

Webinar: LGBT experiences of domestic abuse

26th January 2021

- Terms
- Experiences of DA in LGBT relationships
- Barriers:

Barriers to Accessing Support

- Stereotyping around relationships involving LGBT people
- Impact of internalised homo/bi/transphobia
- Lack of appropriate or specialist services
- Real or perceived homo/bi/transphobia from service providers
- The need to 'out' oneself to access services and concerns about subsequent referrals
- Lack of training in relation to LGBT Domestic Abuse, including failure to screen for alleged perpetrator and victim
- Lack of confidence in criminal justice system

GBT Men's Barriers

- Pressures of gender stereotyping and masculinity
 - Felt to prevent men from speaking about their feelings or seeking support
- GBT men's invisibility in domestic abuse campaigns and media
- Concerns that services wouldn't understand or accept the individual's gender identity or sexual orientation, or understand the issues for GBT men.
- Feared a loss of their community, particularly in small towns and rural areas.

"The fear that no one would believe you regarding why you left. The gay scene in Aberdeen tends to be rather small, and everyone knows everyone—things can spread like wildfire".

Transgender People's Barriers

- Lack of awareness of trans identities and issues within services
- Having to out oneself to access services/ being outed by service providers
- Fear of transphobia; being misgendered or not being taken seriously
- Concern about whether services are inclusive
- Concern about identification documents not matching identity
- Fear of the criminal justice system; being outed in court

Suggestions on engagement:

Reach out.

Be visible.

Make your services visible.

Learn and understand e.g. training. And LGBT chartermark.

Inclusive Environments

- Never make assumptions about sexual orientation or gender identity
- Ensure visibility of LGBT people in services and be explicit about services offered to LGBT people
- Ensure you have training and resources
- Acknowledge and respond to concerns about the risk of discrimination from other services
- Have clear links with other organisations and be able to make referrals
- Consider how you can address the unique aspects of LGBT Domestic abuse in risk assessment and safety planning

Stevenson

