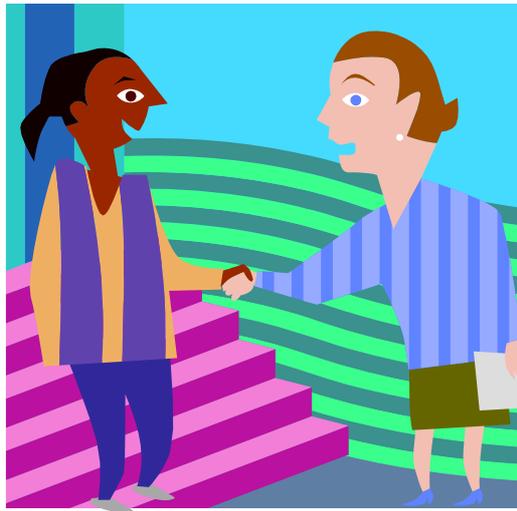


LGBT Youth & Social Inclusion



A Review of Existing Research

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1. Introduction

LGBT Youth Scotland and the Edinburgh Youth Social Inclusion Partnership have commissioned a piece of work to draw together the existing research and reports which impact on the needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) youth in the City of Edinburgh.

This work comes at a significant time for LGBT Youth Scotland and for the Edinburgh Youth SIP. The national policy agenda is developing rapidly to promote young people's economic, learning and social inclusion. Services and agencies concerned with promoting healthy living, safe communities and economic development are all being required to create effective structures and approaches for engaging effectively with young people as part of the social inclusion agenda.

Bob Forsyth has been commissioned to carry out this work on behalf of LGBT Youth Scotland. A reference group has been set up to assist with the process of completing the work, which is outlined below.

The purpose of this exercise is:

- To draw together existing research and reports which impact on the needs of LGBT youth in the City of Edinburgh.
- To consider these in the context of the priorities for the Edinburgh Youth Social Inclusion Partnership
- To highlight the gaps in evidence and data which exist
- To recommend what research could be undertaken within the city to fill these gaps

2. The Review Process

The work on this exercise comprised the following five stages

- First examination of existing research** and materials known to LGBT Youth Scotland were shared with the reference group along with a request for them to identify any additional information.
- Preliminary findings** and suggested gaps were written into an interim report to be circulated to the reference group to inform a workshop with the reference group
- Workshop** with the reference group to clarify findings and recommendations
- Focus Group** with young LGBT people to comment on the initial findings and comments from the reference group. Ten young people aged 15-23 took part in this session and the group represented gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender young people.
- Final report**

3. The Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is to present summary formats of the reports and data which directly relate to LGBT young people in the City of Edinburgh (Section 5). The next section outlines the background and priorities for the

Edinburgh Youth SIP which constitute the key dimensions of the context for research into LGBT youth issues in the City of Edinburgh.

A number of other papers have been studied as part of this exercise and are listed here (section 6). They have informed the comments and discussion in this report (section 7) but it was beyond the scope of this exercise to report their findings in detail.

A series of key questions are highlighted based on the analysis of the available reports and on the discussions and ideas from the reference group and focus group with young people.

It is hoped that this report helps identify ideas and direction for future research in this area.

4. The Edinburgh Youth Social Inclusion Partnership

The Edinburgh Youth SIP is the first 'thematic' Social Inclusion Partnership in Edinburgh. A number of area focused Social Inclusion Partnerships are taking forward programmes across the City of Edinburgh:

- NEAR (North Edinburgh Area Renewal)
- Wester Hailes Partnership
- South Edinburgh Partnership
- Craigmillar Partnership
- Strategic Programme ('Small area' focus)
- The Capital City Partnership enables a strategic approach to social inclusion across the City, linking the work of the area-based and thematic SIPs within the broader social justice agenda for Edinburgh.
- In addition the West Edinburgh Pathfinder takes forward a social inclusion agenda with an approach based on community management and planning of local service delivery.

The Lord Provost's Commission on Social Exclusion recently published its final report. This report includes a number of references to LGBT issues:

- *How can Edinburgh work for inclusion?*
We can work to change prejudicial attitudes and discrimination. We can tackle abuse and violence towards the black and minority ethnic communities, and towards gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people.
- *The Commission's View – Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people*
The right to participate in the social and cultural life of our City without fear of violence and abuse is fundamental to social inclusion. Access to employment and public services should not be denied or restricted on the basis of sexuality. On the contrary it is important that we develop a greater understanding and tolerance of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in the City. This also requires the development of services which support the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in Edinburgh.
- *The Commission's View – Children and their education*

...Young lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people... Need appropriate education with their peers to change attitudes and reduce bullying.

The themes and priorities for EYSIP for 2000-2001 are:

- **Education** – overall interest is to increase young people's active participation in learning including reduction of exclusion or drop-out from formal education
- **Training and Employment** – overall interest is in ensuring that excluded young people are enabled to take steps into the labour market and that their inclusion in the labour market is sustained.
- **Health** – overall interest is in increasing the uptake of services which improve the health of young people, by ensuring they are delivered appropriately and designed in consultation with young people
- **Crime** – overall interest is in reducing the impact of crime on young people and in communities
- **Access to social, cultural and leisure opportunities** – overall interest is to ensure that policies to ensure the inclusion of young people are developed and implemented in partnership with young people.
- **Housing and homelessness** – development of a strategic approach to youth housing and homelessness, ensuring joint working and collaborative development
- **Information** – developing strategic approaches to ensuring young people's access to quality, appropriate information which meets their needs and is accessible when they need it.

