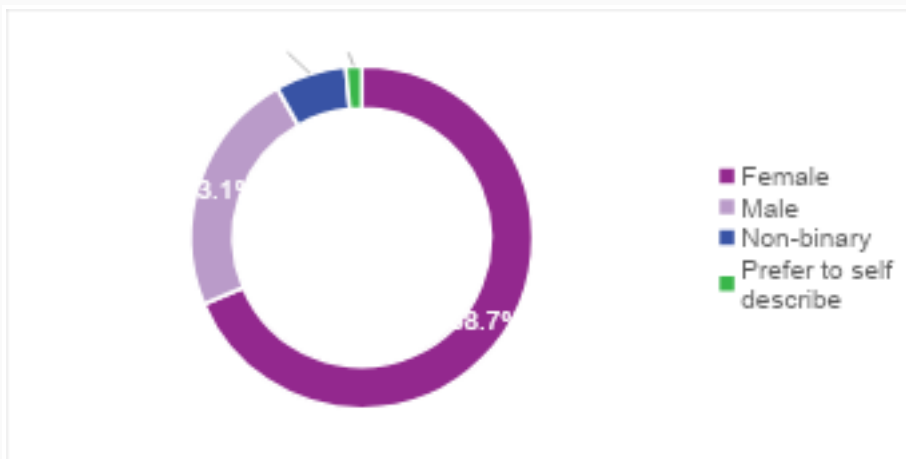
## 2. Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Transgender Identification of Parents and Carers

### Sexual Orientation



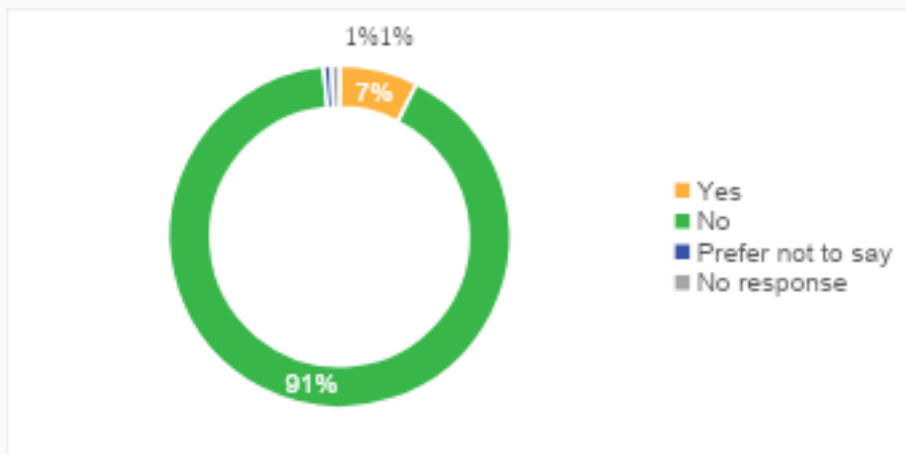
Question: How would you describe your sexual orientation? [Multiple choice]

### Gender Identity



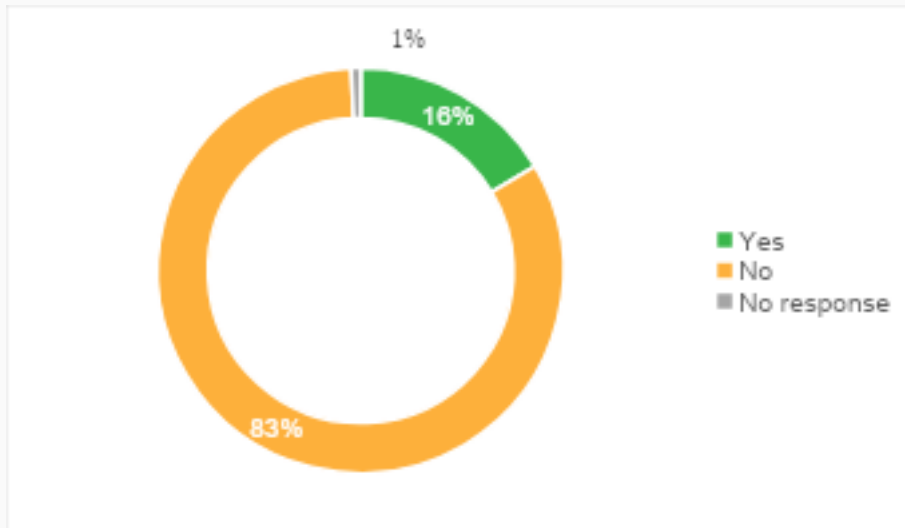
Question: What best describes your gender?

### Transgender Identification



Question: Do you identify as Trans?

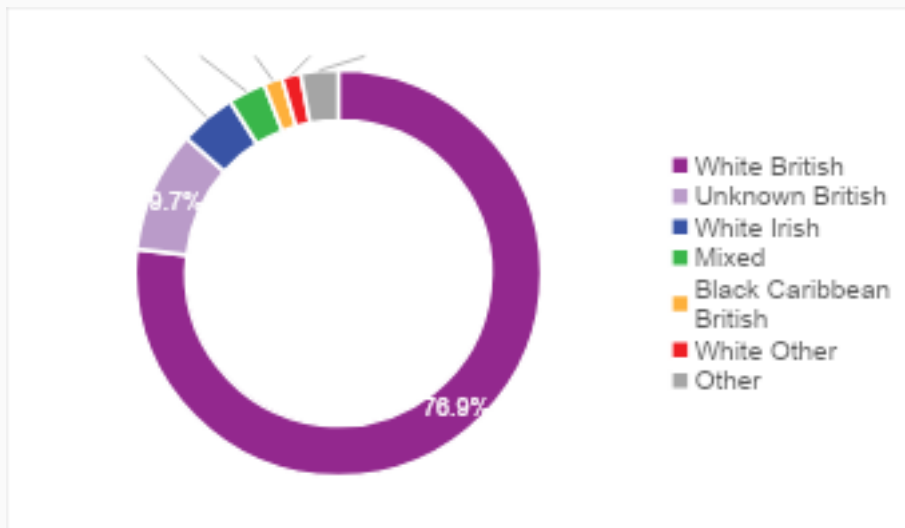
### 3. Parent and Carer Disability



Question: Would you consider yourself to have a disability?

