



National Ambulance LGBT Network

Security Advice for Pride Events

24 May 2017

It is a very sad time for the United Kingdom after the senseless bombing in Manchester on Monday when 22 people needlessly died at the hands of terrorism. It happened two months to the day after another terrorist attack in Westminster which killed five more. Our thoughts go to all those affected by these terrible events and the families of those injured and killed.

We also pay a special tribute to the dozens of ambulance and emergency personnel who will no doubt have dropped everything to rush to save and comfort the many people caught in this event. We know from experience that responding to these highly traumatic events can leave a lasting impression.

We are about to enter the Pride season when many cities and towns will be celebrating the diversity in their communities and recognising LGBT people. It is only last year that a targeted terror attack left 50 people dead in a nightclub in Orlando, reminding us that such acts are indiscriminate and fuelled by hate.

For those organising the Pride response on behalf of our ambulance services, we recommend that some added vigilance is applied this year. In 2015 terrorists used an ambulance to try and get explosives into a football stadium in Hanover. This reminds us we can be vulnerable and although there is little we can do to stop people who are intent on hurting others, but we can try and make it more difficult for them.

In the last year we have seen more people cross boundaries to celebrate Pride events with ambulance service colleagues around the country. This can make it harder to spot potential threats but some simple steps can help to reduce the risk. In

addition to following your Trust's security guidance, we suggest that organisers of such events consider the following:

- Where possible always plan the event so you know who will be attending. This is very difficult at larger scale events, but setting up a participant list means you will have an idea of numbers and those attending from other services. Online software such as *Eventbrite* are excellent resources for organising events.
- If you do not recognise someone always find out who they are and where they are from. Joining instructions should always indicate that participants should bring their ambulance identification badge. Any member of the ambulance service should not be affronted by being asked to show this.
- If you have vehicles taking part make sure these are never left unattended, even for the shortest of times. Having a few people present means it is more difficult for people to make an unwanted approach without being noticed.
- Try and be aware of people and objects around you. In places where large crowds are gathering this is again difficult, but trust your instincts about unusual behaviours and suspicious objects. Always report them.

We will not give in to terrorists and we hope you enjoy your Pride events and celebrating with your colleagues. At the same time please take some extra time to plan your events and apply that extra bit of vigilance.

Stay safe.



Alistair Gunn
Network Chair



Kirsten Willis
Network Deputy Chair