As part of its plan for monitoring and evaluating its activities, the Edinburgh Youth SIP has commissioned three pieces of research to generate baseline data, due to be completed by September 2000.

Research Focus 1 – Social Exclusion and Young People (14-21) – Patterns and Trends

This research will lead to a clear understanding of the meaning of social exclusion as it relates to particular excluded groups of young people across the City of Edinburgh. The following work will be covered:

- The present pattern of youth social exclusion
- An overview and assessment of current data on exclusion available across the city with proposals for improved recording and collation of data
- An audit of current service provision and activity
- An assessment of the appropriateness of current service provision and strategies with proposals for improvements in practice
- Analysis of the efficacy of current systems for identifying exclusion or potential exclusion, identifying preventative measures or responding to young people's needs. Current systems would include key worker systems, referral mechanisms, school liaison groups and Children's Panel.
- Establishment of baseline data and a strategy for data collection during the lifetime of the SIP

Research Focus 2 – Young People’s Perceptions of their Experience of Social Exclusion

This research will take place with appropriate samples of young people experiencing different aspects of exclusion across the City and among young people from the 11 geographic areas being targeted by EYSIP. It will generate the following baseline information:

- Young people’s attitude and perception of barriers to their full use of services and to their wider participation in society
- Young people’s views on what aspects of services or other provision they value and gain satisfaction from, as well as what aspects cause dissatisfaction
- Young people’s views on what would constitute a Fair Deal for young people from support systems or services
- Identification of key issues of concern to young people on which they require solutions to be developed

It is expected that this research will have a qualitative focus and will be carried out in a way that enables young people to participate by expressing their views and ideas.

Research Focus 3 – Analysis of the Edinburgh and National Context

This research will enable the development of a resource for practitioners, researchers and organisations in collating the wide range of information produced within the city and nationally relating to social inclusion and young people. This will enable EYSIP and practitioners to contextualise our work and identify strategic, policy and practice links. Areas to be included in the resource include:

- National Government agendas
- Education and lifelong learning
- Leisure and recreation services
- Social care services
- Transport
- Housing
- Advice services
- Work in other SIPs
- Health promotion and health education
- Health services
- Appropriate national organisations and other local authorities
- Local media coverage of issues relating to young people and EYSIP priorities

4. Research Papers

This section outlines research papers and other information about LGBT youth issues directly relevant to the Edinburgh Youth SIP area. For each study the aim of the research is identified and relevant main findings or recommendations are listed.

1. Alcohol and Health Research Centre (Plant, Plant, Mason and Thornton)	Experiences and Perceptions of Violence and Intimidation of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Communities in Edinburgh –City of Edinburgh Council’s Community Safety Unit	1999
<p>Aims of the research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To investigate the extent to which LGBT people in Edinburgh (the subjects of this study) have experienced verbal abuse, intimidation or assault • To circumstances of subjects’ reported experiences of verbal abuse, intimidation, assault or other crime. This will include consideration of time, context and locale. The latter will include the workplace as well as other locations, such as home and places of education, leisure and recreation. • To examine the degree of fear of verbal abuse, intimidation and violence amongst LGBT people in Edinburgh • To identify the demographic, characteristics (e.g. age, gender, socio-economic status, ethnicity, sexual orientation, household structure etc) of those most at risk of being subjected to verbal abuse, intimidation, assault or other forms of crime. The latter will be compared with the characteristics of other study subjects. • To examine the extent to which the subjects have reported abuse and violence or other crimes to the police and the way in which such reports have been handled. • To examine the extent to which the subjects of this study are aware of support agencies and have used such agencies in the past. • To identify factors inhibiting the subjects from contacting the police, social services or support agencies in times of need. • To identify priorities for policies to reduce levels of verbal abuse, intimidation, assault and other crimes against LGBT people. 	<p>Main Findings</p> <p>301 people were interviewed as part of this study. 21% (62) were in the 16-21 age group and 34% (103) were aged 22-30.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The subjects of this investigation had experienced extremely high rates of victimisation of various types. • More than half were afraid of victimisation. • 81% had experienced verbal abuse • nearly a third of respondents had been sexually assaulted. 48% had informed nobody about these assaults 36 had been victims of physical assaults in the last year (compared to 2.5% general population in the Scottish Crime Survey) • 61 people reported blocked employment or promotion opportunities because of prejudice about their sexual orientation / identity • twelve had been denied housing. • Many respondents reported having been subjected to ill treatment from a variety of people. Those mentioned most often were health professionals and the police. • Over a third of those who had been assaulted reported that their self-esteem had been adversely affected 	