As an organisation we have taken steps to ensure our information is accessible, including providing details about venue accessibility and transport options. We have also created a WhatsApp group specifically for parents and carers with disabilities to enable more opportunities for connection and peer support. In addition, our Managing Director has written a blog for the Proud 2 b Parents website about their own recent diagnosis to help raise awareness and understanding of both visible and invisible disabilities.

### 4. Ethnicity

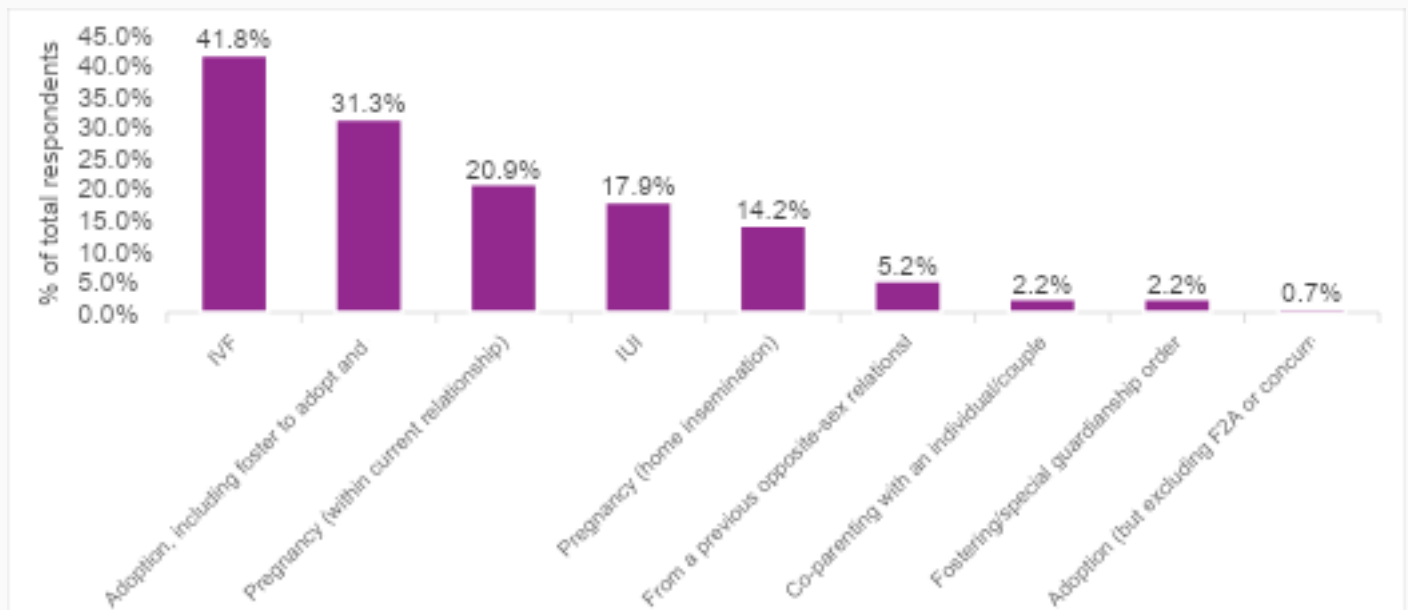


Question: What is your ethnicity?

While the representation of global majority individuals is present within our families, they remain underrepresented. As an organisation we will continue to ensure we work towards greater representation and inclusion of all within the LGBT+ parent/ carer community.

## 5. Routes to Parenthood

The data on routes to parenthood shows a diverse range of choices among our families.



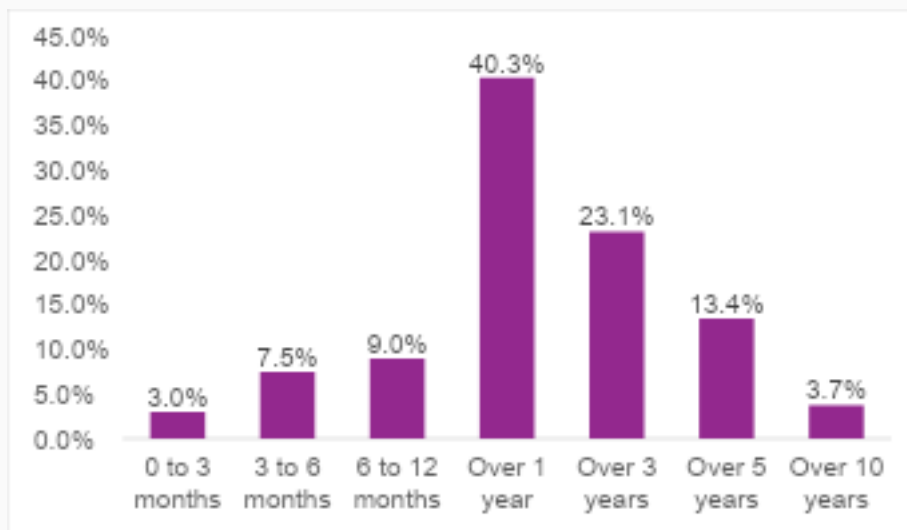
Question: What route(s) to parenthood did you choose? [Multiple choice]

Here's a breakdown of the most frequently selected methods:

- **IVF (In vitro fertilization)** is the most common route, with respondents selecting it alone or in combination with other methods. It appears in numerous responses, indicating it is a popular choice for those seeking parenthood.
- **Adoption, including foster to adopt and concurrency**, is also a prominent choice for our community and echo the stats that state 1 in 5 adoptions within England is to the LGBT+ community.
- **Pregnancy within a current relationship** and **Pregnancy (home insemination)** are also commonly chosen routes. These methods are frequently combined with IVF or IUI (intrauterine insemination).
- **IUI** appears multiple times, either alone or in combination with other methods like IVF or pregnancy through home insemination.
- **From a previous opposite-sex relationship, Co-parenting with an individual/couple, Fostering/special guardianship order** are less common but still noted in the data.



