

“What is Queer Home?” Long description

Cover page

Silhouettes of people stand in a town square with buildings labelled “Hostel” and “Home Care 4 U.”

A person on a bench wearing glasses and a red top reflects,

“I used to think home was just a roof. Now I know it’s more complicated”.

The title reads “What is Queer Home? And why should we care as service providers?”.

The subtitle says,

“This comic follows five queer voices, each offering a different answer to what care, health, and housing practitioners must know when they enter someone’s home, or offer one”.

Page 1 – Home is Where It All Comes Together

A page with a pen-drawn border and the title “Home is Where It All Comes Together”.

In the illustration, two people in the foreground — one in a red hijab and another in red glasses — smile, with five others behind them.

The text explains that the comic and its research look at home through a multi-services lens. For many people, especially LGBTQ+ individuals facing direct, cultural, or structural harms, home is not just a place to live but a site where care, safety, health, and wellbeing meet.

Social care, housing, and health services all affect the home differently, yet they often work in silos that miss the complexity of lived experience.

A fragmented approach can replicate harm — for example, assuming safe housing alone means emotional security, or that health interventions can ignore domestic instability.

Page 2 – Rethinking Home

This page has the title “Rethinking Home”.

Two people shake hands in the foreground, one with long hair and a jacket, another with short hair in a shirt, while others look on.

Icons of a stethoscope, people, and a red house symbolise health, community, and housing.

The text explains that practitioners must work collaboratively to see home not only as shelter but as an emotionally meaningful space.

It calls for continuity, shared decision-making, and affirmation of diverse identities.

It asks:

“What if practitioners asked not just ‘Is this person housed?’ or ‘Are they receiving care?’ but also ‘Does this person feel at home?’”.

It ends by inviting reflection on what resources and systemic changes are needed to make this possible.

Page 3 – Rafi’s Story

The text box reads:

“Since leaving care last year, Rafi, 26, has been moved six times. For them, home isn’t a place — it’s the emotional anchor found in prayer and relationships. These things last even when their surroundings change”.

The illustration shows Rafi, short-haired with rolled-up sleeves, sitting on a bed surrounded by photos and a red mug on the windowsill.

Rafi says,

“Home is a place that sees me through my good days and my bad days, without judgement. That’s what makes it feel safe”.

The text below adds that for many LGBTQ+ people — especially those who have experienced migration, family rejection, or instability — home is a thread of emotional connection that may have been broken.

It asks:

“What if services helped people feel emotionally grounded — offering long-term care, not short-term fixes, and making space for what matters most to them?”.

Page 4 – Mac’s Story

The text box reads:

“Thirty-five-year-old Mac struggled to find a refuge that would accept her. She found a hostel bed but was unsafe there. She now lives in a private rented flat. For her, home is not given, it’s made”.

Mac wears a necklace with a red feminist symbol. A picture of a parent and child hangs on the wall behind her. Protest signs read “Abolish no-fault evictions”, “More trans-inclusive refuges”, and “Trauma-informed care now”.

She says,

“It took a lot of work. I was evicted, had to take out a loan, find a landlord who’d accept housing benefit. I made that home myself”.

The highlighted text below reflects that for many, home is hard-fought.

Supporting queer people — particularly those who’ve faced interpersonal or institutional violence — means recognising the creative, incremental work of home-making.

It asks how practitioners can support people’s spatial autonomy and sense of safety.

Page 5 – Jules’s Story

The text box reads:

“Jules was kicked out as a teen for coming out. Now, 48 and in supported housing, Jules describes rare moments when they feel fully themselves and at ease. For them, home isn’t a location but a feeling that emerges briefly when their whole self is recognised”.

Jules sits in a wheelchair in a park, wearing red glasses and a hoodie with red drawstrings. They say,

“Sometimes, for a moment, I feel completely myself in a space. But then the vibe can change. It’s fleeting, but real”.

The text below notes that home may be temporary, something felt.

Feeling at home requires more than meeting physical needs — it depends on affirmation of people’s full identities, whether disabled, queer, racialised, or otherwise.

It asks what this means for social care, housing, health, and multi-agency practice.

Page 6 – Rey’s Story

The text box reads:

“Since arriving in the UK, 71-year-old refugee Rey has lived in squats, shared accommodation, and temporary care homes. Rey draws strength from his inter-generational queer community, but knows that home doesn’t come easily. It is built, negotiated, and protected daily, especially within systems that weren’t made for him”.

Rey sits in the foreground with glasses and a jacket, hands folded. Four people in the background laugh and talk.

He says,

“I need rules and boundaries in my home — but they should be made with me, not imposed on me”.

The text below explains that rules can create stability and consent but should never remove agency or dignity.

For LGBTQ+ people navigating unfamiliar systems, safety depends not just on structure but on shared decision-making.

It asks,

“What would it take for service providers to co-create space — not just provide it?”.

Page 7 – Maz’s Story

The text box reads:

“Care worker Maz shares a flat with his partners after years of housing instability. For him, home is built on care — not just the kind he gives, but also the kind he receives. Home is about living interdependently, not just surviving”.

Maz stands in the foreground with short curly hair, while two partners sit on a sofa behind him, smiling at a dog across their laps.

Maz says,

“When I moved in here, I could finally exhale. That’s when I came out as trans”.

The text below states that home can be built through interdependence, not independence. Affirming home means recognising collective arrangements and validating non-normative households.

It asks:

“How can care services honour the homes people create, rather than the ones policy imagines?”.

Page 8 – What Does It Mean to Support Someone in Feeling at Home?

The page title reads “What does it mean to support someone in feeling at home?”.

An illustration of the progress pride flag spans the page.

Text above says:

“This comic is just the start of a conversation. Take it to your next team meeting, maybe? Chew over some of the questions it poses?”.

Text below concludes:

“Helping people feel at home is part of what it means to provide meaningful care. Let’s build systems capable of recognising this for LGBTQ+ folk and beyond.”.

Back cover

The back cover title reads: “About the Artist: PJ Annand”.

An illustration of PJ appears beside text introducing them as an academic, artist, and activist with a background in gender, sexuality, housing, health, and care.

PJ writes:

“I am an academic, artist and activist with a background in gender and sexuality, housing, health and care. My past career was in the third sector, where I ran a national mental health service and led policy research on social justice issues. Nothing about us without us”.

A second section, titled “About the Project,” includes a QR code linking to Queering Shelter dot Surrey doc AC dot UK, and explains that the comic was informed by the Queering Shelter study, was edited by Gabi Putnoki, and was produced as part of the Care in Comics Project at CIRCLE, University of Sheffield, and the Centre for Care, the latter of which is in turn funded by the ESRC and NIHR.

Logos appear at the bottom for the Economic and Social Research Council, the National Institute for Health Research, the Centre for Care, the University of Sheffield, and CIRCLE.