All young LGBT+ people have the right to a safe place to live, and to be appropriately supported by housing services that meet their needs.

**FACT SHEET: HOUSING SERVICES**

IN OUR RESEARCH:

LGBT+ young people want and need adults around them, including their family, to be supportive of who they are and to support them through changes in their lives. Where families have not accepted their LGBT+ children, these children have to become more independent, (including financially) at an earlier age, and are more in need of services for support.

People gave positive examples of services that had LGBT+ specialisms, as they said it meant staff were not as judgemental and they felt more at ease with them. Young people who are looked after by the local authority had the best experiences where adults around them were sufficiently trained/knowledgeable to support their needs e.g. trans young people supported to be able to wear clothes of their choosing and to have their chosen name and pronoun used by staff. There were many examples where this had not been the case, which caused distress and mistrust.

- What mattered most to LGBT+ young people (84% of those taking part) was safe and supportive places to live, study and socialise
- Only 12% felt that homelessness and housing advice services were good at dealing with specific LGBT+ issues around housing
- Almost half said that they would or do access LGBT+ housing support
- 50% stated family tradition/expectation made it harder to come out and 41% stated where they live made it harder to come out
- 77% of young LGBT+ people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness state family rejection as the cause
TOP TEN THINGS YOU CAN DO:

1. Work to ensure LGBT+ young people have access to safe accommodation, (this should include accommodation that suits the needs of trans people)
2. Signpost or broker support for parents e.g. from LGBT and Trans-specific parent’s support groups, so that they are more likely to be or become supportive of their child’s LGBT+ identity
3. Ensure young people are supported throughout their accommodation journey, e.g. if they are moved to alternative accommodation, ensure that they continue to be able to be themselves
4. Ensure workers are appropriately trained; use inclusive language; know how to respond to homophobia, biphobia and transphobia; and know where to go to for further information and support
5. Ensure that tenants/residents know and understand their rights to safe/secure accommodation and the rights of others
6. Maximise young people’s income, ensuring they know what benefits they are entitled to
7. Engage young LGBT+ people in your services and include them in the development of services
8. Ensure that LGBT+ young people are supported by not allowing a young person’s identity to be seen as the ‘problem’ or barrier
9. Use a holistic approach. Ensure you are linking up with other services such as mental health, youth work or sexual health support
10. Don't make assumptions about the young LGBT+ people you are working with