## 6. Family Engagement with Proud 2 b Parents



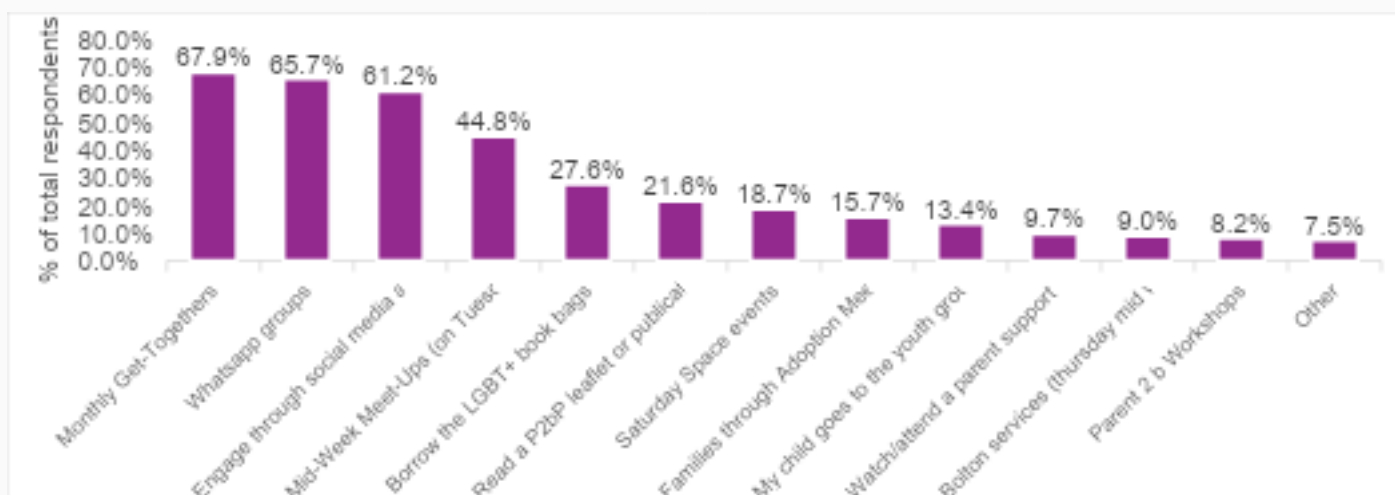
Question: How long have you been involved with Proud 2 b Parents?

The engagement data for Proud 2 b Parents demonstrates how well our services meet the needs of the community and highlights the unique value we provide:

- **New Engagement:** 19.4% of members have joined us in the past year. This strong influx of new participants reflects our effective outreach and the growing demand for our services. It suggests that Proud 2 b Parents is resonating with many families who are seeking support and community.
- **Moderate Engagement:** 40.3% of members have been involved for 1 year or more. This solid base of established participants indicates that our services are not only attracting new members but also meeting the needs of families who continue to find value in our organization.
- **Long-Term Engagement:** Our retention rate is impressive, with 36.6% of members having been with us for over 3 years or over 5 years. This long-term engagement highlights our ability to develop a supportive and lasting community. It underscores our commitment to addressing ongoing needs and evolving to support our members effectively over time.
- **Deep Loyalty:** The 3.7% of members who have been with us for over 10 years demonstrate the profound impact Proud 2 b Parents has had on their lives.

This balanced distribution of engagement levels illustrates that Proud 2 b Parents is not only attracting new members but also retaining and deeply impacting those who have been with us for many years. Our ability to address the diverse needs of our community and provide a supportive network is a testament to the effectiveness and uniqueness of our services.

## 7. Services used and valued by our families



Question: Which P2bP services do you currently use, or have used within the past year? [Multiple choice]

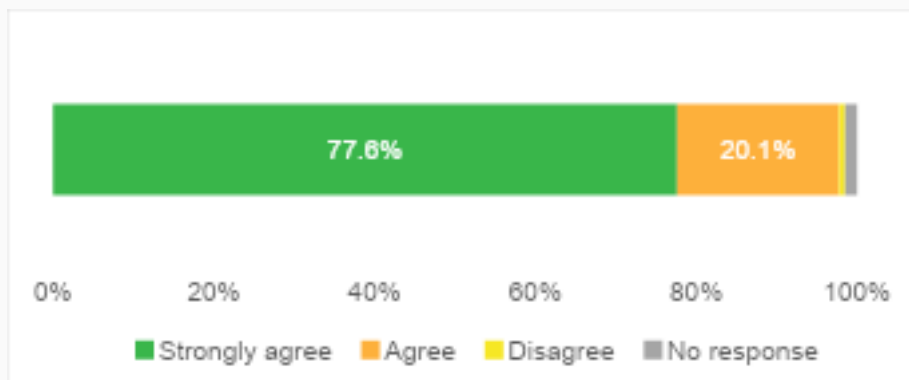
Based on the data collected on the services used by Proud 2 b Parents families in the past year, here's an overview of what families value the most:

