



the lgbtq+ youth homelessness report

2021



housing and homelessness sector briefing

This briefing focuses on key findings, and the recommendations made for the housing and homelessness sector.

support sought while homeless

Just **13 per cent** of LGBTQ+ young people surveyed felt supported by parents or stepparents while homeless.

abuse from family members and romantic partners

LGBTQ+ young people told us about their experiences with family and romantic partners prior to becoming homeless. The majority of young people said they felt frightened of or threatened by family members prior to becoming homeless.

One in six (16 per cent) of LGBTQ+ young people who were happy to answer, were forced to do sexual acts against their will by family members before they became homeless. The same number had experienced this with a romantic partner.

Half of LGBTQ+ young people (50 per cent) who were happy to answer said they feared that expressing their LGBTQ+ identity to family members would lead to them being evicted. **Almost one in ten (7 per cent)** said the same about romantic partners.

impact of homelessness

Almost one fifth (17 per cent) of LGBTQ+ young people felt like they had to have casual sex to find somewhere to stay while they were homeless.

understanding and accessing services

Less than half (44 per cent) of LGBTQ+ young people were aware of housing support services the last time they experienced homelessness.

Only half (56 per cent) of LGBTQ+ young people who accessed housing support services while homeless were satisfied with their experience.

improving services

Two thirds (63 per cent) of LGBTQ+ young people want to see services offer more individualised, face to face support.

Half of LGBTQ+ young people want to see services use more inclusive language which recognises their identity.

Almost half (44 per cent) of LGBTQ+ young people want to see services communicate more on social media platforms.

Over one third (34 per cent) of LGBTQ+ young people want to see services use shorter, physical copies of communications materials.

recommendations

Recommendations for the housing and homelessness sector include:

Implement uniform mandatory monitoring of sexual orientation and gender identity on referral forms.

Ask for monitoring information on sexual orientation and gender identity as part of Homelessness Case Level Collection data.

Refer to akt's inclusive service delivery toolkit to help create inclusive environments where LGBTQ+ young people feel safe to disclose their gender identity and sexual orientation.

Implement changes to services based on LGBTQ+ young people's recommendations in this report, including specific recommendations highlighted by LGBTQ+ young people of colour, trans and disabled LGBTQ+ young people. Build upon these recommendations by involving young people in the design of services.

Commission training programmes for housing staff to raise awareness of the needs and experiences of LGBTQ+ young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. This should include a focus on further marginalised groups such as LGBTQ+ young people of colour, trans and disabled LGBTQ+ young people.

As well as these general recommendations, we're also asking stakeholders to address the disproportionate impact of homelessness on marginalised groups including LGBTQ+ young people of colour, disabled LGBTQ+ young people and trans young people.

To read the full report and its recommendations, visit akt.org.uk/report

methodology

The full report surveyed 161 LGBTQ+ young people who had experienced any form of homelessness in the last five years in the UK, while between the ages of 16 and 25. The sample is statistically significant.