

# Domestic Violence & Abuse

Additional Findings Report  
December 2007

## Count Me In Too



## LGBT Lives in Brighton & Hove

Report written by

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in consultation with:

Count Me In Too Domestic Violence & Abuse Analysis Group

Research undertaken by Dr. Kath Browne and facilitated by Arthur Law

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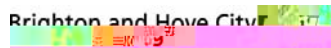
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# Synopsis of key findings

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30% of Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Trans (LGBT) people experience abuse from a family member or someone close to them in their lifetimes, there is evidence of multiple perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse. There are differences between those within the LGBT group, bi and trans people are more likely to experience domestic violence and abuse than lesbians and gay men, as are those who are disabled and have poor mental health. 22% report the violence or abuse. Almost a third of those who have experienced domestic violence and abuse defined their latest relationship as poor/troubled and 39% do not know where to go for help around sex or relationships.

A third of those who have experienced domestic violence and abuse have been homeless. 60% would like to have safe temporary accommodation that is LGBT specific. Domestic violence and abuse survivors are less likely to feel safe at home, going out at night or going out during the day, they also avoid going home and other spaces more than those who have not experienced domestic violence and abuse. Survivors of domestic violence and abuse are significantly more likely to have poor relationships with their families of origin, be at risk of suicide and experience difficulties with their mental health, than LGBT people who have not experienced abuse or violence from a family member or someone close to them. There is a desire for LGBT specific services for survivors of domestic violence and abuse. Those who have experienced domestic violence and abuse are more likely to be disengaged from services and more reluctant to use services. The majority of survivors think that their sexuality/gender orientation is important in their use of services.

# Executive Summary

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## Introduction

This report addresses all those who answered the question 'Have you ever experienced any abuse, violence or harassment from a family member or someone close to you?' and it therefore addresses domestic violence and abuse in a broad context, including family and partner violence and abuse. It forms part of the in-depth analysis of the Count Me In Too project which sought to identify and address the needs of LGBT people in Brighton and Hove. It draws on 819 responses to a questionnaire that elicited both qualitative and quantitative responses and a domestic violence focused interview. The report seeks to advance social change for LGBT people who have experienced domestic violence and abuse.

## Experiences of domestic violence and abuse

- 30% (n. 244) of this sample of LGBT people experienced violence, abuse or harassment from a family member or some

- Although gay men who experienced domestic violence and abuse were most likely to have experienced violence from a male partner (56% of those who had experienced domestic violence and abuse), 16% of female domestic violence and abuse survivors reported being abused by a male partner or ex-partner
- 51% of those who defined as physically disabled or as having a long term health impaired and 42% of those who defined as deaf, deafened or hard of hearing had experienced domestic violence and abuse. It is unclear if this caused the disability/deafness or if individuals were vulnerable to this form of abuse due to some form of disability/deafness.
- Those who are disabled (39%) and those who are deaf or hard of hearing (54%) are more likely to have experienced domestic abuse or violence from others than those who are not disabled or deaf.
- Over half (53%) of those with poor mental health in the last twelve months, and over a third (37%) of those who had experienced a mental health difficulty over the past five years indicated they had experienced abuse, violence or harassment from a family member or from someone close to them
- 58% of those who experience domestic violence are in debt
- 20% of those who have experienced domestic violence are parents or closely related to child

## Reporting LGBT domestic violence

- 22% have reported incidents of domestic violence, mainly to the police (56% of those who reported).
- For those who reported 42% said the response they received was good and 32% indicated that it was poor.
- Reasons for not reporting were varied and included a level of tolerance of violence and abuse

## Relationships and sex

- 32% of those who have experienced abuse from a partner and 24% of those who had experienced family violence and abuse described their most recent relationship as poor/troubled, compared to 13% of those who have not experienced abuse or violence.
- 39% of domestic violence and abuse survivors said that if they needed help around sex or relationships they would not know where to find it. Qualitative data indicated the lack of support for same sex relationships that could exacerbate already volatile situations leaving.
- 16% of those who have experienced domestic violence and abuse have been married

- Those who have experienced domestic violence and abuse are more likely to have taken payment for sex (15%) than those who have not experienced domestic violence and abuse (8%).

## Housing

- 33% of those who have experienced domestic violence and abuse (this % is true of both those abused by family members and those abused by partner or ex-partners) have been homeless at some point in their lives
- The qualitative data indicated that those who are subject to family domestic violence and abuse can put themselves into vulnerable partnered relationships to escape this abuse and violence.
- Vulnerabilities in terms of home ownership by a partner and there is the potential for these to be exacerbated in areas such as Brighton & Hove with the high cost of housing were identified in the qualitative data. These issues clearly have resonances with heterosexual partnered domestic violence.
- Applications for re-housing may not account for LGBT experiences of domestic violence and can cause further vulnerabilities, particularly if coupled with a requirement to come out
- 60% of survivors of domestic violence and abuse would like to have LGBT specific safe temporary housing
- Women's refuges can be alienating for women who have experienced same sex partnered violence.

## Safety and fear of crime

- Domestic violence and abuse survivors are less likely to feel safe at home (3% compared to below 1%), outside during the day (3% compared to 2%) and outside at night (23% compared to 11%).
- 27% of those who have experienced domestic violence avoided going home. They are also more likely to avoid spaces associated neighbourhoods, work and education/training, as well as public services and public transport because of their safety fears.

## Risk factors for survivors of domestic violence and abuse

- Over a quarter of those who have experienced domestic violence and abuse described their current relationship with their family of origin as poor or very poor compared to less than a tenth of those who had not experienced domestic violence and abuse.

- Survivors of domestic violence and abuse are significantly less likely to report their families of origin as supportive of the sexual/gender identities (32% compared to 40%) compared to those who have not experienced domestic violence and abuse
- 12% of those who have experienced domestic violence say that no one supports them on a regular basis. They are less likely to receive support from their families of origin both regularly (41% compared to 51%) and in a crisis (43% compared to 31%)
- 50% of those who experienced domestic violence reported feeling isolated in Brighton & Hove compared to 25% of those who had not experienced domestic violence and abuse
- Those who have experienced domestic violence and abuse are at a higher risk of suicide than those who have not. 35% had suicidal thoughts compared to 15% of non domestic violence survivors
- Those who have experienced domestic violence and abuse are more likely to have experienced difficulties with their mental health in the past five years and are far less likely than LGBT people who have not experienced domestic violence and abuse to say that they have not experienced any of these difficulties in the past five years (8% compared to 23%)

## Services

- There is a desire for specialist provision for LGBT survivors of domestic violence and abuse. 70% of survivors of domestic violence and abuse want an LGBT specific service providing support and counselling and 69% want an LGBT specific officer to report domestic violence to.
- Domestic violence and abuse survivors are more likely to be disengaged from services. 46% (compared to 25% of the rest of the sample) felt much more excluded/uncomfortable using mainstream services both because of their sexuality and for other reasons than those who have not experienced domestic violence and abuse. 15% said there were services that they did not use that were designed to meet their needs. 9% said that they find the council and other mainstream services unfriendly (compared to 1% of the rest of the sample).
- Services are not believed to work together to support survivors of domestic violence and abuse
- Survivors of domestic violence and abuse were more likely to disclose their identity to their GP (72%), who could potentially be a key point of contact, compared to those who have not experienced domestic violence and abuse (55%).
- 50% of those who have experienced domestic violence and abuse would like a specialist GP service. 92% of survivors of domestic violence and abuse would like to see a healthy living centre.
- 69% of domestic violence and abuse survivors think their sexual/gender identity is important in their use of services







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3. Improve the criminal justice response to domestic violence (increase reporting, arrests, offences brought to justice)
4. Support victims through the criminal justice system and to manage perpetrators to reduce risk and harm to victims and their children.

