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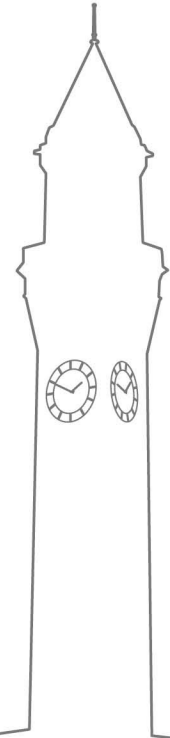


What Works for
Children's
Social Care

LYPSA

Improving LGBTQ+ Young People's Social Care

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Lgbtq+ Young People in Social cAre (LYPSA)



LGBTQ+ youth have received **little attention** in social care practice, research & policy

Aim: to improve the social care experiences of LGBTQ+ young people

Collaborative & co-produced (including LGBTQ+ young people with lived experience)

Work closely with **stakeholder groups** connected to youth in care, LGBTQ+ people and social work/care

Study 1: **Scoping review** about LGBTQ+ young people experiences of social care (submitted for publication);

Study 2: **Interviews** of LGBTQ+ young people's experiences of residential social care;

Study 3: **Testing an online training package (CPD-accredited)** for social workers supporting LGBTQ+ youth



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Discussion/Reflection

Challenges facing LGBTQ+ young people in care

Challenges experienced supporting LGBTQ+ young people in care

How do you support LGBTQ+ youth? Any strategies or resources to recommend?



LGBTQ+ Young People's Health & Well-being Experiences in Out-of-Home Social Care: A Scoping Review (under review)

Research remains scarce & of variable quality

LGBTQ+ youth are more likely to end up in care

Pathways to care incl. family or caregiver rejection (related to actual or perceived LGBTQ+ status)

Poorer physical health, mental health & wellbeing outcomes

Racial/ethnic minority, lesbian/bisexual, transgender & nonbinary youth face particular challenges



Scoping Review Findings (Cont.)

Social workers & foster carers report lack of adequate LGBTQ+ knowledge or training, some homo/bi/transphobic attitudes

LGBTQ+ youth more dissatisfied with their care experiences than non-LGBTQ+ youth

Experience more placement moves, longer duration in care

Face heightened educational barriers & challenges

Greater risk of homelessness & exploitation after care, more survival sex for food & shelter

Report available at: <http://birmingham.ac.uk/lypsa>

Being a Young Advisor on a Research Project

1 of 4 Young Advisors – critical friend

- For Study 1 & 2 involved in:
 - Analysis
 - Refining data selection tool
 - Interview questions
- Study 3 and future involvement:
 - Recruitment
 - Further analysis
 - Research paper



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For YouTube clips of young advisors discussing their involvement in LYPSA, please visit: <http://birmingham.ac.uk/lypsa>

LGBTQ+ Young People in Residential Care: Interview Themes (Early Findings)

Interviews with 20 LGBTQ+ young people about their experiences of residential social care

- Reported both positive & negative experiences in residential care
- However, widespread evidence of homo/bi/transphobia & policing of gender norms
- Often hide sexual orientation or gender identity/expression
- Multiple disruptions (multiple placements, high staff turnover)
- Sexuality-related needs are not being met
- Very little evidence of cultural matching practices (placed with carers that match their cultural/ethnic identities)

Report will be available Aug/Sept 2022



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Placement/Academic Disruption



Moving from [South East England] to [East Midlands] was not great, because – obviously, I couldn't go to schools down there. I wasn't at any schools down there at the time anyway. But obviously, when I was doing emergency placements I would go to a place for the night, then my social worker or one of their colleagues would pick me up in the morning, and then I would spend the day at the social worker's office, and they'd try and get me a bed by 8.00 pm that night. **That went on for six weeks, every single night.** Apart from some weekends, I'd got to be there for a couple of days. But literally, every day a different care home or foster home... I was going from one side of the county to the other every day. I spent extreme amounts of time out of school.