<p>2. Central Research Unit, Scottish Executive (TASC Agency / Morrison and Mackay)</p>	<p>The Experience of Violence and Harassment of Gay Men in the City of Edinburgh</p>	<p>2000</p>
<p>Aims of the research The main aim of the research was to provide information on the extent and nature of violence and harassment experienced by gay men in Edinburgh and to use this information to help inform service provision to the gay community and promote a gay community perspective on community safety.</p> <p>Main Findings This study is based on questionnaires / interviews with 300 men. 25% were aged 16-24 and 40% were aged 25-34.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 57% had experienced some form of harassment in the past 12 months • 25% experienced an incident of violence or harassment over the same period • most violence was perpetrated by strangers and most took place near gay venues or in the street • the rate of violence suffered by gay men is 4 times the national average (taking into account age bias for the sample in this study) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • under reporting of violence and harassment stems from gay men’s negative perceptions of the responses of agencies such as the police. It is also noted that under-reporting of these incidents is not significantly below the general level. In addition the research shows that those who do report had high levels of satisfaction with the police response • there is a perceived need for better reporting and recording systems to encourage more gay men to report violence and harassment • a significant amount of victimisation for gay men takes place in the workplace yet many employers fail to recognise gay men as a vulnerable group • almost one third of reported violent incidents or harassment occurred in or near their home • there is little understanding of the needs of the gay community, their use of services and gaps in service provision within the City of Edinburgh Council • 43% of respondents had been bullied at school <p>The study made specific recommendations to the police; ACPOS; The City of Edinburgh Council; COSLA; Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership; Employers; Housing Associations and other social housing providers; Gay Community-based agencies and the Scottish Executive. The recommendations to each relate to policy and strategy; training and awareness; service delivery, inter-agency work and monitoring and evaluation</p>

3. Gay Men's Health	Gay Men in Lothian: A Needs Assessment – Summary Report	November 1995
<p>Aims of the research</p> <p>This qualitative study was commissioned to help inform the planning and delivery of services in light of a steady rise in the numbers of new HIV infections among gay men as well as concern regarding their health and social needs.</p>	<p>Main Findings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coming out is inhibited by heterosexism and homophobia which promotes negative images of gay men • Participants perceived themselves to have healthy lifestyles but there was concern about the quality / lack of provision of services e.g. in relation to mental health of elderly gay men • Stress is an important factor – relating to conflict in the workplace, to conflict in the family and to social isolation. 25% of participants reported medical contact on account of stress related to their sexuality. • Safer sex acknowledged but difficult because of the lack of suitable condoms, problems in negotiating skills and negative experiences associated with HIV testing. • Support from service providers was perceived as inadequate in relation to unresolved grief and loss, gay men infected by HIV but asymptomatic, friends and families of gay men diagnosed HIV positive • GPs were widely perceived as lacking the skills and attitudes to deal with issues of HIV / AIDS appropriately and sensitively 	

4. Gay Men's Health (Bruce Fraser)	A Survey of Views on Gay Men's Health By Edinburgh's Gay Scene	April 1998
<p>Aims of the research</p> <p>The aim of this survey was to elicit from people who visit the gay scene in Edinburgh their perceptions of Gay Men's Health Service and what they feel the agency should be doing more of.</p>	<p>Main Findings</p> <p>120 questionnaires were completed in this survey. Approximately 40% were completed by people under 29 years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 87% of the total respondents had heard of Gay Men's Health • 59% had never had contact with the agency • 87% thought that the work of the agency was relevant to them • four respondents felt that GMH should do more work with young men 	

5. Gay Men's Health (Bruce Fraser)	Gay Men's Health Survey Report	April 1999
<p>Aims of the research</p> <p>The aim of this survey was to elicit from people who visit the gay scene in Edinburgh their perceptions of Gay Men's Health, their views on what they like to see it doing and their reactions to different types of safer sex materials.</p>	<p>Main Findings</p> <p>136 questionnaires were completed in this survey. Twenty-six were completed by people under 26 years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 91% of the total respondents had heard of Gay Men's Health • when asked 'what would you like to see Gay Men's Health do more of?' six respondents responded 'inform young people more.' • 69% of respondents have read 'Spurt' – Gay Men's Health Newsletter • Fifty-six preferred to pick up safer sex materials in a bar • 64% agreed or strongly agreed with the statement 'it is important that safer sex materials are humorous' • 47% agreed or strongly agreed with the statement 'it is important that safer sex materials are erotic' 	

6. Gay Men's Health (Eddie Carmichael)	A Survey on Discrimination in West Lothian devised and conducted by Gay Men's Health West Lothian Project	August 1998
Aims of the research The aim of this survey was: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To test the impact of a publicity campaign run in West Lothian to raise awareness of the Project and the group • To explore more systematically the anecdotal evidence within the group regarding attitudes held within the local community about discrimination • To assess the awareness of West Lothian Council's anti-discrimination policy within the community it serves and its impact 		Main Findings 202 people completed this street survey. 33% were aged under 25. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • less than 30% knew that West Lothian Council had an anti-discrimination policy • 53% felt that gay men were discriminated against in West Lothian

