



# the lgbtq+ youth homelessness report

2021



## lgbtq+ sector briefing

This briefing focuses on key findings, and the recommendations made for the LGBTQ+ sector.

### support sought while homeless

**Just 13 per cent** of LGBTQ+ young people 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 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

**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.

### improving services

**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 LGBTQ+ sector are:

Ensure that LGBTQ+ youth homelessness is treated as a priority, and commission training for all staff members where appropriate.

Refer LGBTQ+ young people who are facing homelessness or experiencing housing issues to akt, and explore strategic partnerships to provide further help for these young people.

Ensure safeguarding provisions are in place for all LGBTQ+ service users that may be at risk of homelessness.

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.

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](http://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.