- High Engagement Areas:** Monthly Get-Togethers, Mid-Week Meet-Ups, and Saturday Space Events are highly valued by families. The strong preference for these events suggests that regular, accessible social interactions are crucial for members. To meet this demand, it would be beneficial to prioritize and possibly expand these services.
- Specialised Support:** Youth Groups, Families through Adoption Meet-Ups, and Bolton Services addresses specific needs within the community. The data indicates a significant need for support tailored to youth, families through adoption, and localised services. Investing in these areas could greatly enhance overall satisfaction and provide targeted support where it's most needed.
- Digital and Educational Resources:** Engagement with digital tools like social media, YouTube, digital parent support, and educational resources, including LGBT+ book bags, is notable. This suggests a strong interest in accessible, educational content and online support. Continuing to develop these resources and expanding availability can further support families' needs.
- Communication:** Whilst Social Media, Newsletters, and WhatsApp Groups communication channels are important, they are not as critical as direct service offerings. Maintaining effective communication through these channels remains valuable, but it should complement, rather than replace, the core services.

Overall, families appreciate having regular and easy ways to connect, both online and in person. They value services that keep them engaged, support their children and teens, offer educational resources, and provide local meet-ups. Proud 2 b Parents is doing a great job of meeting these needs by offering a wide range of services that suit different family setups, including various ages of children and parenting situations. This broad approach highlights how Proud 2 b Parents stands out in supporting LGBT+ families, boosting their engagement and satisfaction with the community.

## 8. Reasons for joining Proud 2 b Parents

The data shows that families are drawn to Proud 2 b Parents mainly because they see other families like their own in the organisation.



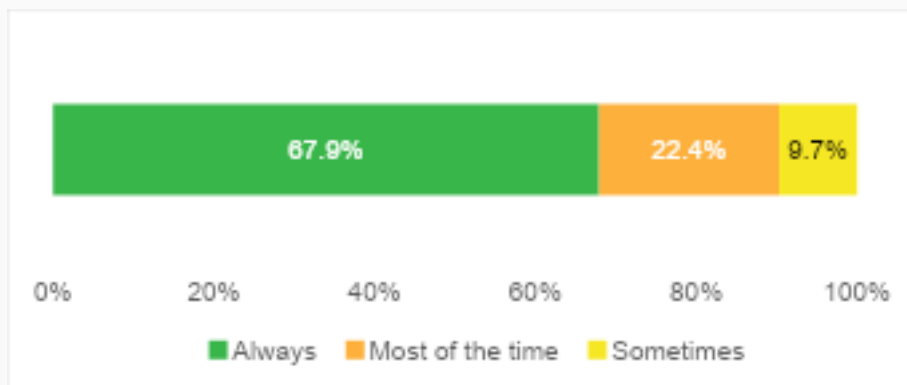
Question: Seeing people like me and my family influenced my decision to join Proud 2 b Parents?

Here's what the responses reveal:

- Most people said they joined Proud 2 b Parents because they saw families similar to theirs represented. This suggests that seeing others who look like them or share their experiences is a big reason why families decide to get involved.
- Families feel more connected to Proud 2 b Parents because they see themselves reflected in the organisation. This shows that the organisation's diversity and inclusivity are key to making members feel like they belong.
- The fact that so many people agree with this shows that Proud 2 b Parents is doing a good job of creating a welcoming environment. Representation helps members feel accepted and part of a community.

Overall, the data highlights that seeing families like their own is a major factor for families choosing to join Proud 2 b Parents. This shows that representation is crucial for creating a supportive and inclusive space for LGBTQ+ families.

## 9. Do our families feel that they belong?



Question: Do our families feel that they Belong?

When asked about feelings of belonging at Proud 2 b Parents, most participants said they feel that Proud 2 b Parents offers a welcoming, supportive, and inclusive space. Many expressed deep gratitude for the sense of community it creates, often describing it as a "second family" and a "safe space" where they feel accepted and understood. The staff, particularly the Community Engagement Worker, Lizzie, were often praised for being warm and friendly, and making everyone feel included. The WhatsApp groups and emails were also mentioned as valuable ways to stay connected and supported.

### Challenges and Areas for Improvement

- Some participants felt that the group is dominated by two-mother, cisgender, lesbian families, which led others, including those in mixed-sex, bisexual, or non-binary relationships, to feel underrepresented or less connected. There were also calls for greater representation of different racial and ethnic backgrounds. While the services are generally seen as inclusive, some members felt left out. Especially when the focus was on specific subgroups like families through adoption or trans/non-binary parents. Parents of older children also wanted more activities that cater to their needs. A few respondents mentioned that they experienced cliquish behaviour at some meet-ups, making it hard to connect with others, especially for those who are new or in the minority.

### Specific Feedback Highlights

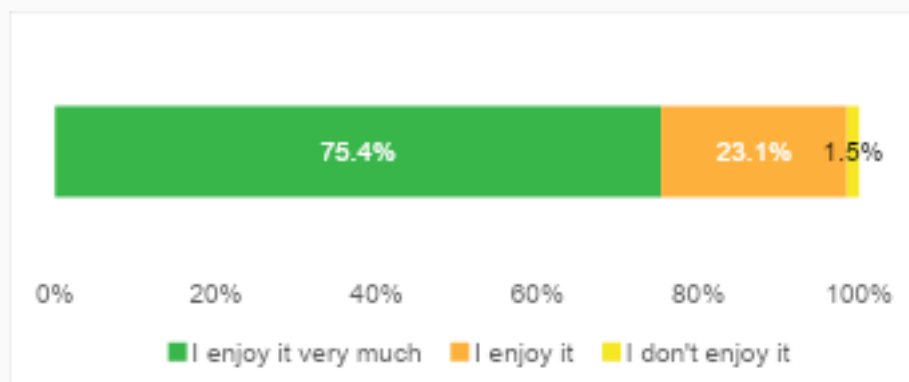
- **Saturday Space:** One participant highlighted the "Saturday Space" sessions as a place where they truly feel they belong, appreciating the relaxed and welcoming environment that fosters better connections.
- **Non-Engagement:** A small number of participants who don't engage much in the group didn't feel strongly about belonging, suggesting that more outreach could help involve these members.