In relation to LGBT domestic violence, the National Delivery Plan –

- i Acknowledges that although it is known that domestic violence occurs in the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community, what isn't known is the extent of the problem nationally and what the community's service needs might be.
- i Acknowledges that under-reporting of domestic violence appears to be particularly severe among some groups, for example victims from black and minority ethnic (BME) groups, and victims from the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community.
- i States it is a priority to commission research into the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities for the coming year (07/08).
- i States that the Government remains committed to providing a service to the LGBT community, and will be developing new proposals for delivering a domestic violence helpline service to victims from the LGBT community, and ensuring the community contributes expertise to broader training packages.
- i States that the Forced Marriage Units two-year strategy will include "taking forward work to engage with men, the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community, and members of the older generation".

(National Domestic Violence Delivery Plan:  
Annual Progress Report 2006/07)

In relation to the above, Count Me In Too in part meets the requirement for "consulting with and identifying what the LGBT community's service needs are in relation to domestic violence". The recommendations from Count Me In Too both address and could inform future national domestic violence delivery plans.

### 1.3. Definitions

For the purposes of this report the term **domestic violence and abuse** is used to represent the experiences of those who answered yes to the question; "have you experienced abuse, violence or harassment from a family member or someone close to you?" This is slightly different to the question posed in the 2000 Count Me In survey, where the question posed related to experiences of abuse, violence or harassment experienced in the home. The differences between those who have experienced abuse, violence and harassment and those who have not are also reported in this report.

It should be noted from the outset that this includes all personal relationships including with family, partners and others who are defined as 'close'. This report cannot comment in depth on the motivations for this violence as this was beyond the scope of the research. However, it is noted that some of this abuse may be attributed to homophobia, transphobia and biphobia (by all forms of perpetrators -including partners). This is distinct from the traditional view of domestic violence which locates it within heterosexual partnerships, and can attribute the abuse to factors such as patriarchy (see Pain, 1997), although misogyny and patriarchy should not be ruled out as motivations for LGBT domestic violence and abuse.

In this report survivors of domestic violence and abuse are defined as those who have experienced domestic violence and abuse as an adult as well as when they were children . It is recognised that this

Genital Mutilation (FGM), so-called 'honour' crimes and killings; trafficking into forced prostitution and forced labour), violence and abuse perpetrated by someone close to the survivor is an important consideration when addressing LGBT experiences of domestic violence and abuse. This has ramifications for the provision of services, including domestic violence and abuse services, to LGBT people.

Whatever form it takes, domestic violence is not a one-off incident, and should instead be seen as a pattern of abusive and controlling behaviour through which the abuser seeks power

LGBT people are often survivors of multiple forms of abuse and distinctions between child and adult abuse can be unhelpful (and this also applies to violence against women generally as above) and may not address the commonalities LGBT domestic violence and abuse survivors have across a range of perpetrators. Nevertheless, despite the limitations of this definition the report seeks to engage with existing local structures to address the absence of services that address LGBT domestic violence and abuse. Therefore, throughout the report distinctions are made between violence and abuse from family members, from partners and from others.

However, due to the way the question was asked it is not possible to differentiate between those who have experienced domestic violence as a child and those who have experienced domestic violence as an adult from family members (we can tell who has only experienced domestic violence as an adult (i.e. those who said no to the question, 'when you were a child did you experience abuse or violence from a family member or someone close to you. However, this figure is not an accurate representation of all of adult domestic violence and abuse as there may be those who experienced violence and abuse as an adult and as a child). Therefore, child abuse and adult abuse from family members are reported together. However, it is assumed that abuse by partners and ex-partners constitute adult domestic violence and abuse. Therefore partnered domestic violence can be reported.

In this report, those who have been abused by partners, and those who have been abused by family members are reported, in order to facilitate engagement with specific services. Where they are not reported as separate groups, the difference in percentages was marginal. It should be noted, however, that 21% of respondents who experienced violence and abuse from a family member also experienced violence and abuse partner/ex-partner and therefore these categories are not mutually exclusive. Further research should seek to differentiate these categories and explore potential similarities and differences between those abused as children and those abused as adults. This research offers fruitful lines of enquiry to begin this venture, pointing to further areas of research development as well as suggesting policy guidelines and recommendations.

## 1.4. Outline of the report

This report will now move on to the findings of the data:

- i Sample of LGBT survivors of domestic violence and abuse: This chapter will outline who is addressed in this report and the

- i Reporting of domestic violence and abuse: level of reporting and satisfaction as well as outlining why incidents of domestic violence were not reported.
- i Relationships and sex: This chapter covers partnered relationships, marriage and sex, exploring specific issues for LGBT people who have experienced both partnered and family domestic violence and abuse.
- i Housing: The housing chapter will explore homelessness and experiences of fleeing partnered domestic violence and abuse, this will highlight the absence of services in this area.
- i Safety Fears: The report addresses LGBT survivors of domestic violence and their fear of crime in relation to the rest of the LGBT sample.
- i Risk factors for survivors of domestic violence and abuse: The risk and vulnerabilities chapter will address specific risk factors identified in this research, examining support networks, isolation, suicide thoughts and attempts, and mental health.
- i







sexual identities). This question highlighted that 12 people who said no to the domestic violence and abuse question, reported that they had experienced abuse, bullying or harassment from family, partners and/or lovers in relation to their gender/sexual identity in the past five years. Although a small number, this highlights under-reporting of this issue and perhaps a general lack of understanding regarding domestic violence and abuse. However, in this paper for brevity and clarity, those who reported that they had not experienced abuse, violence or harassment from a family member or someone close to them are considered as domestic violence or abuse survivor.

### 2.2.1. Perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse

The respondents were asked a general question regarding who perpetrated the violence, abuse or harassment. This question allowed for multiple responses. The results are shown in figure 2.2a below. These percentages only include those who answered yes to experiencing violence, abuse and harassment from a family member or someone close to them.