7. GAYT: LGBT Youth Scotland's Housing Advice and Support Initiative	Out in the Cold: An action research project on the housing needs of LGBT youth in South East Scotland	April 2000
<p>Aims of the research</p> <p>This report documents one year of operating the GAYT project. This project is a 2 year action research project to ensure that LGBT young people have access to support and advice on housing issues. The report also documents issues related to sexual orientation for those involved in supporting, advising and housing young people</p>	<p>Main Findings</p> <p>The report is based on contacts with 294 LGBT young people and 200 workers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GAYT has established links with over 200 workers involved in housing young people. 50% of workers report being too embarrassed to discuss LGBT issues. • LGBT young people report that coming out plays a major part in their home life and has dictated their housing situation. Whilst some workers report that they believe sexuality is irrelevant to a young person's housing • 50% of young people feel isolated and in need of relocation due to homophobia or lack of LGBT support services in their area. 70% of workers believe that LGBT young people are not a specific needs group • 56% of LGBT young people would prefer a gay-only housing situation. • There are no laws to support LGBT young people housing rights and less than 50% of organisations protect LGBT young people through their equal opportunities policy • The City of Edinburgh Council Housing Services now officially recognise LGBT issues, include LGBT support services as a local connection in their homeless application process and use the term homophobia rather than prejudice in their equal opportunities policy. • Most LGBT young people fear authority due to past experience of homophobia from authority figures and want to see the profile of LGBT support raised by all sectors of society who offer a service to young people. • 70% of LGBT young people feel that their housing situation would be improved if homophobia was as unacceptable as racism. • 20% of young people are homeless or leave home due to varying aspects of homophobia. 	

8. Healthy Gay Scotland	Survey on Violence and Bullying	1998
<p>Aims of the research</p> <p>The survey was jointly undertaken by Healthy Gay Scotland and Lothian Health Promotion at Pride Scotland in Glasgow in June 1998. The purpose of the survey was to provide a snapshot of the levels of abuse and discrimination experienced by the gay community.</p>	<p>Main Findings</p> <p>541 completed questionnaires were returned. 28% were aged under 26:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 70% reported having experienced some form of physical / verbal abuse or discrimination • 60% had experienced physical / verbal abuse or discrimination in a public setting • over 30% have experienced physical / verbal abuse or discrimination from workmates and over 10% from teachers • 50% of respondents took no action after experiencing physical / verbal abuse or discrimination • 12% of respondents have become homeless as a result of physical / verbal abuse or discrimination 	

9. Lothian Health Promotion (George Clark)	The Way It Was: Summary of Work undertaken by the Health Promotion Department of Lothian Health with Young Gay and Bisexual Men (16-25)	April 1997
<p>Aims of the research</p> <p>This report describes a three year initiative by Lothian Health Promotion to identify and address the needs of young gay men. Four main initiatives were developed and are described in the report. They were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'the Way It Is' – a play performed at Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 1995 • A Hepatitis B campaign using cards and posters • Information for new students integrating gay information into generic sexual health information • 'Rainbow Trout' – a monthly newsletter for young gay men and women <p>The findings from a needs assessment survey are shown right.</p> <p>SCVO were commissioned to evaluate this work and a report of that evaluation is contained in this paper.</p>	<p>Main Findings</p> <p>37 interviews were undertaken with 16-24 year-olds between February and April 1995.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phonelines were very important as sources of information to all respondents • 13 identified a need for information about STIs other than HIV • 21 out of 37 mentioned condoms in anal intercourse as their understanding of safer sex • written information was wanted in pocket size by 23 out of 37 • average age on coming out was reported as 17 • 25 out of 37 mentioned alcohol and 16 mentioned drugs as important co-factors in unsafe sex 	

<p>10. Lothian Health Promotion (Gary Wilson)</p>	<p>Summary of a Report to Lothian Health Promotion - Gay men's health and sexual behaviour in relation to social class: Two studies combining quantitative and qualitative data to investigate the health needs of working class gay men in Lothian</p>	<p>September 1998</p>
<p>Aims of the research</p> <p>The following questions are identified for this research:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How have gay men made sense of health promotion messages? • Are there differences in sexual health lifestyles between gay men in different social classes? <p>The study reports findings from two sources:</p> <p>i. Analysis of data from a study of gay men's sexual behaviour undertaken in 1996 in Edinburgh's gay scene by the MRC which involved over 1000 gay / bisexual men.</p> <p>ii. In-depth focus group work with 17 gay men who identified as working class</p>		<p>Main Findings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 70 % reported having only safer sex in the last year • 7% reported two or more unprotected anal sex partners in the past 12 months (one third of those respondents have not been tested for HIV) • younger gay men report more partners but not higher levels of high-risk activities • over 50% have not had an HIV test • men in higher social classes I and II report the least anal intercourse • men from social classes III, IV and V have statistically lower rates of HepB vaccination • participants in the focus group highlighted the isolation gay men often face outside Central Edinburgh • Homophobia compounds factors of unemployment, poverty and depression. • Participants highlighted issues of low self esteem and self worth for gay men living in deprived parts of Lothian • Confusion exists over HP B vaccinations and how, where and when vaccination should take place • The vital role of GPs as gatekeepers to other health and mental health services was highlighted • Link between negative emotional states/ high risk behaviour was reported • Community-based services often don't display any gay literature adding to perceptions of non-gay friendliness • There is a lack of gay services outside Central Edinburgh. • Gay work should be more inclusive of the range of gay experiences, particularly for those from peripheral housing estates

