



the lgbtq+ youth homelessness report

2021



general services briefing

This briefing focuses on key findings, and the recommendations made for any service provider working with LGBTQ+ young people.

support sought while homeless

LGBTQ+ young people told us about what support was available to them while they were homeless; only a small minority felt supported by parents or stepparents.

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

Less than half (45 per cent) of LGBTQ+ young people approached community organisations 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.

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.

the 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

We asked LGBTQ+ young people about their experiences of accessing a range of services including sexual health and money advice services. **Almost one quarter (24 per cent)** weren't aware of any support services available to them.

discrimination faced while accessing services

Over a third (39 per cent) of LGBTQ+ young people have faced discrimination from services due to an illness, disability or mental health condition.

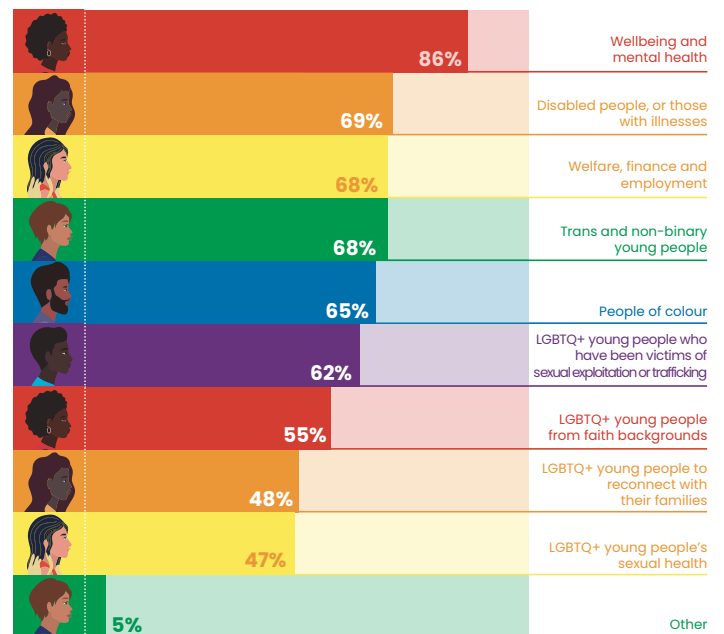
One quarter (25 per cent) of LGBTQ+ young people have faced discrimination from services for being homeless.

Around one-quarter of LGBTQ+ young people have faced discrimination from services for being gay (**27 per cent**), trans (**20 per cent**) while **13 per cent** had for being bisexual.

Over half (59 per cent) of LGBTQ+ young people have faced some form of discrimination or harassment while accessing services.

improving services

Aside from housing and homelessness, LGBTQ+ young people who've faced homelessness told us they'd also like to see services that support:



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.



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recommendations

Recommendations for service providers include:

Carry out a marketing audit that addresses the lack of awareness of support services among LGBTQ+ young people (including LGBTQ+ young people of colour, trans and disabled LGBTQ+ young people) and identify a course of action to help improve this. This could involve partnership working with akt or other relevant organisations.

Refer to akt's inclusive service delivery toolkit to help make services more inclusive of all 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.

Support services LGBTQ+ young people were asked about include: mental health, benefit and welfare, sexual health, employment and training, money advice, substance misuse services and services that support sexual exploitation or trafficking victims.



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