Proud 2 b Parents is highly valued for its supportive, inclusive, and welcoming environment. However, there is room to improve the sense of belonging by increasing diversity, ensuring representation across different family types, and addressing feelings of exclusion.



## 10. How much do our family enjoy their involvement with Proud 2 b Parents?

When asked about our families involvement in Proud 2 b Parents, most said they really enjoy being part of Proud 2 b Parents.



Question: How much have you enjoyed your involvement with Proud 2 b Parents?

Families value the welcoming, inclusive, and supportive environment, which has made a big difference in their social lives and parenting experiences. Many families deeply appreciate the sense of community, the events, and the opportunities the organisation provides. The team is often praised for their enthusiasm, kindness and how they create fun and meaningful activities.

Respondents appreciate the variety of activities offered, which cater to different family types and age groups. The events are described as fun, well-organised, and easy to access, providing valuable chances for both children and parents to socialise and connect with others in similar situations. Many participants have made lasting friendships through P2bP, both for themselves and their children. The group is seen as an important social outlet, especially for LGBTQ+ families who might feel isolated in more traditional parenting groups. The safer and more inclusive space that P2bP provides is a real positive for many. It allows families to connect without having to explain their family structure or worry about being judged, creating a comfortable environment for both parents and children.

### Challenges and Areas for Improvement

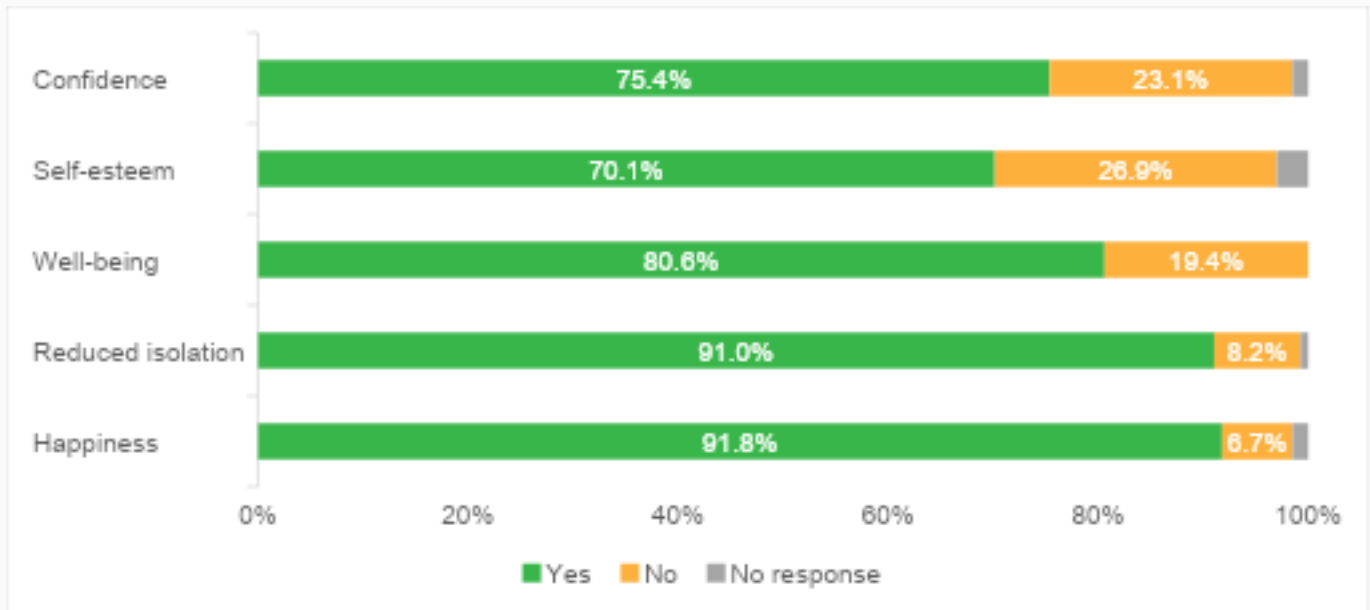
- A few respondents mentioned that they sometimes have difficulty socialising at events, especially if they feel like outsiders or if the events don't have enough structure to help people meet and interact. This is more common among newer members or those who don't attend regularly.
- Some parents of older children feel that most activities are geared towards younger kids, which limits their involvement. They suggested offering more activities for families with children 5-8 years old.
- A few participants noted that it can be hard to attend events due to distance or scheduling conflicts, especially for those living outside the main areas where P2bP operates or for parents who have returned to work.

## Specific Feedback Highlights

- Several respondents mentioned specific activities and events they found especially meaningful, such as trips to Legoland and Sealife, as well as the creative and memorable crafts organised by staff members like Nate and Mandy.
- Proud 2 b Parents has had a positive impact on many parents, offering a sense of community and support that they find essential to their parenting journey, especially for those who feel marginalised in more traditional settings.
- There was a suggestion to improve the onboarding process for new members, possibly through introductory events or pre-event contact, as well as structured activities to help newcomers feel more at home in the group.