Figure 2.2a: Was the abuser a... (% of those who answered yes to Q23, i.e. who had experienced abuse from a family member / someone close to them)

- |                  |                   |                     |
|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| A Family Member  | E Male Ex partner | I Female Ex partner |
| B Male Partner   | F Neighbour       | J Trans partner     |
| C Female Partner | G Other           | K Carer             |
| D Friend         | H Visitor         |                     |

Table 2.2b shows the composition for the categories of analysis used for this survey. These are the composite categories used to create statistically significant results and also address the service provision that differentiates between adult and child abuse, as well as between partner and other forms of abuse and violence. Four people had experienced abuse from a trans partner. These are classified in the 'other' category in order to create abused by male/female partner categories. Although this is not ideal, the trans category could not be differentiated on the basis of gender for this research.

Table 2.2b: The composition of each of the categories used for analysis

Family members	experienced violence, abuse and/or harassment from family members
Partners or ex-partners	experienced violence, abuse and/or harassment from female or male current and/or ex-partner(s)
Male partners or ex-partners	experienced violence, abuse and/or harassment from male current and/or ex-partner(s)
Female partners or ex-partners	experienced violence, abuse and/or harassment from female current and/or ex-partner(s)
Others	experienced violence, abuse and/or harassment from friend, carer, trans-7 668.24 10.02 203.4 684.620303.4 6 239. 10.02 0

also experienced abuse from someone else other than a partner or ex-partner or family member. 9 people were abused by people in all three of these categories.

These experiences of multiple perpetrators suggest ongoing experiences of violence and abuse. They also point to particular vulnerabilities to further abuse and violence from those other than the original perpetrator. This is a risk factor which should be accounted for when addressing LGBT needs.

### 2.2.3. Childhood abuse

Just under half (48%) of those who answered the domestic violence and abuse question said that yes to the question 'when you were a child did you experience abuse or violence from a family member or someone close to you?' (see table 2.2d). Thus, 13% of the entire sample had experienced abuse or violence as a child. However, this question was only posed to those who had experienced abuse, violence or harassment from a family member or someone close to them and not to the entire sample. Therefore, this may be an undercounting of the prevalence of experiences of abuse or violence in childhood as it does not include that perpetrated by anyone other than family members or people close to the individual. Due to the sensitivities associated with this question, particularly amongst the LGBT population, where child abuse can wrongly be associated with sexual/gender identities, it was felt that this was the most appropriate place to put this question.

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) estimate that 7% of children experienced serious physical abuse at the hands of their parents or carers during childhood, 6% of children experienced serious absence of care at home during childhood, 6% of children experienced frequent and severe emotional maltreatment during childhood (Cawson et al, 2000). Although these figures are not comparable with the question asked here, they do highlight an area of need for LGBT young people. The NSPCC figures and the Count Me In Too figures point to a need that may need to be addressed with LGBT young people and with LGBT people as adults.

Table 2.2d: When you were a child, did you experience abuse or violence from a family member or someone close to you?(% of those who answered 'yes' having experienced abuse, violence and/or harassment from family / someone close to them)



Figure 2.3a: Experiences of sexual assault and criminal damage by surviving domestic violence and abuse

### 2.3.1. Other people affected by the abuse

70 respondents (which equates to 29% of all who had experienced abuse from a family member / someone close to them, or 9% of all respondents) selected at least one of the boxes in question 23b, indicating that **someone else had been affected by the abuse** . The most common

indicated that other people were affected by this abuse. This suggests that there are particular vulnerabilities relating to experiences of abuse and violence. The British Crime Survey (2000) found that 57% of domestic violence victims were repeat victims. Previous sexual assault is also a risk factor for future violence (see chapter 2.3). Supporting this is the evidence from other safety questions (regarding sexual assault) which indicate that survivors of domestic violence are more likely than those who have not experienced domestic violence to have been victims of sexual assault as well as criminal damage. From this research it is unclear if this was related to their experiences of domestic violence and abuse.

The prevalence of domestic violence and abuse suggests that **there is a need to address this across a range of services, including child and adult services, domestic violence, safety services and other support systems**. Although domestic violence and abuse should never be presumed simply because a person is LGBT, neither should it be ruled out. The remainder of the report will address variations between LGBT people and experiences of domestic violence and abuse before moving into the specific areas of reporting, relationships, families, fear, support, health, housing and consultation and monitoring.





# 3. Differences in experiences of domestic violence and abuse between LGBT people

## 3.1. Introduction

Although the term LGBT is used throughout this and other reports, this is a disparate grouping. This chapter investigates the differences between this grouping, exploring those who may be most vulnerable within this categorisation. It also offers key demographics for this grouping. The chapter moves through gendered differences, to differences relating to sexuality, ethnicity, disability, deaf and hard of hearing and mental health difficulties. The research illuminates some key differentiations between these groupings and it then outlines the age range of the sample, number of parents and differences from the overall sample in relation to debt.

## 3.2. Gender of the survivor

Findings from the British Crime Survey (Walby and Allen, 2004), found that in the year prior to interview, there were an estimated 129 million incidents of domestic violence acts (nonsexual threats or force) against women and 2.5 million against men in England and Wales. Moreover, the often cited figure of domestic violence affecting one in four women and one in six men conceals that 47 per cent of male victims experienced a single incident with a mean average of seven incidents per victim compared with only 28 per cent of female victims experiencing a single incident with a mean average of 20 incidents per victim. Researchers concluded therefore that gender, is a "significant risk factor" as "women are more likely than men to experience interpersonal violence, especially sexual violence" (Kane, 2007, p. 6).

domestic violence. Thus, LGBT men may be at more risk of this form of abuse and violence than the general sample. However, due to the lifetime scope of the data it is important to treat these figures with caution. Further research is needed to ascertain whether LGBT experiences mirror or challenge heterosexual gender differences in experiences of repeat

Table 3.2a shows the gendered breakdown of experiences of domestic violence and abuse. This result mirrors that found in the Count Me In research where men (18%) were less likely to have experienced abuse,

Table 3.2b Have you ever experienced any abuse, violence or harassment from a family member or from someone close to you?by recoded 'abused by' categories

Abused by ...		Male DV&A survivors	Female DV&A survivors	No gender/other gender DV&A survivor	Total
Partner or ex-partner	No.	66	60	3	131
	%	56.9	55.0	37.5	55.0
Family Members	No.	47	49	5	102
	%	40.5	45.02	12 re f 0 g BT 654.2 -5. Vd8.2 -5. Vd8.12 25 1 scn 230.3	

### 3.4. Sexuality

Slightly under half of bisexuals (44%, n. 19) and around a third of lesbians / gay women (34% n. 91) also stated they had experienced abuse, violence or harassment from a family member / someone close to them. Gay men were the least likely to have experienced this (25%, n. 104) (see table 10.3 a). The presence of a significant difference between the bisexual and other category and lesbians and gay men is another area that



For all LGBT people, domestic violence and abuse can pertain to a rejection of their sexual and gender identities. This can have similar consequences for all genders (for example forced marriage, isolation and overcoming religious and cultural pressures).

