

LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Research Opportunity - Kirklees

Introduction

Thanks to funding from [Kirklees Council](#), [The Brunswick Centre](#) and [Pennine Domestic Abuse Partnership](#) (PDAP) are seeking a suitably experienced research partner to undertake research into the needs of people from our LGBT+ communities who are impacted by domestic abuse.

The Organisations

The Brunswick Centre was the name given to Calderdale HIV/AIDS Link (CHAL) in 2002 when it extended its HIV services into Kirklees. CHAL was a registered charity and company limited by guarantee since 1992. Today, the Brunswick Centre offers a suite of services and projects to various communities in Calderdale and Kirklees, including an LGBT+ young people's service, HIV support, HIV prevention, counselling, mental health projects, smoking cessation and training. The charity has the Quality for Health kite mark and volunteering Kirklees kite mark in place. It was awarded runner up in the 2020-21 GSK Impact Award.

PDAP is a registered charity based in Kirklees providing high quality specialist support, advice, information, and safe accommodation to anyone effected by or experiencing domestic abuse.

They have been delivering a range of specialist domestic abuse services as Pennine Domestic Violence Group PDVG in Kirklees since 2002 when two long-standing domestic abuse services merged. Huddersfield Women's Aid which had been in operation since 1975 and Kirklees Asian and Black Women's Welfare Association which had also been operating services in Huddersfield for over 10 years. In 2020 they rebranded to become Pennine Domestic Abuse Partnership in recognition that domestic abuse goes beyond violence and in acknowledgement that the quality and effectiveness of their services are a result of the strong working partnerships they have within Kirklees. PDAP has Women's Aid Federation England (WAFE) National Quality Standard Award and Leading Lights Accreditation, both of which measure the quality of specialist domestic abuse services and Volunteering Kirklees Kite Mark.

Context

Stonewall suggest LGBT+ communities make up between 5% and 7% of the UK population. For Kirklees' population over the age of 18 this equates to approximately 17,160 people at the lower end and 24,024 at the higher end. If we consider rates of domestic abuse among LGBT+ people generally are on a par with their heterosexual counterparts which is 1 in 4 then we are looking at 4,290 at 5% and 6,006 at 7% of LGBT+ people affected by domestic abuse in Kirklees.

Lesbian and Bisexual Women:

- One in four lesbian and bisexual women have experienced domestic abuse in a relationship. Two thirds of those say the perpetrator was a woman; one third a man.
- Four in ten lesbian and bisexual women with a disability have experienced domestic abuse in a relationship.
- More than four in ten lesbian and bisexual women who have experienced domestic abuse experienced this for more than one year.
- 62% of lesbian and bisexual women who have experienced domestic abuse from a female partner have experienced some form of physical violence.
- Almost one in five have been kicked, hit or had objects thrown at them.
- Almost one in ten had their sexual orientation used against them.
- 6% have been forced to have unwanted sex.
- In terms of domestic abuse reporting, four in five (81%) of lesbian and bisexual women who experienced domestic abuse never reported the incidents to the police. Of those that did report, only half (49%) were happy with how the police had dealt with the situation

Gay and Bisexual Men:

- Half (49%) of all gay and bisexual men have experienced at least one incident of domestic abuse from a family member or partner since the age of 16. One in six men in general have experienced domestic abuse from a family member or partner since the age of 16.
- Almost two-thirds of gay and bisexual men with a disability have experienced at least one incident of domestic abuse from a family member or partner since the age of 16.
- More than one in three (37%) of gay and bisexual men have experienced at least one incident of domestic abuse in a relationship with a man.
- One in six have been kicked, hit or had objects thrown at them.
- One in fourteen have had their sexual orientation used against them.
- In terms of domestic abuse reporting, four in five (78%) of gay and bisexual men who have experienced domestic abuse have never reported incidents to the police. Of those that did report, more than half (53%) were not happy with how the police had dealt with the situation.

Trans people:

- There is limited research on trans people's experiences of domestic abuse but Scottish Trans Alliance suggests 80% of trans people had experienced emotional, sexual or physical abuse from a partner or ex-partner.