11. PHACE West Gay Men's Project (Patrick Harvie)	HIV Prevention with Young Gay and Bisexual Men in Glasgow: A Needs Assessment	1998
<p>Aims of the research</p> <p>An assessment of the HIV prevention needs of young gay and bisexual men in the Greater Glasgow area and the extent to which current service provision is meeting those needs.</p>	<p>Main Findings</p> <p>This study is based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A questionnaire survey of 24 local organisations • Face to face interviews with 27 young gay and bisexual men • A focus group of 11 young gay and bisexual men • The results of Glasgow City Council's internal audit on lesbian and gay equality • A review of other needs assessment and research papers <p>Findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of HIV transmission and sexual health is very poor. 13 out of the 27 interviewees demonstrated a low or very low awareness of basic HIV and sexual health issues • The sample felt that young gay men, particularly under 18s, do not receive adequate information, advice and support on HIV and safer sex. They were particularly critical of HIV prevention work in schools. Only one had received safer sex information relevant to gay sex. • Service providers believed that services for young gay and bisexual men could be improved • Service providers' complacency rather than resistance could be a barrier to providing and developing quality service provision to young gay and bisexual men. • Organisations who demonstrated a poor understanding of issues for young gay and bisexual men were the ones who claimed that they currently provide an equally effective service to young gay and bisexual men as to others 	

12. SCVO Research Unit	An Evaluation of Lothian Health Promotion Department Work with Young Gay Men	November 1997
<p>Aims of the research</p> <p>This evaluation report was part of a research initiative comprising the following three stages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review (presented in this paper as a Lothian Health Promotion Report 'the Way It Was') • An evaluation • A needs assessment 		<p>Main Findings</p> <p>This evaluation is based on interviews with six young gay men and interviews with eight workers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Much of the literature produced was well received • The purpose of the literature, its target audience and aims need to be stated clearly at the start • There does appear to be justification for a widely available 'coming out' news sheet but the production and look of 'Rainbow Trout' needs to be revamped • Addressing mental health, assertiveness, self confidence issues should be thought through more clearly

13. SCVO Research Unit (Connie Smith)	Actually be yourself: Report of Research into Gay Men's Health Related Needs for Lothian Health Promotion Department	December 1997
<p>Aims of the research</p> <p>This reports on the results of research that considered gay men's health related needs. The aim was to consider any differences experienced by young gay men according to the main social factors in addition to their sexuality including age, class, situation stc.</p> <p>24 young gay men were interviewed for this study.</p>	<p>Main Findings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alcohol consumption and drug use are not directly affected by sexuality • Inclusion of gay images and relevant information in mainstream publicity and literature was most useful • Young gay men can access health information on the gay scene but it is also highlighted that many like to spend some time away from the scene therefore highlighting the need for information in other venues. • Information about sexual health was described as too little too late. • The dominance of heterosexual images and information in school led to complete ignorance about issues of sexual health for many gay men until they are having sex. • Lack of positive images and recognition of different sexualities did nothing for their self-esteem and awareness. • Gay men need education about the range of sexual health issues. This requires services that can be flexible and innovative and do the 'politically unacceptable' where necessary. • The heterogeneity of young gay and bisexual men must be at the forefront when planning any health intervention. There is little material on young gay men in ethnic minorities or young gay men with physical or learning disabilities. 	

14. University of Stirling (Sara Buck, MSc Dissertation)	Stonewall Youth Project: A study of how one group meets the needs of lesbian and gay adolescents	1993
<p>Aims of the research</p> <p>To study how this voluntary sector project meets the needs of its members. The data collected covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The expectations and feelings of being young and lesbian / gay • Their experience of Stonewall Youth Project • Specific questions on other support available to them • Whether they had had any involvement with a social work department • Additional items specified age, gender, living situation, occupation and sexuality 	<p>Main Findings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesbian and gay adolescents continue to face negative experiences related to their sexuality • It is not enough to have policies written on paper, it is how they are actually implemented that is important • Social workers working with young people must make a conscious effort to stop assuming that all their clients are heterosexual • Agencies can help promote a 'gay-friendly' atmosphere by having posters and leaflets about lesbian and gay organisations prominently displayed and easily accessible. • Agencies like Stonewall Youth Project, run by lesbian and gay people are ideally suited to addressing the unmet needs of their clients. 	

15. West of Scotland Lesbian and Gay Forum (John and Patrick)	Poverty and Social Exclusion of Lesbians and Gay Men in Glasgow: A Report by Glasgow Women's Library	March 1999
<p>Aims of the research To provide a snapshot of the lives and experiences of lesbians and gay men in Glasgow and to demonstrate the degree to which poverty and social exclusion are mapped in specific and diverse ways across the community.</p> <p>Main Findings The findings are based on 137 responses to an extensive questionnaire survey and the transcripts of 21 in-depth semi-structured interviews.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lasting impact of the denial of opportunities essential to preventing poverty and social exclusion are poignantly documented in this report • By age 16, 58% of respondents realised they were lesbian /gay but only 9% had come out. By 18 65% had realised but only 27% had come out. • 29% stated that the level education they achieved at school was negatively affected by their own feelings or the attitudes of others towards their sexuality • most first experienced overt forms of social exclusion based on homophobia at school • as a group lesbian and gay men face an additional layer of exclusion as a result of being excluded from the inclusion agenda • service providers fail to address the specific needs of lesbians and gay men who are experiencing social exclusion and poverty • 70% of respondents had experienced discrimination because of sexuality • only a small number of black and ethnic minority respondents were reached in this study. The small number who did pointed to specific and unaddressed issues which require further research. • The discrimination, poverty and social exclusion issues for lesbians are different from the issues for gay men. This should be understood as double discrimination experienced as women and as lesbians. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 28 has had a devastating effect on lesbians and gay men in Glasgow, isolating individuals in vulnerable social contexts. • 30% of gay men and 9% of lesbians had exchanged sex for money and / or shelter 42% stated that their sexuality had been a factor in their decision to leave home or move house • 34% had experienced homelessness. 37% of this number stated that it was explicitly connected to their sexuality. • 42% of unemployed respondents perceived their unemployment was related to their sexuality • 43% of respondents had experienced discrimination or harassment at work • 20% had to leave employment or had refused work because of their sexuality • 21% stated that their addiction to alcohol or drugs was directly related to their feelings or the feelings of others towards their sexuality • 66% had experienced depression. 71% of them connected this to their own or others' feelings towards their sexuality • 27% connected self-harming to their own or others' feelings towards their sexuality • 17% had attempted suicide • 60% had been threatened with physical violence • 37% had been sexually harassed • 16% had been raped • 26% had been harassed by police • 80% stated that the threat of violence or abuse affects the way they behave • 35% had experienced violence in a same-sex relationship 	