### 3.6. Disability

Those who identified as disabled or having a long term impairment were more likely to have experienced abuse, violence or harassment from a family member / someone close to them ( $p < 0.05$ ) than other respondents. Half (51%) of those who defined as physically disabled or long term health impaired had experienced this compared to just over a quarter (27%) of those who did not identify in this category (see table 3.6a). This indicates an area of vulnerability that may have been caused by domestic violence and abuse, or may be exploited by perpetrators of violence.

Table 3.6a: Domestic violence and abuse by physical disability or long term health impairment

Physical disability/long term health impairment		Yes	No	Total
Yes	No.	57	56	113
	%	50.4	49.6	100
No	No.	182	484	666
	%	27.3	72.7	100
Total	No.	239	540	779
	%	30.7	69.3	100

$P < 0.0005$  (Continuity Correction)

This is consistent with the limited research that has been conducted into the experiences of disabled women, which shows that disabled women are twice as likely to experience domestic violence as non-disabled women (1995 British Crime Survey, also confirmed by data from other countries). They are also likely to experience abuse over a longer period of time and to suffer more severe injuries as a result of the violence. Further research should explore LGBT experiences of domestic violence and abuse in relation to disability.

Disabled people are also more likely to have experienced abuse from others (39%) than non-disabled people who have experienced domestic violence and abuse (23%). Although some of these others included friends and family, there is a need to investigate the vulnerability of this grouping within LGBT populations.

### 3.7. Deaf or hard of hearing

Those with a hearing impairment were more likely (42%) to have experienced abuse from a family member or someone close to them than other respondents (30%), but the difference was not statistically significant.

Table 3.7a Domestic violence and abuse by hearing impairment

		Yes	No	Total
Yes	No.	10	14	24
	%	41.7	58.3	100
No	No.	230	530	760
	%	30.3	69.7	100
Total	No.	240	544	784
	%	30.6	69.4	100

Not Significant

Similar to the disabled grouping above, deaf and hard of hearing people (54%, n. 7) are more likely to be abused by others than non-deaf people (35%, n. 56) ( $p=.02$ ) who have experienced domestic violence and abuse. Although these figures are low, they should be taken as indicative and addressed both within Deaf communities and services and LGBT communities and services.

### 3.8. Mental health

There was also a statistically significant relationship ( $p < 0.05$ ) between those who identified with particular mental health difficulties and those who have experienced some form of abuse, violence or harassment from a family member or from someone close. Over half (53%) of those with poor mental health in the last tw







### 3.11. Parenting or closely related to a child

20% of those who have experienced domestic violence, compared to 14% of those who have not experienced domestic violence are parents or closely related to a child (p. =.04). 23% of those who have been abused by family members are parents and 24% of those who have been abused by partner or ex-partners are parents.

39% of those who said that a child under 16 was also affected by the violence are also parents. Although from this survey it cannot be ascertained whether it was these children that were affected by the violence and abuse, this is an area of consideration for services and further research. It should be noted that a violent or abusive home situation could be coupled with bullying at school due to a parents sexual/gender identity and other forms of vulnerability for children. This would require support mechanisms for both children and parents.

### 3.12. Conclusions

It can be seen that more vulnerable/marginalised/less powerful groups within the LGBT such as women, those who are disabled, D/deaf or have had poor mental health in the past 12 months are more likely to have experienced domestic violence and abuse. Similarly, those who can be considered more marginalised, trans people, bi people and those who defined their ethnicity as 'other' are also more likely to be survivors of domestic violence. Similar to other research, it can also be concluded that domestic violence is gendered, that is, the gender of both victim and offender influences the behaviours of both. Those who have survived domestic violence are more likely to be in debt. Women are more likely to have experienced abuse from a partner or ex-partner of a different gender than men. From this research it is clear that there are areas of potentially multiple marginalisation and vulnerabilities associated with surviving domestic violence and abuse. Further investigations should explore the intersections between different experiences of marginality and abuse and violence. Furthermore, it is clear that domestic violence and abuse should be considered across the range of services that provide for LGBT people.



## 4. Reporting of domestic violence and abuse

### 4.1. Introduction

It is acknowledged that domestic violence and abuse is hugely under-reported to authorities and the police in heterosexual partnership contexts and in terms of child abuse. This chapter examines the reporting of LGBT domestic violence and abuse. It addresses the level of reporting and

Nationally, much domestic violence still goes unreported to the police. While many survivors have sought help from the police in an emergency, for others calling the police is not the first option, and is often only a last resort after repeated attacks. Every minute in the UK, the police receive a call from the public for assistance for domestic violence. This leads to police receiving an estimated 1,300 calls each day or over 570,000 each year (Stanko, 2000). However, according to the British Crime Survey, only 40.2% of actual domestic violence crime is reported to the police (Dodd et al, 2004).

Many aspects of domestic violence are difficult to define as crimes, nor do they fit readily into common categories of 'assault' under criminal law. This 'incident-focused' system doesn't adequately address many aspects of ongoing coercive, abusive and threatening behaviour, and the psychological harm that this can cause. Nevertheless the criminal justice system has an important role to play in preventing and challenging domestic violence, both symbolically and practically.

There was some evidence that the police were not always respectful to LGBT survivors. This incident occurred outside of Brighton & Hove:

Researcher 1: **Do you feel they [the police, outside Brighton & Hove] were respectful to you?**

Judith: **No, they used to say 'Oh, it's you two dykes again. Oh, it's you two'. So yeah, that was a problem.**

(Domestic violence and abuse interview)

For those who reported some form of violence, abuse and harassment from a family member or someone else

Respondents were least likely to state that they did not report because of their non-productive past experience of reporting (4%). Of those who gave reasons for not reporting an incident (of domestic abuse), over a third (36%) indicated they this was for another reason to those offered on the questionnaire. Respondents were asked to specify why they didn't report the incident. Table 4.2c indicates the more common reasons in this data.

Table 4.2c: Why didn't you report?- other please specify

Reason given	Number
Not important/serious/not realising it was abuse	12
Dealt with it myself	9
Personal/private issue	6
Didn't need reporting/unreportable (e.g. verbal abuse)	8
Too long ago	2
Would have outed myself/related to coming out	2
Violence from both parties	3

12 people said that they did not realise it was abuse or did not consider the incident serious enough. This points to a need for education regarding domestic violence and abuse, as well as a re-assessment of acceptable forms of interactions. A further 8 people said that the in

Family specific reasons included: Because he was my father and we thought it was discipline I was a child; I just kept quiet; Family disagreement over inviting other family members to a commitment ceremony. These reasons highlight the diverse nature of family domestic violence and abuse that may or may not be related to sexual/gender identities.

