



# LGBT



Inclusive not Abusive

## Domestic and Sexual Abuse Conference

To raise awareness and to improve service responses in the Thames Valley area

Evaluation



2009

# Introduction



THE DOMESTIC ABUSE COORDINATORS



THE CONFERENCE HALL

Same-sex domestic abuse is real. Yet the perception of domestic abuse and sexual violence as exclusively 'gendered heterosexual crimes' persists in our society. Members of the LGBT community often struggle to recognise that it can and does happen in same-sex relationships. This makes it difficult to come forward and seek support. In addition agencies also have the wrong perception and therefore are not adequately equipped to provide the appropriate support and response.

To tackle this misconception, Domestic Abuse Coordinators across Thames Valley organised a one day conference raise awareness of domestic and sexual abuse amongst the LGBT community to key practitioners within the Thames Valley area.

120 delegates attended the Conference at the Belfry Hotel in Oxfordshire.

The aims of the conference was to:

- To raise awareness of domestic abuse within LGBT relationships
- To raise awareness of the risk and prevalence of sexual violence in the LGBT community
- To explore issues facing younger and older members of the LGBT community
- To improve response and support for those experiencing domestic or sexual violence
- To improve confidence in reporting
- To explore issues facing BME groups within the LGBT community

The conference was opened by Assistant Chief Constable Nick Gargan of Thames Valley Police. and the speakers were:

# Speakers & Workshops



- Rita Harani, Broken Rainbow
- Michelle Pooley, Brighton Anti-Domestic Coordinator, Brighton & Hove City Council
- Dr Kath Browne, Senior Lecturer, University of Brighton

### Broken Rainbow

Rita Harani provided an overview of Broken Rainbow, which is the only national LGBT organisation in the UK that specifically supports and advises those who are or have been experiencing domestic abuse.

Its core services are:

- Runs the only National LGBT DV Helpline by LGBT people
- Designs & Delivers LGBT DV Training to increase awareness
- Provides support to survivors, friends, family, perpetrators and agencies.

Quality Standards:

- Support National standards within DV sector.
- Telephone Helpline Association guidelines

### Brighton University

Dr Kath Browne, Senior Lecturer provided an overview of key findings from the “Count Me In Too” domestic violence and abuse survey. Some of the key findings were:

- Out of 1145 LGBT people in Brighton & Hove who took part in Count Me In 2000 1 in 3 had experienced domestic abuse.
- 1/5 men and 1/3 women had experienced more than one incident
- 1/3 men and 1/4 women were abused by a same-

sex partner

- 1/25 men and 1/3 women were abused by an opposite-sex ex-partner
- 1/7 men and 1/5 women were abused by a family member
- 3/4 had not reported any incident(s) to the police
- 1/2 who did report rated their treatment by the police as poor/very poor

Differences within the LGBT grouping:

- Gender - Women (36%) and those of a gender other than male/female (39%) were more likely to have experienced some form of abuse, violence or harassment from a family member or someone close to them, compared to men (27%). Within trans people (64%) were far more likely than other groups of LGBT people to report domestic violence and abuse
- 51% of those who defined as physically disabled or as having a long term health impairment. Those who are disabled (39%) and those who are deaf or hard of hearing (54%) are more likely to have experienced domestic abuse or violence from others than those who are not disabled or deaf. Over half (53%) of those with poor mental health in the last twelve months, and over a third (37%) of those who had experienced a mental health difficulty over the past five years indicated they had experienced abuse, violence or harassment from a family member or from someone close to them. 20% of those who have experienced domestic violence are parents or closely related to a child

# Speakers and Workshops



## Brighton & Hove City Council

Michelle Pooley, Anti-Domestic Violence Strategic Coordinator provided an overview of the work in Brighton & Hove. In the summer of 2005 a LGBT Domestic Violence Working Group was formed. Since then, the group have worked on many initiatives and have identified via analysis, gaps within the domestic violence services in Brighton & Hove.

Their recommendations to make a local approach work, are:

- Champions
- Commitment
- Focus
- Listen before judging
- Time
- Diplomacy
- Trial and Error
- Embrace small steps

The Working group set up an advisory support process for the LGB&T development work (RISE and Broken Rainbow partnership)

Ensure that the IDVA managed by RISE in partnership with Broken Rainbow

works and monitor progress

In the autumn of 2008 the Group is planning a seminar for city planners, services and the community to look at sexual violence and secured funding to develop, manage and deliver a training package on LGBT DV and Abuse

## Workshops

The conference provided five workshops, which were:

- **Reporting LGBT crimes.** To explore how to improve confidence and ability to report domestic and sexual violence crimes.
- **Developing Services.** To identify available services and support. Identify gaps and highlight good practice.
- **BME & Forced Marriage.** To consider the additional issues faced by BME LGBT communities
- **Sexual Violence & Risk Behaviour.** Sexual behaviour and practice, consent, risk factors and indicators
- **Domestic & Sexual Violence issues for younger &- older LGBT.** To explore the issues and difficulties for young and older people.

## Case Study - A Survivor's Story

Delegates watched a DVD of a gay man, who had gone through domestic abuse with his previous partner.

The victim had been in the same sex relationship for a few years.

It was emotional, psychological and physical. He did not recognise it as abusive, it was his mother that recognised it after an incident that left the victim physically injured. He then left the relationship.

It has been a slow healing process but now life is much better.

He is keen to raise awareness of it amongst the LGBT community so that others do not have to go through what he did.