6. Additional Non-Research Local Information

1.. Lothian Health Promotion (George Clark)	Men and Health Conference: Report and Summary of Issues	January 1997
<p>This paper is a report and summary from a conference which took place 24 and 25 April 1996. The purpose of the conference was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To publicise the relatively poor health of Scottish men • To offer a wide range of professionals the opportunity to network • To inform delegates of current work in Scotland and elsewhere • To allow in-depth exploration of certain issues in workshops • To identify areas of future development 		

2. PHACE West, Barnardos, Healthy Gay Scotland	OUT on the Streets – A Report on the Support Needs of Young Men who Sell Sex	1998
<p>Aims of the research</p> <p>This document reports on a seminar in Glasgow attracting delegates from throughout the UK. The aims of the seminar were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To enable existing statutory and voluntary agencies to provide a more accessible and appropriate service to young men who sell sex • To encourage joint working between agencies to ensure that agencies meet the diverse range of support and information needs that young men who sell sex have • To produce a report based on the presentations and workshops at the seminar that makes recommendations on service development and good working practice 	<p>Main Findings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic needs around services were identified in areas of homelessness, HIV and sexual health, residential care, physical and mental health. • Awareness training on male prostitution and sexuality was highlighted for social work and police • It was highlighted that young men selling sex are not an easy group for service providers to make contact with and recent police operations focusing on cruising areas appear to have driven a lot of male sex workers off the streets or underground making them inaccessible to outreach workers. 	

3. Stonewall Youth Project	Annual Report 1998 / 99 – Empowering Gay Youth	1999
<p>The annual report reveals how young people have used Stonewall services over the year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people attended SYPs youth work programme 2316 times • 285 support sessions were conducted addressing the following issues: Homelessness/housing (12), transgender (26), family / parents (13), Relationships (20), bullying / school (14), prostitution (6), sexual health (12), violence (6) and mental health issues (163). <p>The mental health issues raised were: Depression (41) self-harm (17) self-esteem (38) feelings about sexuality (40) isolation (27)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 152 calls were made to the phonenumber 		

4. LGBT Youth Scotland	Coming Out, Moving Forward – Issues for Gay Youth: Conference Report	September 1998
<p>This document is a report from a conference held in September 1998 by Lothian Health and LGBT Youth Scotland. The aim of the conference was to determine strategies for workers to support young LGBT people in their 'coming out process' which can affect their lives on a psychological, emotional and social level.</p> <p>Main Findings</p> <p>Law – inequalities in law are a major barrier to the delivery of services to gay youth. Organisations should develop policies which minimise the impact of such legislation and which seek to bring about equality.</p> <p>Mental health – the mental health needs of gay youth should be identified and met; and support around 'coming out' should be recognised as a key factor.</p> <p>HIV – the sexual health knowledge of gay and bisexual young men should be improved in an effort to reduce the incidence of HIV transmission; and that work in schools in a key factor.</p> <p>Women – there should be targeted work aimed at meeting the needs of young lesbians and bisexual women.</p> <p>Agency – local authorities should appropriately fund work targeted at gay youth; and should ensure that generic services are inclusive for gay youth</p> <p>Training – the training needs of those working with young people should be identified and met</p>		<p>Secondary findings:</p> <p>Women – specific resources for women and transgender people should be developed</p> <p>Policy – agencies should adopt policies that support workers in providing an anti-discriminatory environment for all, young people and which are inclusive of LGBT issues and positive images</p> <p>Role models – agencies should support LGBT staff in promoting themselves as positive role models to young people</p> <p>Resources – user-friendly resources around sexuality issues should be developed including access to advice and training</p> <p>Homophobia – should be constructively challenged in youth settings and workers should be supported in doing this</p> <p>Profile – gay-specific agencies should raise their profile beyond the gay community</p>

5. LGBT Youth Scotland/ Lothian Health	Out of Sight Out of Mind: A Seminar on the Social Exclusion and Health Inequalities which Impact on LGBT young people	April 2000
Report pack from this seminar		