## 4.3. Conclusions

Domestic violence and abuse is clearly underreported amongst LGBT people. Amongst the wide variety of reasons for not reporting domestic violence and abuse, it is clear that there are specific emotional issues, that relate to connections between those who are implicated in the experience, the perception of 'private issues' and the concealment of sexual/gender identities. The desire to help and heal is one that should be noted and points to the need for partnership working to increase domestic violence and abuse reporting, and perhaps more importantly to ensure that survivors of domestic violence and abuse are supported. However, there is a need to address the under reporting of domestic violence and abuse across the range addressed here from family violence and abuse to partner violence and abuse as well as violence and abuse from others.



# 5. Relationships and Sex

## 5.1. Introduction

99% of those who have experienced domestic violence have been in a relationship (compared to 96% of those who have not experienced abuse,  $p = .02$ ). 37% are not in a relationship now, 55% are in a relationship with someone of the same sex, 5% with a person of a different gender, 1% with more than one person. This chapter will address partnered relationships, marriage and sex, exploring specific issues for LGBT people who have experienced both partnered and family domestic violence and abuse.

## 5.2. Poor/troubled relationships

73% of those who have survived domestic violence described their current or most recent relationship as good or satisfactory, compared to 87% of those who had not experienced domestic violence and abuse. Although we cannot infer that these relationships were violent or abusive, there is a highly significant association ( $p < .00001$ ) between being



problems, and she's didn't address them and we did ask for counselling for her and even me, I said that I would like to go with her maybe, to help her see what's wrong with her and to help her understand herself. But there wasn't enough things open for us as being a lesbian couple. There was nothing, without children, and I can't do everything myself, you know.

In Canada there have been instances where children have been removed from their families due to homophobic attitudes from social workers towards same sex relationships. These have included the attribution of the abuse in lesbian relationships to the 'unhealthy / abnormal' state of lesbian relationships. In this quote, Judith indicated that social services were involved in ensuring the safety and well-being of her children and required her to make changes to her behaviour and sign and undertaking to do so. The harm of domestic violence and abuse to children should not be underestimated, yet the dangers of homophobic, biphobic and transphobic attribution should also be guarded against.

Judith's narrative in this quote reiterates the reasons given for not reporting domestic violence and abuse (see chapter 4 above). Participants in the questionnaires noted specific difficulties pertaining to the punishment model of the policing system and the problems with attributing blame to one partner. Here the **lack of general support for LGBT troubled relationships was problematic** . However, services and support for, and interventions in, LGBT relationships should be aware of the potential **harm of remaining in abusive relationships** . This is a particularly important factor for relationship counselling (e.g. Relate and similar projects). There is growing evidence of the **contra-indication of relationship counselling in order to sustain an abusive relationship** , as this can put survivors at further risk and increase the negative emotional impacts of these relationships. However, where domestic violence and abuse is not a current issue, these counselling services could prevent abusive situations occurring as well as helping LGBT relationships.

In detailing the abusive relationship, it is clear that Judith's ex- partner was both dependant and violent, and that this violence was at times reciprocated. Yet, the focus on her children's protection is clear in the narrative and it is apparent that this is Judith's primary concern and the reason she fled her home. Parents can employ diverse strategies to protect their children in violent and abusive situations. It is important in violent relationships that the safety of children is recognised by services and those involved in the relationship, in order to mitigate against the effects of domestic violence and abuse for children. Although the presence of the children made the situation difficult, it was also the reason that Judith left. This indicates that where children are present they can in part offer some incentive to leave the relationship and the relationship can have some support from children's' social services (although only for the protection of the children). Where having children is perceived as a barrier, financially and emotionally, to fleeing the home, this may result in hiding/minimizing the abuse. Judith was aware of the implications of domestic violence and abuse on her children and sought to bring them to safety. This may not be the case for all. Moreover, children may effectively 'tie' a partner into an abusive relationship. In addition, leaving an abuser can result in more danger as Judith notes she moved numerous times to 'get away from her'.

Leaving relationships can be complex and risky and cannot be simplistically ascribed to 'protecting the children'. In contrast, where children are not present, individuals will not be motivated to end the relationship to ensure the safety of the children, and will not receive intervention from social services seeking to minimise harm to the children. (as Judith notes 'there was no counselling that did not involve children'). There should be further investigations of relationships where children are not and are present, considering **the safety of those in the relationship, and not solely the safety of the children**. This should also consider the factors that trigger LGBT people to report and leave domestic violence and abuse situations.

## 5.4. Marriage

**16% of those who have experienced domestic violence have been married**. 11% of male survivors have been married, compared to 20% of female survivors of domestic violence and abuse. This should be coupled with the statistic reported above that 16% of LGBT women experienced domestic violence and abuse from a male partner or ex-partner (3% of male respondents reported violence or abuse from a female partner or ex-partner). Count Me In research found that 32% of female respondents who reported abuse, violence and harassment in the home said they had experienced violence from a male ex-partner compared 4% of male respondents from a female partner.

It cannot be assumed that these marriages were violent relationships. They could be escape mechanisms from family violence and abuse:

**I was only a teenager at the time so I don't remember much about it but my clothes were always creased because I slept in them and I was sneaking into the local sports centre first thing in the morning when the cleaner left the door open, to get a shower. I just couldn't be at home at the time because it didn't feel safe. It's how I ended up married to a man because he looked after me when I was 16.**

(Questionnaire 326)

In this quote the respondent does not refer to a violent relationship, however, she does highlight the vulnerability of those who suffer abuse and violence from family members, such that individuals can put themselves into further unsafe relationships. In this case, troubled family environments and the need to feel safe can mean that LGBT people find solutions to their homelessness in ways that may conflict with their sexual identities and can potentially put them into further danger (see chapter 6.2). This again suggests an area of vulnerability which may affect those dependant on family support, housing and finances and may offer some indication of why **21% (n. 21) of those who were abused by family members also experienced abuse, violence and harassment from a partner or ex-partner.**

## 5.5. Payment for sex

People who have experienced domestic violence and abuse (15%) are more likely to have taken payment for sexual acts, whether coerced or by choice, than those who have no experience of domestic violence (8%) ( $p=.001$ ). This figure is 13% for those abused by family members and 16% of those abused by partner or ex-partners. 18% of those abused by male partner or ex-partners (n. 15) and 10% of those abused by female partner or

as adults and as children. In partnered relationships the harmful impacts of domestic violence and abuse can in part be mitigated against by survivors, perpetrators and services. This requires awareness training of children's needs and ensuring these are met.