Overall, participants highly value their involvement with Proud 2 b Parents. The organisation offers a unique and supportive space for LGBTQ+ families, with positive experiences, a welcoming environment, and well-organised activities being major strengths. However, there are opportunities to improve social integration and provide more inclusive options for older children and families with specific needs.

## 11. How do our parents and carers feel about their confidence, self-esteem, well-being, reduced isolation and happiness?



Questions:

- Has your confidence as a parent or parent-to-be improved because of being involved with Proud 2 b Parents?
- Has your self-esteem (the way you feel about yourself) improved because of being involved with Proud 2 b Parents?
- Has your wellbeing improved because of being involved with Proud 2 b Parents?
- Do you feel less isolated because of being involved with Proud 2 b Parents?
- Do you feel happier because of your involvement with Proud 2 b Parents?

## 12. What do our families like or value about Proud 2 b Parents?

When families were asked about what they liked or valued about Proud 2 b Parents, the most frequently cited value is the strong sense of community that Proud 2 b Parents develops. Participants in the survey appreciate being part of a group where their family structures are normalised and celebrated, which helps both parents and children feel less isolated and more connected.

Many respondents highlighted the importance of their children seeing families similar to theirs, which reinforces a positive sense of identity and belonging. The group's efforts to ensure diverse family representation are especially valued. Proud 2 b Parents is highly valued for creating a welcoming and inclusive environment. This safer space allows families to be themselves without fear of judgment, offering a rare opportunity to connect with others who share similar experiences.

### Specific Areas of Appreciation

- The wide range of activities and events tailored to LGBTQ+ families is another significant value. These events provide not only fun and educational opportunities for children but also crucial social connections for parents.
- The provision of specific support for trans and non-binary families, throughout the WhatsApp group and Saturday Space, is particularly valued. This support helps reduce feelings of isolation and offers a sense of security in an increasingly transphobic society.
- Proud 2 b Parents is seen as a vital avenue for making new friends and building lasting relationships. The chance to connect with other LGBTQ+ parents who understand their unique challenges is deeply appreciated.
- The group's ethos of "no questions asked" acceptance resonates strongly with members. Knowing they can discuss their experiences openly, without needing to explain or justify their family dynamics, is a key aspect of what makes Proud 2 b Parents special.

### Broader Impact

Being part of Proud 2 b Parents has empowered many parents by reducing anxieties, especially around parenting in a sometimes hostile society. The support network provided by Proud 2 b Parents increases confidence and helps members feel more secure in their identities.

The financial support offered by Proud 2 b Parents, which allows families to participate in activities they might not otherwise afford, is highly valued. This support makes the group accessible to a broader range of families, enhancing its inclusivity. The availability of specialised groups, such as those for parents through adoption or neurodivergent families, is appreciated for offering targeted support and connection.



## Areas for Growth

- Some members expressed a wish they had known about Proud 2 b Parents earlier, as they felt it could have significantly alleviated the isolation they experienced in the early stages of parenting.
- While Proud 2 b Parent's activities and events are highly valued, there is a desire for more accessibility, particularly for those who live farther away or have busy schedules.

Proud 2 b Parents is highly regarded for its role in developing a supportive, inclusive community where LGBTQ+ families can thrive. The representation, activities, and social connections provided by us are crucial in helping families feel accepted and less isolated. The organisation is not just about providing events but about creating a space where diverse families can come together, support one another, and celebrate their identities.

## 13. When families were asked about how Proud 2 b Parents could improve its services...

### Key themes

- There is a clear need for more activities tailored to children aged 5-8. Suggested activities include forest school, water-based fun, and climbing sessions suitable for younger kids. Respondents also requested more activities during school holidays and weekends to better accommodate working parents and those with older children.
- Families would like to see events in a wider range of locations, particularly outside Manchester, including Stockport and other areas of Greater Manchester. This would help serve families who live further away from central locations.
- Some existing sessions, like the Bolton meet-up, might benefit from a time adjustment to avoid conflicts with children's nap or lunch times. There is also a request for more evening events and parent-only meet-ups, allowing parents to connect without the demands of childcare and discuss topics relevant to them.
- Feedback indicates a desire for activities that cater to all types of LGBTQ+ families, including families with SEN. Expanding inclusivity within the group's activities is a priority.
- There is a call for better marketing and visibility of the group, especially for those considering parenthood. Suggestions include targeting prenatal stages and promoting existing WhatsApp groups to make sure members are aware of all available supportive sub-communities.
- Some participants have found it challenging to form connections during events. Suggestions include structured ice-breakers or mixers to facilitate conversation and networking. The introduction of onboarding events, such as informal coffee meet-ups or Zoom calls, could help new members integrate more easily.

### Special requests

- Some members would like to see the return of the popular annual festival.
- There is interest in organising large-scale outings, such as coach trips to attractions like Alton Towers or Disneyland, for memorable family experiences.
- Members expressed interest in themed sessions or workshops, such as baby massage classes or other educational sessions, potentially featuring external experts to enhance the group's offerings.

The feedback reflects high satisfaction with the current services, with many participants praising the organisation's efforts. Most suggestions for improvement focus on expanding existing services, adjusting logistics to better suit family schedules, and enhancing the inclusivity and reach of Proud 2 b Parents. The overall tone is appreciative, with members keen to see the group continue to thrive and grow.

