



ADVICE SERVICES REPORT

Our Advice Team provides specialist housing advice and advocacy to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) communities, through a telephone helpline which is open each weekday and three weekly drop-in surgeries.

Since securing new grants for the advice service in January 2008 the number of callers to our advice line has increased and we are expecting over 1,000 LGBT people to contact us over the next year.

The last year of our domestic abuse project funded by Comic Relief saw the LGBT Domestic Abuse Forum go from strength to strength and culminated in the publication of the invaluable Housing Options Guide for LGBT people experiencing domestic abuse.

Over half the people who approached us for advice in 2007/2008 stated that their housing crisis was directly related to their sexuality.

We are receiving more calls from people aged 16-18 and 41-50 and callers now present with more support needs. 1 in 5 callers have issues around domestic abuse and also 1 in 5 have issues around homophobic harassment.

Housing situations included: street homeless or sofa-surfing, staying with family or friends, private rented accommodation, council accommodation, hostels, housing association accommodation, staying with partners or ex-partners, owned their own property, bed and breakfast accommodation, Co-ops, refuges, squats and night shelters.

The main problems presented along with homelessness were: domestic abuse, homophobic harassment or violence, family breakdown, needing supported accommodation, eviction from home, relationship breakdown, other forms of harassment, overcrowding, refugee status, substandard accommodation, unaffordable housing and repossession.