17, White British, Bisexual, Trans Man

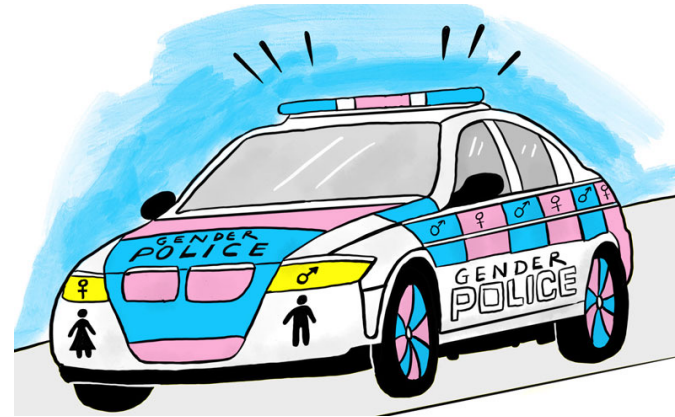
Policing of Gender Norms

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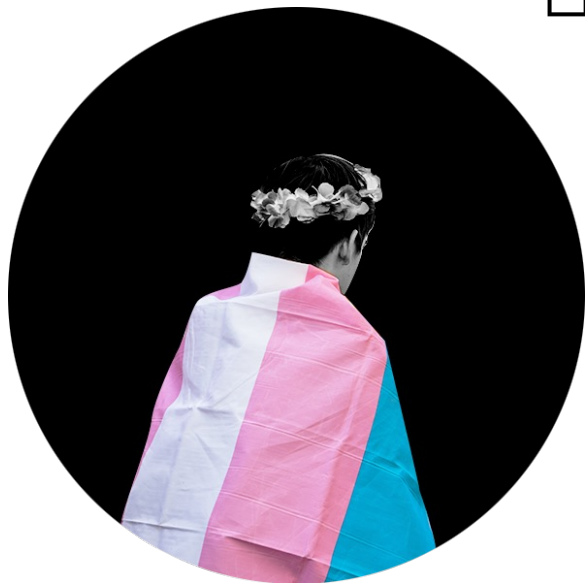
I never came out as non-binary whilst I was in care, not whilst I was in residential care. But there were quite a lot of issues around gender expression, because I was more comfortable wearing masculine clothes ... And obviously, when you're in care, you get a clothing allowance and my support worker was like, **'You're not wearing boys' clothes, you are not buying boys' clothes, you are not going to the boys section at all.'** So, I ended up buying a couple of sets of boxers. She found out and went ballistic... 'You need to return these right now.' I was like, 'Sorry, but they're not returnable.'

18, White British, Bisexual, Non-Binary

”



Transphobic Experiences and Minimisation



When I was coming to terms with my gender [and not out], I was eating dinner with [residential staff members]. We started talking about trans issues and my key-worker mentioned that her son had a friend that was trans. They then started talking about how you know if someone's trans or not and my key-worker brought up a group photo of her son and his trans friend and they played a game where they tried to figure out who the trans person was ... I was just there, kind of trying to ignore it... [one of the workers] pointed out who she thought was trans, and my key-worker was like, 'No, that's my son.' The other worker made a joke, like, 'Ha, ha, is your son trans?' And my key-worker said, '**I would kill him if he was trans**'. I wrote a really long e-mail detailing the entire event; I sent it to the manager of the home. I also copied in my mum, because they respect adults more than they respect the young people of the home. For days, **I heard nothing of this complaint. Nothing come back to me about it.** At one point, I spoke to the care manager, and was like, 'Did you see the e-mail I sent you?' and she was like, 'yeah, yeah' – completely dismissed it.

17, White British, Bisexual, Trans Guy





LYPSA Study 3: LGBTQ+ Knowledge Programme Trial

Evaluates effectiveness of an online training programme for social workers to support LGBTQ+ youth

Using a pre-existing, already widely accessible e-module (CPD-accredited)

Seeking national-size sample of children's social workers from across England

Participants assigned to two groups, and may receive the training or not, depending on which group they are assigned to

Call for participants

ARE YOU A SOCIAL WORKER WORKING IN
CHILDREN'S SERVICES?



Seeking social workers
who are:

- Employed by local authorities in England;
- Working in children's social services;
- Registered with Social Work England; and,
- Willing to undertake CPD accredited e-module (less than 2 hours) & complete short online surveys

We are looking for social workers in England to take part in a study testing the effectiveness of an online training programme for supporting LGBTQ+ young people.

The e-module is CPD accredited and will be offered free to participants and their organisations.

Participants will be randomly assigned to one of two groups: one group receiving the online training and the other receiving business-as-usual equality and diversity training from their local authorities. Both groups will be asked to complete surveys about their attitudes, knowledge and skills in working with LGBTQ+ young people.

Interested social workers, managers or supervisors can register to participate at <https://rb.gy/nrxkl6>

If you have any questions, please contact:
Dr Willem Stander
Email: w.stander@bham.ac.uk
Website: birmingham.ac.uk/lypsa

Participating

Trial seeking social workers to participate between July and November 2022. Must be:

- Registered with Social Work England
- Employed by a local authority & working in children's services in England (incl. managers, senior managers & supervising workers of foster carers)
- Willing to undertake an e-learning training module (less than 2 hours duration), complete short online surveys

Connections to social work teaching partnerships or communications networks welcome

Registration page:

https://bham.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2916cgQLLh8F4nl



Next Steps / Resources

Dissemination Plans:

- reports, journal articles (incl. article with young advisors describing their experiences of contributing), practice briefings
- conference presentations
- animated video (to present findings from study 2, narrated by young advisors)

Resources:

- **Schaub, J.** and Greenchester, A. (2022) Gender and sexuality: ensuring social work meets LGBTQ+ people's needs. Practice Guidance. *Community Care Inform*. [online] <https://adults.ccinform.co.uk/practice-guidance/gender-and-sexuality-ensuring-social-work-meets-lgbtq-peoples-needs/>

Further Information

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Study 3 Registration Link (online training programme for social workers):

https://bham.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2916cgQLLh8F4nl

Project website:

<https://birmingham.ac.uk/lypsa>



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