Circumstances are ideal to undertake this research with LGBT+ communities as:

- Covid has contributed to a rise in domestic abuse rates and brought inequalities into sharp focus whereby some LGTB+ people find themselves more remote and at risk.
- Covid has allowed us to explore, refine and develop the ways in which we communicate with people. This provides some valuable initial learning on which we can build.
- The Domestic Abuse Act is imminent and there is sufficient awareness and momentum to gain real traction with this work.
- The research will contribute intelligence towards the review of the Kirklees Domestic Abuse Strategy.
- Kirklees has appointed domestic abuse consultants who can both contribute to and benefit from the findings of this research
- This work will help Kirklees' equality duty and broader equality agenda and increase the reach of safeguarding such as the impact of domestic abuse on LGBT+ minority groups where notions of sexual orientation and gender identity are binary and cloaked in heteronormativity. It has the capacity to broaden local knowledge and understanding
- PDAP and the Brunswick Centre are forming closer working arrangements that can support service development.

Key Outcomes

1. To establish what advice, information and support is available to LGBT+ communities from specialist DA services, and associated, generic community, health, social care and statutory agencies.
2. To determine what additional information and support these agencies need in order to improve their responses.
3. To engage with groups and individuals from within the LGBT+ community to establish the level of knowledge and understanding of domestic abuse
4. To establish among LGBT+ community member's needs and ways of working that respond to the complexity and variety of their needs.
5. To develop an outline model of service provision that will integrate with the emerging Kirklees Domestic Abuse strategy and that contributes to fulfilling obligations under the new Domestic Abuse Act.
6. To outline a research methodology that models best practice for engaging with the LGBT+ community that can be carried over into service provision.

Methodology

The key outcomes will be achieved by three main strands of enquiry:

1. Engaging with specialist and generic agencies
2. Engaging directly with LGBT+ groups and individuals including coproduction and lived experience as part of the approach and delivery of the research
3. Scoping the national picture including services in other localities and best practice.

It is expected the researchers will devise approaches and methods which develop, enhance and deepen those set out.

Coproduction and incentives (see finances below) will need to be considered in line with [SCIE](#) advice on paying people who receive benefits.

Researchers

Researchers will need to evidence a successful track record of community research into LGBT+ related issues and understanding of domestic abuse issues if not direct experience. They will need to demonstrate that they have experience of reaching and engaging with diverse communities and are sensitive to those communities' issues and needs.

Timeline

It is expected that the research will be completed within 6-months with a launch and presentation to key partners and stakeholders in Kirklees.

Commencement date will be agreed with the partners.

Finances

You are required to quote for the delivery of the research, reporting and stakeholder launch based on your daily charging rate and the total number of days you propose to deliver the research. You should include any administration costs within the quote.

Additional funds are available for engagement, incentives, promotional and participation costs which do not have to be quoted for.

Please note we are unable to accept quotes above £17,000.

We welcome and encourage expressions of interest which show and explain how they will deliver added social value.

Working Together

It is expected that the researchers will engage with the appointed leads from the Brunswick Centre and PDAP at all stages of the research. We would like the researchers to share the proposed script with us in advance of the research taking place, so that key personnel have the opportunity to input.

The Brunswick Centre and PDAP will be able to advise re: potential channels for soliciting service user involvement in the work. We are open to innovative suggestions re: how to engage service users or re: other key stakeholders that it may be useful to engage with as part of this research.

We are keen to maintain open communication and work collaboratively with the researchers to ensure that we are able to maximise the value and impact of the work.

Applying/Expressions of Interest

Please email your expression of interest (EOI) to info@thebrunswickcentre.org.uk no later than **12-noon on the 16th May 2022**, putting 'LGBT+ Research EOI' in the subject line.



You will be expected to deliver a 20-minute presentation on your proposal to a panel on **Friday 20th May** (via Teams/Zoom).

Your expression of interest must include:

- Your name and that of your organisation
- Details and evidence of your research experience and any direct experience of research with LGBT+ communities (no more than 3-sides of A4)
- Your understanding of domestic abuse (no more than 2-sides of A4)
- How many days you will allocate to the research within the 6-month time frame and the associated costs
- Details of two references