In reporting the statistics for marriage, it was not assumed that these were violent relationships. Yet the **potential vulnerability of those who are subject to family domestic violence and abuse** to enter unsafe relationships (including marital ones) was highlighted. This will be further addressed in housing and homelessness (see chapter 6). Those who have experienced domestic violence and abuse are more likely to have accepted payment for sex. Although, this cannot from the data be attributed to the domestic violence and abuse, it is an area that needs to be considered both by services who cater for sex workers and those who engage with survivors of domestic violence and abuse.

# 6. Housing

## 6.1. Introduction

Similar to the rest of the sample, 87% of survivors of domestic violence live in Brighton & Hove, with 13% living elsewhere. 84% of those who have experienced violence from a family member and 89% of those abuse by partner or ex-partners live in Brighton & Hove. This chapter will explore homelessness and experiences of fleeing partnered domestic violence and abuse, this will highlight the absence of services in this area.

## 6.2. .sTf 0 Tc 10.02 0 0 10.02 521.9999 719.720( )T48 g 6 cs 0

6% of those who have experienced domestic violence and abuse and have been homeless at some point in their lives are sleeping rough (including sleeping rough; living in temporary council accommodation; staying in a hostel; staying with friends; sofa-surfing) now. For those who have experienced domestic violence and abuse there is an age differential to this figure, with 15% (n. 2) of those who are aged between 16 -25 having experienced domestic violence and abuse, and being currently homeless (see table 6.2b). Although these numbers are low (n.2), there is a need for housing and other youth services to consider experiences of domestic violence and abuse. It should also be noted that 27% of those who have not experienced domestic violence and abuse are now homeless and are aged between 16-25 (n. 4). Thus, these experiences should not be considered universal or the only reason young people are homeless. (Note: these results are only indicative as the counts in 20% of the cells are less than 5 and therefore too small for statistical significant results. It is appreciated that 13 people who are currently homeless engaged with this survey).

Table 6.2b: Experience of domestic violence and abuse by current homelessness and age

Have you ever experienced domestic violence and abuse	Are you now sleeping rough?	Age Group				
		16 - 25	26 - 35	36 - 45	46 - 55	56 - 65
Yes	Yes	2	0	0	0	0
Yes	No	0	0	0	0	0
No	Yes	4	0	0	0	0
No	No	0	0	0	0	0



### 6.3.1. Family

It is well established that 'heterosexual' parents and families of origin can have violent and/or disapproving reactions to their LGBT children's gender or sexual identities or relationships. This has clear housing implications, perhaps most obviously where young people are dependant on their parents. The combination of dependencies and parental reactions can range from discomfort in the 'family' home to physical violence and abuse:

At the time I didn't identify as homeless, but was living with parents when I came out and didn't want to stay at their house because of their reaction so I stayed with friends in temporary sublets until I sorted somewhere to live

(Questionnaire 610)

I was homeless in the sense I had no permanent address. Parents were unhappy about sexuality so I had to get other housing ASAP – hence why I am in supported housing now.

(Questionnaire 538)

The urgency of second quote suggests that for some remaining at home is not possible. The area of vulnerability highlighted in these narratives surround the family home. Family housing is often presumed to be a safe area for children and young people. However, as this and other LGBT studies (Cull et al, 2006) illustrate, LGBT youth can be vulnerable not only to domestic violence and abuse but also to homelessness as a result of parents/guardians reactions to their sexual and gender identities. Family abuse and violence, as well as feelings of discomfort and rejection can mean that LGBT people are pushed into vulnerable or unpleasant situations.

### 6.3.2. Partner

Similar to results found in heterosexual studies and studies of lesbians and gay men, those LGBT people who live with their partners are vulnerable when these relationships break down. However, this vulnerability may not have a gendered dimension (in the traditional assumption of patriarchal power). This research found that there were clear class-based issues related to home ownership and control of the primary residence.

Breakdown of a relationship with a partner whom I lived with was homeowner and therefore I had to leave the property with nowhere to go.

(Questionnaire,449 )



The narrative here highlights the possibilities for abuse and violence. The

are fleeing from domestic violence and abuse and not only those who have experienced partnered violence (see also Cull et al, 2006).

The remainder of this chapter will draw on the domestic violence and abuse interview conducted as part of the research to highlight two key areas of concern for same-sex partners fleeing domestic violence. This data is presented in the narrative tradition of enabling people to speak at length about their experiences and was recorded with trained support workers acting as interviewers.

### 6.4.1. Refuge experiences

In the domestic violence interview the interviewee highlighted some key areas and problems relating to the use of refuges by in her case lesbian women. These stories are indicative and need further investigation. They are used here to shed light on some of the key issues facing lesbians and bisexual women in refuges.

Coming to a refuge as a survivor of same sex partnered violence can be difficult particularly where other refuge users may assume that survivors have come from heterosexual relationships. This participant identifies the problems of coming out in refuges:

Researcher 1: What was the refuge experience like for you?

Judith: They was all shocked that I was gay.

Researcher 2: Did they treat you any differently?

Judith: Well, yeah, because they thought it was just normal... they had got kids and it was normal for men and women, problems with their men and when they found out it was with my girlfriend...

Researcher 2: It was a surprise.

Judith: Yeah, it...

Researcher 1: Was it quite uncomfortable?

Judith: Yeah it was, very.

Researcher 1: Did you feel isolated?

Judith: Yeah, I did. I was in my room most of the time. Because they might have thought that I was going to come on to them or they couldn't go to the bathroom with their towels or, do you get what I mean, so...

Researcher 2: And did you feel like the workers at the refuge understood what it was like particularly...

Judith: No, they didn't.

Researcher 2: ... for you being in a gay relation... lesbian relationship.

Judith: No, they didn't, not at all.

Researcher 2: Can you give an example?

Judith: Because there was mostly straight people in there. Well, all straight people. I was the only gay person there. So...

Researcher 2 :

round into my little room, basically, there's not enough space. We've only got this space to play and eat and







# 7. Safety Fears

## 7.1. Introduction

Fear of crime is not necessarily linked to risks of experiencing crime. However, it can be a serious infringement on an individual's movement and their use of public and private spaces. This chapter will address LGBT survivors of domestic violence and their experiences of crime in relation to the rest of the LGBT sample. It should be noted that LGBT people in general can be more fearful of crime related to their sexual/gender identity than heterosexuals. This chapter will investigate survivors feelings of safety and their avoidance of places, from the outset it is noted that fear of crime can relate to a plethora of issues and cannot be conflated with experiences of domestic violence and abuse.

## 7.2. Feelings of safety

There is a statistically significant association in the data between those who have experiences of domestic violence and abuse and feelings of safety in your home, outside during the day and night, and going out at night. People who had experienced domestic violence and abuse from a family member or someone close to them were more likely to say that they felt less safe at home (3% compared to below 1%), outside during the day (3% compared to 2%) and outside at night (23% compared to 11%) (see figure 7.2a) ( $p < .0001$ ).