## Finances

Description	Income	Expenditure	Balance
	£	£	£
Contributions by Oxford Safer Communities Partnership, Buckinghamshire County Council, Bracknell Forest Borough Council, Local Criminal Justice Board, Milton Keynes Unitary Authority, Oxfordshire County Council, Reading Borough Council, Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead, Slough Borough Council, Thames Valley Police, West Berkshire District Council and Wokingham Borough Council	12,732.00		
Fees collected by invoice	3,215.92		
Fees collected by cheque	390.00		<b>17,337.92</b>
Cost of venue and expenses		11,439.46	
Speakers Fees & expenses		1,595.58	
Total Expenses			<b><u>13,035.04</u></b>
Balance remaining			<b>4,302.88</b>
Late payments	250.00		<b><u>250.00</u></b>
			<b><u>4,552.88</u></b>

# Discussion & Feedback

## Discussion Questions

At the end of the conference, delegates were asked a series of questions on what was discussed. Below are the questions, along with some of the answers provided.

### 1. How has the information you have heard and discussed today influenced your thinking about domestic and sexual abuse amongst the LGBT community?

- There is a great need for awareness training.
- More information sharing
- More conferences to show what is going on
- Wider agenda: knowledge of agencies and individuals
- Highlighted the fact that this is a continuing issue which is still hidden in society but also shown what is available to support survivors
- Isolated services provided by voluntary community would benefit from unified support
- Reporting issues and barriers
- More research work that can be usable
- Very similar to heterosexual domestic abuse. Should be seen as part of mainstream rather than under current.

### 2. What are the next steps that need to happen to take this work forward within a multi agency agenda locally?

- Work together with agencies who are developing awareness training programmes for LGBT DV
- Create networks, partnerships, local champions to keep communication and information open
- Strategic groups set up. Advertise and recognise
- To cooperate with specialist services

- Ensure voluntary agencies are aware of all support agencies
- Engage with local LGBT communities and encourage reporting of LGBT issues
- Be aware of the BI and Trans issues that were marginalised today
- Find out what is there for the LGBT community in my area. Improve awareness and more publishing of services.

### 3. What further resources need to be available locally to move this agenda forward?

- To have a database of all practitioners from today's conference so that we can keep in touch
- Opportunities for agencies to meet regularly, celebration of achievements, launches for new services
- MAPs would make taking the agenda forward easier and more economic.
- Campaigns (awareness raising within LGBT community and general society)
- Sustainable funding
- Male refuge and support groups
- Central directory of support services and agencies - possibly web based
- To have a perpetrators programme

### 4. What actions are you personally going to take to influence this agenda?

- We have already begun to generate further activity with some of today's participants
- Encourage more local partnerships and review training for LGBT DV
- Encourage BCU to set up a steering group and investigate organising a conference in Scotland
- Feedback to colleagues



- To make this a key campaign for LGBT Labour
- Raise awareness amongst co-workers
- Report back to organisations and clients
- Ensure appropriate advice and information is available for staff and victims. Leaflets for DV packs.
- To set up an LGBT DV IDVA service
- Keep doing what I'm doing and lobby on behalf of male and female abusers, based on Emotional Behavioural Therapy.

### Conference Feedback

- Really well organised. Thank you
- This conference was needed. Need to do more
- My thanks for all of your efforts to organise such an informative and helpful day
- The Conference was excellent!
- I really enjoyed the conference. However I thought there were too many workshops
- I would like to set up a conference in the north
- Well organised, great location and thought provoking
- Marginalised transgender issues
- Thank you for a great conference. It was also good to network with colleagues I very really see
- Great conference
- Will hopefully link up with the groups I met up with today
- The conference was well presented but some of the workshops did not work well.
- Many thanks for this conference. It was greatly needed.
- When is the next one!
- We need these conferences organised regularly
- Well organised conference. We need to encourage a greater media involvement to raise awareness of this issue.

# Acknowledgements

Thanks go to all the Domestic Abuse Coordinators in organising this event. These were:

## Berkshire East

Sophie Crowe - Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator

## Reading

Louise Crow - Domestic Violence Co-ordinator

## West Berkshire

Jo McIntyre - Domestic Violence Reduction Co-ordinator

## Buckinghamshire

Sue Moss - Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator

## Milton Keynes

Neil Atkinson - Drugs and Alcohol Reduction Co-ordinator

## Oxford City

Liz Jones - Domestic & Sexual Abuse Co-ordinator

## Oxfordshire

Michelle Plaisted-Kerr - Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator

## Wokingham

Carol-Anne Bidwell - Community Safety Officer, Hate Crime / Domestic Abuse

Thanks also go all the speakers at the conference. These were:

- ACC Nick Gargan, Thames Valley Police
- Michelle Pooley, Brighton & Hove City Council
- Dr Kath Brown, Brighton University
- Rita Hirani, Broken Rainbow
- Candvce Kelshall, Broken Rainbow
- Ali Melling, Thames Valley Police
- Rebecca Mundy, Crown Prosecution Service
- Navdeep Mahil, Karma Nirvana
- Thomas Regan, Foreign & Commonwealth Office
- Steve Bevan, Swindon Survivors
- Louise Crow, Reading Borough Council
- Steve Masters, Berkshire Older Lesbian & Gay Forum
- Survivor's Story

Special thanks goes to Laura Dix, Student

Thanks to you for attending



**WOKINGHAM  
BOROUGH COUNCIL**



THAMES VALLEY  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE BOARD  
Criminal Justice System: working together for the public



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