6. Stonewall Youth Project	Citizens of the New Millennium: Annual review 1999-2000	2000
<p>The annual report reveals how young people have used LGBT Youth Scotlandservices over the year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people attended SYPs youth work programme 2092 times • 306 support sessions were conducted addressing the following issues: transgender (24), family / parents (10), Relationships (42), bullying / school (32), sexual health (24), violence (10) and mental health issues (144). <p>The mental health issues raised were: Depression (27) self-harm (23) self-esteem (39) feelings about sexuality (31) isolation (24)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 203 calls were made to the phonenumber • 294 young people took part in the housing advice project • over 200 workers took part in training 		

7. Terence Higgins Trust	Press Release – Europe’s first national anti-homophobia campaign launched by Terence Higgins Trust	September 1999
<p>This press release contains a 'Homophobia Factsheet' with UK-wide information:</p> <p>Homophobia and health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homophobia affects gay people’s health. Concern about prejudice and discrimination often prevent gay people from seeking health care and advice • 1 in 5 young gay people have inflicted serious self-harm and/or attempted suicide as a result of homophobic abuse. • Homophobia is an important barrier to the efficacy of HIV health promotion work. <p>Homophobia and school</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2/5 of violent attacks on gay people under 18 took place at school • in a nationwide study by the Institute of Education, 82% of teachers were aware of homophobic bullying in school. • Only 6% of schools have a policy which included reference to homophobic bullying • Factors which hindered teachers tackling homophobic bullying included parental disapproval, lack of experienced staff and lack of policy 	<p>Homophobia and gay people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over half of gay people had not told any of their work colleagues that they were gay <p>Homophobia and young gay people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Among gay people under 18 years old: • Almost half (48%) have been the subject of a violent attack • Less than 1 in 5 reported an attack to the police • 6 in 10 have been harassed. 4 in 10 have been harassed by fellow students • 4 in 10 have been blackmailed or threatened • 9 in 10 have been called names. 8 in 10 have been called names by fellow students. 1 in 5 have been called names by their parents or family members. 	

Additional Research Reports identified but not reviewed:

Author	Title	Date
Biddulph, Centre for the Study of Human Relations, University of Nottingham	Playing it Safe?...Sexual Orientation, Sex Education and the State of the Nation	1998
Coleman in Homosexuality and Psychotherapy, Haworth Press	'Developmental stages of the Coming Out Process'	1982
Coxell, King et al BMJ	'Lifetime prevalence, characteristics and associated problems of non-consensual sex in men: cross sectional survey'	1999
Dankmeijer, Dutch Committee for Gay and Lesbian Sex	Gay and Lesbian? Criteria for proper education about	1992

Education in Schools	homosexuality in schools	
Franklin, El Cerrito, California	'Antigay behaviours among young adults'	2000
Gerstel, Feraios and Herdt in Journal of Homosexuality	Widening Circles: An Ethnographic Profile of a Youth Group	1989
Herek et al Journal of Interpersonal Violence	'Hate Crime Victimization Among Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Adults'	1997
Hickson, Davies et al	'Gay Men as Victims of Non-consensual Sex'	1994
Savin-Williams, Cornell University	Gay and Lesbian Youth: Expressions of Identity	1990
Shucksmith, Univeristy of Aberdeen	'Young People's Perception of their own Health Needs: A Report of a Project Funded for HEBS'	
Van de Ven National Centre for HIV Social Research, Australia	'Talking with Juvenile Offenders about gay males and Lesbians: Implications for combating homophobia'	1995

7. Commentary

Existing Research

This exercise set out to review existing research about issues for LGBT young people living in Edinburgh.

The most fundamental comment about the existing research is that there is not nearly enough information about LGBT young people in the City of Edinburgh. Very little of the existing research about LGBT issues focuses specifically on issues for LGBT youth. There is virtually no research into the process of 'coming out' for LGBT young people. There is no existing research whatsoever about the particular issues for young lesbians and transgender young people.

The existing research does not present any connection between LGBT youth issues and issues for young people in general. Furthermore issues for LGBT young people are absent from the bulk of research into young people. The Edinburgh Youth SIP is considering LGBT issues as one aspect of exclusion for young people. There is no evidence within the existing research of exclusion related to being LGBT being considered alongside broader issues of exclusion (poverty, access to work, disability, health inequalities). A recent University of Hull survey of 15-25 year old gay men found that 20% had an eating disorder.

Much of the existing research relates to how gay-related agencies deliver services and to the quality of these services rather than a focus on the needs

of individual lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender people or on the needs of any notion of a community of LGBT young people in Edinburgh. Within the existing research reviewed here very little is known about the process that LGBT young people experience in using services. A UK survey of young people's use of sexual advice services by Brook reported that young gay and lesbians did not feel that their needs were fully understood and catered for. A notable example of research into LGBT young people's access to and use of mainstream services is the 'Out in the Cold' report of GayT*, LGBT Youth Scotland's action research project on the housing needs of LGBT young people. Much of the research into gay-related agencies focuses on gay men's health, and sexual health in particular.

Other comments from the reference group included:

- There is very little research into LGBT young people and family life
- Research focuses on individual experience rather than on any real understanding of what community means e.g. gay community
- Questions about who commissions the research and how high are LGBT youth on their agendas?
- Should LGBT youth not feature more highly on major / mainstream research activities?

Young people's comments:

We have all the research but what gets done about it?

How many heterosexuals actually get to read this research?