## **14. When asked what are the main challenges you face as an LGBT+ parent/carers led family**

- Many families face constant heteronormative assumptions, where institutions like schools, healthcare, and social services often assume a "mother and father" structure. This includes being misgendered, having to correct language use (e.g., "mummy" vs. "mama"), and dealing with forms that only account for "mother" and "father."
- Many parents feel isolated due to being the only visibly LGBT+ family in various social settings, such as nursery or community events. This can lead to difficulties in forming friendships with other parents and feeling like an outsider in parenting communities.
- Families often deal with ignorance or outright prejudice, including intrusive questions about their family structure, assumptions about biology or parental roles, and even hate crimes. There's also a concern about how their children might be treated by others, especially as they grow older.
- LGBT+ families frequently encounter challenges in healthcare, from assumptions made by healthcare providers to a lack of understanding about their specific needs. This includes issues during maternity and postnatal care, misgendering, and a lack of sensitivity towards non-birth parents.
- For those who are religious, navigating spaces that are not welcoming or inclusive can be particularly difficult. There are reports of feeling unwelcome in Christian spaces and even encountering suggestions for conversion therapy, which is both distressing and isolating.
- Families expressed the need for their children to see more diverse family structures similar to their own. This includes needing more visibility of LGBT+ families in everyday life including in books, TV, and the like.
- Many parents are concerned about potential discrimination their children might face as they grow older, particularly in school settings. This includes worries about bullying, isolation, and how to address awkward questions from peers.
- Families often deal with legal and bureaucratic issues, such as difficulties with adoption processes, fertility treatments, and navigating systems that don't account for diverse family structures.

### **Suggestions for Support from Proud 2 b Parents**

- Continue providing education and training to public sector services, including healthcare providers, schools, and local councils, on how to better support LGBT+ families. This includes promoting the use of gender-neutral language and challenging heteronormative assumptions.
- Increase efforts to make LGBT+ families more visible across various family based services, sectors and society, which includes media.

- Create more opportunities for LGBT+ families to connect with each other, particularly those with children of similar ages. This might include additional meet-ups, workshops, or online spaces where families can share experiences and advice.
- Develop resources to help families navigate specific challenges, such as dealing with intrusive questions, addressing bullying in schools, or explaining family structures to children. This could include workshops, guides, or peer support groups.
- Consider organising sessions or support groups specifically for non-birth parents to share their experiences and challenges, and to build confidence in their parenting roles.
- Increase visibility and support for prospective LGBT+ parents, particularly those going through adoption or fertility treatments. This could include earlier connections to support networks and specific sessions for those about to become parents.
- Provide information and resources on safe travel for LGBT+ families, both within the UK and abroad. This might include blogs, guides, or forums where families can share their experiences.

By addressing these challenges through ongoing support, advocacy, and community-building, Proud 2 b Parents can continue to play a crucial role in the lives of LGBT+ families.

Families stated that Proud 2 b Parents means an incredible amount to the families involved, offering a sense of belonging and a supportive community where they feel safe, understood, and valued. It's a place where they can connect with others who share similar experiences, allowing both parents and children to see their family structure reflected in those around them, which helps normalize their experience in a world that often defaults to heteronormative assumptions.

For many, Proud 2 b Parents has been a lifeline, providing not only social connections and friendships but also a space where they can relax, be themselves, and avoid the constant need to explain or justify their family setup. It is seen as a safe haven where diversity is celebrated, and the unique challenges faced by LGBT+ families are acknowledged and supported.

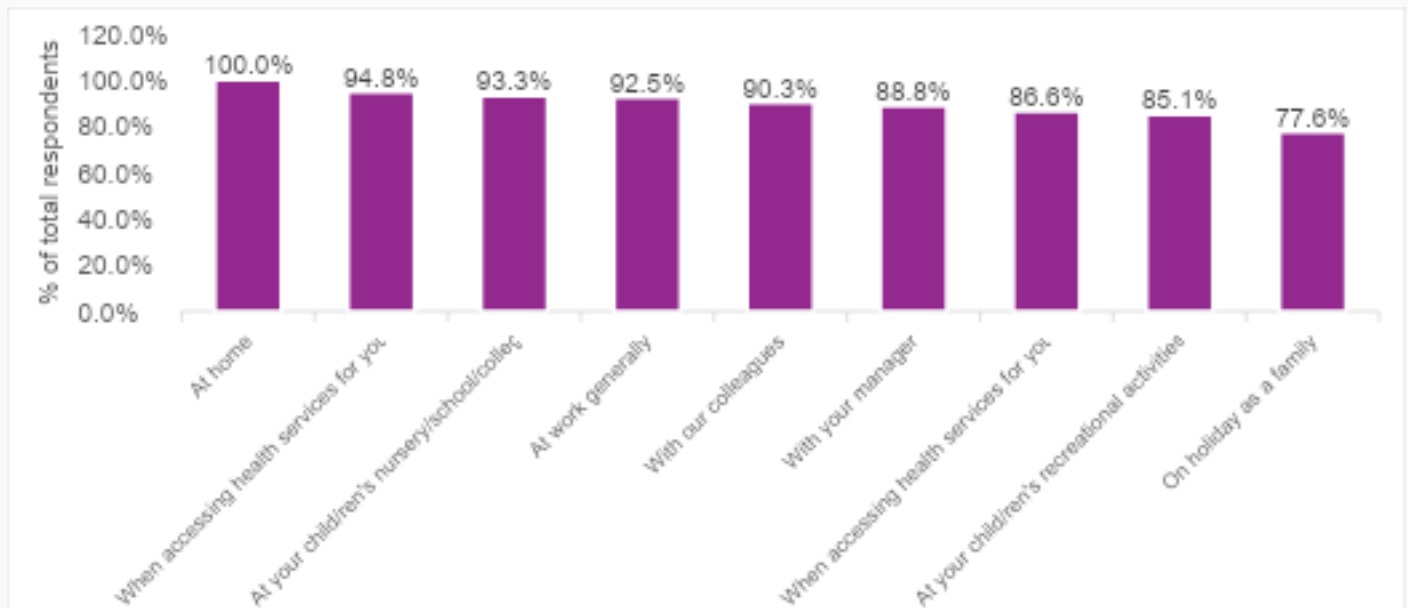
Parents appreciate the opportunity for their children to meet and interact with other kids from similar backgrounds, which is vital for their development and sense of identity. The group also offers visibility and representation, crucial for families who might otherwise feel isolated or marginalized.



