



Entry Policy for Gay Village Party

August 2022

Entry Policy

During the Pride in our Future consultation, we heard from our communities that they wanted us to refocus our efforts into the Gay Village Party and create a safe environment for all LGBTQ + people to celebrate Pride. After months of development with our stakeholders, we published our new [Safety and Wellness Policy](#).

The Safety and Wellness Policy outlined our commitment to changing the 'Welcome' at the gates. The following details our new **Entry Policy for the Gay Village Party**.

Safety is our utmost priority, and we need your help to make sure the Manchester Pride Festival is a fun and safe experience for all visitors to the Gay Village over the August Bank Holiday Weekend. We have been working with stakeholders including Greater Manchester Police and Manchester City Council as well as other responsible authorities to agree on the appropriate framework and plans for what visitors can expect on entry to the event.

- **Bag Searches:** One of the biggest ways for you to help us keep people safe at the Festival is to leave your bags at home. If you have to bring a bag, as a condition of entry to our events spaces, we will ask you to submit to a bag search. We will have dedicated entry lanes at all of the gates where stewards will request a look in your bag. This is one of the key elements to ensure the safety of the site so please work with the staff as they undertake this important initiative. If you'd like to enter the site even quicker, we ask you to consider if you have to bring a bag at all and so if possible please leave bags at home.
- **Non-admittance to Event Arenas and Gay Village Bars:** The best way to enjoy the Gay Village Party is to purchase a ticket and exchange your ticket for a Pledgeband at the Box Office before entering the site. All of the Gay Village bars have agreed and committed to not allowing access or serve drinks to visitors who are not wearing official Manchester Pride Pledgebands. Without a Pledgeband you won't be able to access Manchester Pride arenas and you won't be able to access any bar or club in the Gay Village, so head to the Box Office to get your Pledgeband - by doing so you donate £2.50 directly to the Community Fund.
- **Queueing Lanes:** The gates will look a little different to previous years and there will be a number of queueing lanes at each point of entry. Each gate will have lanes for bag searches, lanes for visitors without bags, and exit lanes. We do not expect there to be any large queues but if a gate is particularly busy, we may temporarily stop access to that gate and you may be directed around to the next gate to avoid having to wait.

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- **Stewards and Security:** The stewarding teams will be asking visitors to proudly show their Pledgebands as they enter the site. The stewarding team will also be undertaking bag searches and linking in with the management team to assist with crowd safety which may include temporarily restricting access to a gate and directing people to the next gate to enter the site. Our security and stewarding teams play an important role on the gates as they deliver our Safety and Wellness Policy and so we ask that you treat them respectfully.
- **Community Safety Task Force:** We are working with a number of partner organisations to deliver this new initiative, these including: LGBT Foundation, St John Ambulance, Gay Village venues representatives, security and stewarding operators and community members. The Community Task Force have been meeting in the lead up to the Festival and will have a say in how the safety plans are delivered. A key part of this will be the Village Angels welcoming visitors at the entrances to the Gay Village Party. The Village Angels, the flagship project in LGBT Foundation's community safety programme is well known not just in Manchester's LGBTQ+ community, but across the UK. First established in 2011, their volunteers can be found every Friday and Saturday night in the Gay Village in Manchester, wearing the hot pink uniforms for which they are renowned.

We respect that people may wish to enter the Gay Village during the times that the event is taking place, for example, if they live or work in the area. However, we request that all visitors, whether you are attending our events or not, respect our efforts to create a safe environment for everyone. This means that we will ask for all bags to be searched on entry and we hope that you will respect our staff, our stewards and all of our partners by agreeing to have your bag searched on entry to the Gay Village.



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