Figure 7.2a: How safe do you feel at home, outside at night, outside during the day by surviving domestic violence and abuse







8.









Similarly to the figures regarding regular support mechanisms, in a crisis LGBT people who have experienced domestic violence are less likely to find support from their families of origin (38% compared to 51%, 1c% comparedf -0.00 Tm [(S

Table 8.3a: Isolation by domestic violence and abuse survivor

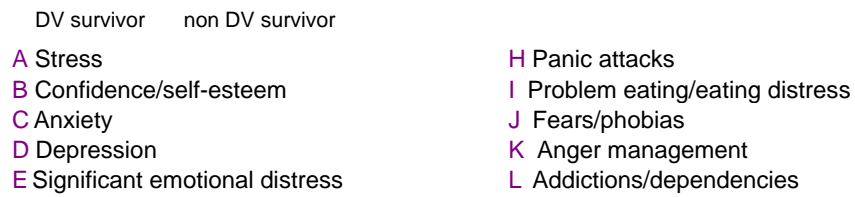
	DV&A survivor	Not reported DV&A	Total
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are generally concerning, the differences between LGBT individuals in relation to experiences of domestic violence and abuse illuminates a specific risk factor relating to survivors of domestic violence and abuse. It should be noted that the suicide questions were only posed to those who had said that they experienced difficulties with particular mental health issues, including suicidal thoughts in the last 5 years.

Table 8.4a: Domestic violence and abuse and risk of suicide

Difficulties with... Suicidal thoughts (question posed to entire sample)		DV&A survivor	Not reported DV&A	Total
		No.	85	82
	%	35.1	15.5	21.7

Figure 8.5a: Mental health difficulties in last five years %



is a significant issue for LGBT people, the increased prevalence of these issues in this grouping are specifically important. The combined risk factors identified here, in addition to those already established from heterosexual studies, can make this part of the LGBT population vulnerable and marginalised, as well as simultaneously harder to reach and more in need of support and services.

What is not clear from the data is whether **these risk factors are a result of domestic violence and abuse** and/or **these risk factors make individuals more vulnerable to domestic violence and abuse**. It is clear that those working with LGBT people should be aware of these issues and the potential vulnerabilities of this group. The co-ordination and linking of services is important to supporting LGBT survivors of domestic violence and abuse.



# 9. Services

## 9.1. Introduction

Although there are services that cater for survivors of domestic violence and abuse, these are grossly under-funded (Brighton & Hove City Council, 2003). Moreover, mainstream services can be unaware of the specific issues for LGBT people who have experienced domestic violence and abuse. This chapter explores what services survivors of domestic violence would like to see, their use of GP services, their perceptions of, and access to, mainstream services. It will highlight specific areas of need and the potential for development.

## 9.2. Services for Survivors of Domestic Violence and Abuse

For survivors of domestic violence and abuse the most popular request was for an **LGBT specific service providing support and counselling** (70%). This was closely followed by an LGBT specific officer to report domestic violence to (69%). LGBT temporary housing (60%) is desired by the majority of those who answered this question, with awareness training for statutory and voluntary services (59%) follow closely behind this.

Table 9.2a: Could any of the following improve the services to LGBT people experiencing domestic violence by those abused by family members and ex-partners

	Abused by family
Could any be improved	





## 9.4. Specialist LGBT Health Services

Just over half of those who have experienced domestic violence and abuse would like a specialist GP clinic or service (see table 9.4a). Coupled with the finding that LGBT survivors of domestic violence and abuse would like to have specialist services relating to their experiences of domestic violence and abuse (including reporting and counselling), this findings indicates a desire for specific services (as well as friendly services)

Table 9.4a: Would you prefer to use a GP clinic/service that was specifically for you as an LGBT person? By Domestic violence and abuse survivor

		DV&A Survivor	Not reported DV&A	Total
Yes	No.	122	231	353
	%	50.6		

Table 9.5a: Do you ever feel excluded/uncomfortable using mainstream services (public but not LGBT specific) services by domestic violence and abuse survivors

	DV&A Survivor	Not reported DV&A	Total
Yes	10	1	11
No	10	1	11
Don't know	0	0	0
Refused	0	0	0
Missing	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>22</b>

Table 9.5c: How LGBT friendly are the Council and other Public Services?

DV&A Survivor      Not reported DV&A      Total

Table 9.5d: Type of service domestic violence and abuse survivors prefer to use

		DV&A survivor	Not reported DV&A	Total
LGBT specific service	No.	30	64	94
	%	12.6	12.1	12.3
LGBT friendly services	No.	48	106	154
	%	20.2	20.1	20.1
A mixture of LGBT services (including specific and friendly services)	No.	86	117	263
	%	36.1	33.6	34.4
My sexuality is unimportant in my use of services	No.	68	180	248
	%	28.6	34.2	32.4
Other	No.	6	0	6
	%	2.5	.0	.8
<b>Total</b>	No.	<b>238</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>765</b>
	%	100.0	100.0	100.0

## 9.6. Conclusion

Although LGBT people in the sample who have survived domestic violence and abuse are more likely to be out about their sexual/gender identities to their GP's, there is a clear disenfranchisement within this group from mainstream services. It is not possible to tell from this data the causes of this disenfranchisement. This data has pointed to domestic violence and abuse as a key area for development for mainstream services that cater for those who have experienced domestic violence and abuse and more broadly key services (including housing, those that deal with relationships, health services and safety services). These services should offer specialist provision, work across traditional boundaries and should be trained to understand LGBT domestic violence and abuse issues. There is a desire for specialist services that cater for both LGBT people and specifically for LGBT people who have experienced domestic violence and abuse. As the majority of those who had experienced domestic violence and abuse felt that their sexuality and gender identity was important in their use of services, this needs to be accounted for when designing services for survivors of domestic violence and abuse.



## 10.3. LGBT scenes and events

In addition to avoiding LGBT scene, groups, venues and events for safety reasons (see chapter 7.3 above), more of those who are domestic violence and abuse survivors disagree (12%) with the statement that they enjoy going to / using the LGBT commercial scene compared to those who have not experienced domestic violence and abuse (4%) ( $p < .0001$ ).

This question was designed to access those who used the scene but did not like it, as well as those who did not use the scene. Table 10.3a shows that although survivors of domestic violence and abuse who use the scene are less likely to enjoy it than LGBT people who have not experienced domestic violence and abuse, they are not less likely to use the scene. In addition, 66% said that they enjoy using the scene in Brighton and Hove. Therefore, this finding needs further investigation in relation to how survivors use the scene and LGBT venues and events. In the domestic violence interview, it was clear that LGBT events such as Pride can expose survivors to chance meetings with ex-partners who were abusive. The 'coming' together of the LGBT community at such events, may therefore not be enjoyable for all.