There is an under-emphasis on areas of interest other than gay men's health

When things are done about this research who tells us?

The research is mostly read by the gay community and the hetties don't know so how can we move on?

The focus group of young people were asked to identify what social exclusion mean to them as LGBT young people:

- Freedom to come out or not
- Particularly in schools – schools don't encourage debate
- Don't know where to go for advice, company or services
- Inequalities in the law
- Information for young people
- Want to go to mainstream services
- Exclusion and narrow-mindedness
- People feel safe in Edinburgh because it's more anonymous (than small towns)
- Other people's attitudes
- Teachers don't know anything
- Get the same services as everyone else.

Gaps in existing research

Many of the gaps in the existing research relate to the comments outlined above. There is a lack of information about LGBT young people and their behaviour, feelings and relationships. Research into the needs of LGBT young people is required to help agencies consider exactly what types of services they need to design and deliver to meet the needs of LGBT young people. Research of this nature is also needed in order to understand what difference agencies could or should make to young people's lives. It was also noted that

research into the needs of LGBT young people must consider LGBT young people as a heterogeneous population. Different issues of exclusion will affect separate groups of LGBT young people in different ways. There is no information within the current research about the particular needs or issues for young lesbians or transgender young people.

A real gap was identified in relation to research into discrimination against LGBT young people within families, within schools, the workplace and within communities in general. There is insufficient understanding of the particular issues related to how LGBT young people construct their identities and / or how they engage in any process of 'coming out' in the City of Edinburgh. One particular aspect of this in Edinburgh is the need to consider particular issues for LGBT young people from small communities around the city who will come to Edinburgh for information, advice and support. There are obviously other, and potentially more serious, issues to be considered for LGBT young people who leave their homes in these communities to seek housing in Edinburgh.

The gaps in research about discrimination extend to a complete lack of examination of how young people in the general community do or do not discriminate against their LGBT peers and what impact this discrimination may be having. To what extent is social exclusion for LGBT young people created or compounded by different types of discrimination? As a consequence of having no research into discrimination, there is an additional gap in identifying solutions for combating it. Do we know, for example, if peer education has a role to play in combating homophobia against LGBT young people? What helps to change homophobic attitudes? What has been tried and worked within communities?

Gaps were identified in relation to research about links between LGBT exclusion and other aspects of social exclusion. Are there particular issues for LGBT young people in looking for work or progressing within work? What, if any, are the issues for LGBT young people in accessing mainstream leisure or learning opportunities? Are there particular issues in relation to using technology and accessing technology for LGBT young people?

Other specific gaps identified by the reference group included:

- Experience in rural communities
- What do mainstream service providers need in order to be more effective in addressing LGBT issues?
- What is our and young people's vision for future service provision?
- What difference do services make to LGBT young people?
- Not a lot of information on how to challenge discrimination and what we want from services

Young people's comments

How are we going to provide services and support for LGBT young people within existing services rather than creating specific gay places and groups (important so human sexuality is discussed within the whole of society not just by gay people)?

Lesbian issues are still a gap
How do you change people's attitudes? LGBT groups should enter into areas which are supposedly anti-gay and tackle prejudice, and ignorance – schools, youth groups, community groups etc
Information packs
Edinvar Housing has a good equal opportunities policy
Emergency buttons on web-sites (so you can switch off if someone comes in)
More information is needed on transgender issues
More research into the experience of people 'coming out' so that services can support them with isolation, insecurity etc
People are frightened to say in schools that bullying is homophobic
Not being able to access services or not being able to go to places that offer information / services because you'll get killed
You feel more excluded if you don't stay in the city

8. Priorities for Future Research

This exercise has revealed two fundamental priorities in relation to LGBT young people and social inclusion research

- Research needs to consider the needs of all sectors of the LGBT youth population
 - separate issues for lesbian, transgender or young gay men need to be considered separately. Issues for young people in villages and towns surrounding Edinburgh may be quite different for LGBT young people in the city centre. LGBT young people from poorer, excluded communities clearly have different pressures, problems and opportunities from LGBT young people living in more advantaged areas.
- Integrating LGBT youth into all kinds of research
 - LGBT issues need to become integral to any research into young people and youth issues in the City of Edinburgh. LGBT issues need to be considered at every point throughout the research process. How are the needs of LGBT young people considered in designing, commissioning, implementing and disseminating any research which considers the needs of young people in Edinburgh. Priorities for research into exclusion issues for any young people need to include consideration of LGBT issues.

A number of other key considerations for LGBT youth issues in future social inclusion research have been identified:

- Research about issues for LGBT young people needs to include research into non-LGBT young people and their attitudes and behaviour. Are there aspects of our school and community systems and services which condone or encourage homophobia against LGBT young people? What constitutes homophobia and what can be done to tackle it?
- What are the most effective educational approaches to address issues for LGBT young people within a changing legislative context for sex education in schools and communities?
- What is the impact of family life on LGBT young people? What are the support needs for LGBT young people within the context of their own family? What are the issues for LGBT young people within families and what is the prevalence of risk and vulnerability for LGBT young people within families?

- Meeting the support needs of LGBT young people who are 'coming out' whilst living in Edinburgh or who come to Edinburgh as part of that process is a key priority for future research. The roles and responsibilities required of different services needs to be more fully understood.

9. Reference Group Members

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