



the lgbtq+ youth homelessness report

2021



local authorities briefing

This briefing focuses on key findings, and the recommendations made for local authorities.

support sought while homeless

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

Just one third (35 per cent) of LGBTQ+ young people sought support from their local authority 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 respondents 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

Two thirds (64 per cent) of LGBTQ+ young people said homelessness made it hard for them to establish or maintain new relationships, including friendships.

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

We asked LGBTQ+ young people about their experiences of accessing a range of services including housing support services and money advice services.

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

Almost one quarter (24 per cent) weren't aware of any support services available to them.

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 (50 per cent) 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 local authorities include:

Implement uniform mandatory monitoring of sexual orientation and gender identity in publicly commissioned housing and homelessness services.

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

Ensure equal opportunity monitoring policies are up to date and reflect the protected characteristic of gender reassignment and gender, helping services better understand the needs of gender diverse, trans and non-binary young people.

Conduct an audit to identify why so many LGBTQ+ young people don't turn to their local authority for support when facing homelessness, addressing potential issues around gatekeeping, and gathering research and insight from akt and other relevant service providers.

Ensure that cases where LGBTQ+ young people (particularly those who are gender diverse, trans and non-binary) have experienced domestic abuse are accurately recorded in internal case management software and Homelessness Case Level Collection Data.

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.

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