Table 10.3a: Do you enjoy using the LGBT scene in Brighton and Hove by experiences of domestic violence and abuse?

Enjoy the scene ...		DV&A survivor	Not reported DV&A	Total
Agree	No.	161	415	576
	%	66.3	76.0	73.0
Disagree	No.	29	24	53
	%	11.9	4.4	6.7
I don't use	No.	30	69	99
	%	12.3	12.6	12.5

Table 10.4a: Ways in which domestic violence and abuse survivors want to be consulted by the Police, Council and NHS (not specific to domestic violence and abuse)

Table 10.5a: Experiencing domestic violence and abuse by reasons for wanting to undertake volunteer work

		DV&A survivor	Not reported DV&A	Total
Social reasons	No.	90	162	252
	%	56.3	56.3	





domestic violence and abuse. Traditional avenues of support for housing for partners fleeing domestic violence may be unavailable and/or unfriendly to LGBT people and temporary housing can be unsuitable. This report has not addressed the gap in provision for male or trans survivors of partnered domestic violence and abuse, where refuges cater for cis-gendered women, or adult survivors of family violence where services cater for young people. Yet, there is a clear area of need here and 60% of those who have experienced domestic violence and abuse would like to have safe temporary accommodation that can cater for their needs that is LGBT specific.

Domestic violence and abuse survivors in the sample were less likely to feel safe at home, going out at night or going out during the day, they also avoid going home and other spaces more than those who have not experienced domestic violence and abuse. Although the heightened fear of crime and avoidance of specific spaces cannot be attributed to experiences of domestic violence and abuse, these fears and avoidance tactics can have implications in relation to isolation, use of services,

# 12. Recommendations

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## 12.1. Training & Capacity building

- y Extend the capacity of existing service providers via training and awareness raising around both LGBT, domestic violence and abuse, and LGBT domestic violence and abuse issues, across both statutory and voluntary sector organisations.
- y Develop multi-agency facilitated training package on LGBT and domestic violence and abuse issues (including partnered and other forms of domestic violence and abuse), as part of a citywide domestic violence training strategy, which is in line and affiliated with the national service standards for domestic and sexual violence services and the emerging National Occupational Standards for professionals working in domestic violence and abuse, child protection, and other associated services and thus appropriately accredited.
- y Training should recognise the diversity of the LGBT communities and the differences within this collective, particularly in regard to the different needs of lesbians, gay men and bisexual and trans people. Particular issues include:
  - i Varied and nuanced understandings of 'same-sex' or 'opposite sex' partnered violence
  - i The variations in the ability to, and necessity of, declaring sexual/gender identities
  - i LGBT experiences of domestic violence and abuse that are not located within partnered violence

## 12.2. Brighton & Hove LGBT Domestic Violence & Abuse Strategy and Policies

- y Local agencies and fora agree a shared definition of domestic violence and abuse that is inclusive of domestic violence occurring within non-partnered, multi-partnered, family and other 'relationships'
- y Ensure that local strategic links are developed between the Local Authority, the Primary Care Trust, the Police and relevant forums, such as the Brighton & Hove Domestic Violence Forum and associated working groups, Spectrum, the LGBT Domestic Violence



- y Ensure the justice system and statutory providers develops effective mechanisms for identifying, challenging and holding LGBT perpetrators of domestic violence to account for their violence, and monitor the effectiveness of agency responses in this regard.

## 12.4. Services and Service Providers

- y Improve the capacity of both domestic violence and other services to respond to LGBT needs, and of LGBT services and groups to respond to domestic violence issues.
- y Raise awareness amongst all services of issues pertaining to domestic violence and abuse for LGBT individuals. This includes the justice system GPs, mental health, housing, relationship support and education services.
- y Develop specialist expertise amongst services/staff within existing services through training and awareness raising, (e.g. such as a specialist LGBT domestic violence and abuse housing options officer) and ensure all generic services and specialist support domestic violence and abuse services have a trained LGBT worker to work with survivors of LGBT domestic violence and abuse who approach them looking for support
- y Develop awareness of the cross cutting issues of domestic violence and abuse, that may need to be addressed across a range of services, including housing, child protection and mental health and work across traditional distinctions between service provisions including those that pertain specifically to adults and children.
- y Ensure that the local development of a co-ordinated community response to domestic violence addresses the needs of LGBT survivors and brings the perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse to justice, including ensuring the Independent Domestic Violence Advisor service, Specialist Domestic Violence Court and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference, address the needs of LGBT survivors of domestic violence and abuse where commensurate with levels of risk and need.
- y Ensure domestic violence and abuse specific services locally develop and deliver accessible and effective services for all LGBT survivors of domestic violence and abuse in accordance with national service standards for domestic and sexual violence services.
- y Assess the need for safe appropriate temporary accommodation and supported housing for LGBT survivors of domestic violence and abuse survivors, including the option of designated LGBT temporary housing for those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness.

- y Research the most effective framework for developing an LGBT 'one stop shop' offering housing, counselling, and support, with LGBT domestic violence and abuse services included within this broader piece of work.
- y Ensure appropriate & safe temporary housing is available for LGBT service users reporting domestic violence and abuse, which takes into account the safety needs of the individual user.
- y Monitor the justice system's intervention with LGBT perpetrators, including the number of cases arrested, charged, brought to court, sentenced and referred to probation. The Integrated Domestic Abuse Programmes (IDAP) does not address same-sex domestic violence so individual probation intervention with LGBT offenders should be developed and monitored.
- y Local community-based (voluntary) perpetrator programmes should

y Develop awareness raising campaign targeted at mainstream

- i The needs of the individuals within abusive partnered relationships
- i Use of LGBT scenes and events
- y Explore existing gaps in current service provider's service provision, both at grass roots and policy/strategic level.
- y Undertake all research in line with guidelines developed in the domestic violence and abuse literature
- y Draw on existing international research to examine existing models, prevalence rates, relationship dynamics, service provision, training materials, policies, publicity and funding models.

## 12.8. Consultation, Monitoring and Evaluation

- y National domestic violence delivery plan: ensure that local LGBT research, services and groups inform local and national domestic violence work to ensure LGBT needs and experiences are reflected in the development of research, services, training or other resources
- y Develop shared monitoring and evaluation systems with and within the police, housing, social and healthcare, and LGBT services. Distribute data collected, collated and published, to be utilised appropriately.
- y Consultation should be undertaken using a variety of formats and advertised in a range of LGBT and non-LGBT media (see also recommendations from Wilcox and Pemberton, 2006).



# 13. References

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# Your feedback

We welcome any comments and suggestions.

Please email your feedback to us at:

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or by post to:

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[www.countmeintoo.co.uk](http://www.countmeintoo.co.uk)

Downloadable copies of this and other resources are available from the Count Me In Too website including a directory of local LGBT support organisations and groups.