## 15. How 'Out' are our families?

We asked our families about how openly individuals discuss their sexual orientation or gender identity in various contexts. Understanding these patterns helps us recognize where people feel comfortable being open and where they might encounter challenges.

The data shows that people are most open about their sexual orientation or gender identity in their home environment, at work, and when seeking their own health services. Conversely, they are less likely to be open while on family holidays or when dealing with health services for their children.



## 16. Moving Forward

For 2025, families involved with Proud 2 b Parents are looking for 'more of the same fantastic events and support' that the organisation currently offers, with an emphasis on expansion and variety. Key desires include:

- Many participants would like to see more events in areas like Stockport, North Manchester, Bolton, and Bury, ensuring that families across Greater Manchester have access to activities closer to home.
- There's a strong call for more events during weekends and school holidays, particularly for children aged 5-8 and older, to accommodate working parents and school schedules.
- Families are asking for a broader range of events, including those specifically catering to different age groups (e.g., over 8s), SEN (Special Educational Needs) children, and specific subgroups within the LGBT+ community, like non-binary parents, single parents, and neurodivergent families. There's also interest in more adult-only social events.
- Many are eager for the return of the summer family festival, which was a highlight in the past. Additionally, there's enthusiasm for exciting trips like visits to theme parks or even Disneyland Paris.
- Some families expressed a desire for more structured discussions, educational sessions, and opportunities to learn and share knowledge about parenting within the LGBT+ context. This includes more focused support for non-birthing parents, prospective parents, and those navigating specific parenting challenges.
- There's interest in more opportunities for community involvement, such as fundraising activities, book swaps, and discussion-based events. Some families also suggested forming more localised groups, such as a Stockport WhatsApp group, to develop closer connections.
- Families would also like to know more about the behind-the-scenes efforts of Proud 2 b Parents. They are interested in understanding how the organisation works to ensure LGBT+ families are prominently represented and supported, and what steps are taken to keep their needs and issues on the agenda.

The overwhelming sentiment from the community is deep gratitude and appreciation for the work Proud 2 b Parents does. Many families express how essential the organisation is to their lives, providing a vital source of support, connection, and pride. A few key points include:

- **Willingness to Support:** Some participants are open to paying for more varied events, emphasising that the social connections and community aspect are invaluable.
- **Acknowledgment of Efforts:** Many thank the P2bP team for their hard work, highlighting that their dedication has a significant impact on the lives of LGBT+ families. There's recognition that the organisation achieves big things despite being a small team.

- Encouragement to Continue: Several responses stress the importance of securing continued funding, urging the organisation to keep going strong and not close down.
- Suggestions for Improvement: A few members suggest conducting surveys to understand better what helps or hinders attendance at events, aiming to make the group even more accessible and engaging.

Overall, the feedback is a heartfelt "thank you," with families expressing how much they value the community that Proud 2 b Parents fosters.

## 17. Conclusion

The Annual Consultation for 2024-2025 has given us a clear picture of what families involved with Proud 2 b Parents appreciate and where we can improve. The feedback highlights how important Proud 2 b Parents is for supporting and connecting LGBT+ families, showing both the positive impact of our current programmes and the areas where we can do better.

### Strengths and Achievements

Proud 2 b Parents is highly valued for creating a welcoming and supportive community. Families feel more confident, have higher self-esteem, and experience improved well-being thanks to their involvement with us. Our diverse and engaging events, along with the strong sense of community, are often praised. Both parents and children appreciate the chance to connect with others who share similar experiences.

### Areas for Improvement

Despite the positive feedback, several areas need attention:

- Families want more events in areas beyond central Manchester, like Stockport, North Manchester, Bolton, and Bury. This will help families who find it hard to travel to central locations.
- There's a need for more events on weekends and during school holidays, especially for children aged 5-8 and older. Adjusting the timing of current sessions and adding more evening and parent-only events could make things easier for some families.
- Families are looking for a wider variety of activities that cater to different age groups, children with Special Educational Needs (SEN), and various subgroups within the LGBTQ+ community, including nonbinary parents and neurodivergent families. More adult-only social events and specialised support sessions are also desired.
- Many families want to see the return of popular events like the summer family festival and large trips such as Disneyland Paris.
- There's interest in more structured educational sessions and discussions on LGBT+ parenting. Families also want better support for non-birthing parents, those planning to become parents, and those facing specific challenges.
- Families want more chances to get involved in community activities, such as fundraising, book swaps, and local groups like a Stockport WhatsApp group to build closer connections.
- Families are interested in understanding more about how Proud 2 b Parents operates behind the scenes and how we ensure that LGBT+ families are represented and supported.

# LOOKING AHEAD: P2bP Into the Future



The feedback shows that families deeply appreciate the work of P2bP and want the organisation to continue growing and improving. The suggestions highlight a desire for more inclusivity, accessibility, and variety in our offerings, ensuring that every member feels represented and supported.



## IMPROVING OUR SERVICES

## MORE WEEKEND & HOLIDAY EVENTS

## INCREASED GEOGRAPHIC REACH



## INCLUSIVITY

## ACCESSIBILITY

## CELEBRATING

## FUNDRAISING & ACTIVITIES

# 2025 GOALS



As we move into 2025, it's important to address these areas for improvement while continuing to build on the strengths that have made P2bP a vital resource for LGBT+ families. By focusing on community-building, diverse programming, and transparency, we can ensure that Proud 2 b Parents remains a cherished and essential part of our members' lives.



Proud 2 b Parents

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