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# What is LEVEL?

- LEVEL is a new and unique, community-informed trial programme supporting LGBTQ+ people where there is harm in intimate relationships
- Funded by the National Lottery Fund through The Drive Partnership
- Delivered by The Brunswick Centre and WomenCentre in a local partnership across Calderdale and Kirklees, with development support from The Drive Partnership



CHANGING LIVES, CHANGING PERCEPTIONS

# Why this work matters

- Limited data on domestic abuse in the LGBTQ+ community
- Domestic abuse in LGBTQ+ relationships happens at similar or higher rates than in heterosexual relationships – research shows us this
- Abuse can be hidden by stigma, fear of being outed, or concern that services will not understand LGBTQ+ relationship dynamics
- Survivors may worry they will not be believed or that abuse will be minimised
- There are currently few safe, appropriate options for LGBTQ+ specific routes to support
- Domestic abuse may not even be recognised as taking place



# Why is a perpetrator programme essential

- Most existing interventions focus solely on survivors
- National recognition that reducing harm also means working with people who are causing the harm
- Unique programme supporting the LGBTQ+ community in Calderdale and Kirklees – we are ahead of the curve!
- Focuses on accountability and behaviour change
- Develops healthier ways of relating
- Supports safety while also offering a route to change

- LGBTQ+ domestic abuse requires specific, informed responses
- Working with people who cause harm is a vital part of prevention
- Trial projects like LEVEL create learning that can shape future services
- We **are** breaking down systemic barriers around supporting LGBTQ+ victims/survivors and perpetrators – but VERY slowly
- Collaboration between specialist organisations is essential
- Leadership and support at strategic level for this work is needed
- Domestic Abuse awareness is critical especially amongst the LGBTQ+ community itself
- There is still much to do, but LEVEL shows what's possible

# Take Aways





# LEVEL Online



[levelchange.org.uk](https://levelchange.org.uk)

