

Six monthly progress report

(July – December)

Equality Budget 2017-20

Organisation: LGBT Youth Scotland

Project: Voices Unheard

Supporting LGBTI *Young People to Raise Awareness of LGBTI Young People's Experiences of Gender Based Violence in Order to Improve GBV Policy and Practice.*

Completed by: *[redacted]*

Period: July 2018 - Dec 2019

Before completing this form please read the guidance provided at the end of this form.

Project Information

Name and Position of Main Contact Person	<i>[redacted]</i>
Funding Programme	VAWG intermediary and national projects
Amount of Grant Received	£60,000.00
Project Website (if applicable)	www.lgbtyouth.org.uk

1	In a few sentences, tell us about your funded project (see guidance note 1)
	The project includes supporting LGBTI young people, including those with experience of GBV and/or homelessness, to share their experiences, review services for inclusive-practices, engage with key decision-makers, and inform their peers and other professionals. The project also includes multi-agency training delivery for housing and homelessness services on LGBT GBV and support of the LGBT Charter process for GBV services to ensure that they undertake best practice for LGBTI women and LGBTI children and young people.
2	What Fund Outcomes did you work towards? (see guidance note 2)
X	Societal understanding of gender based violence is increased and tolerance of it is decreased (leading to a reduction in violence and abuse experienced by women and children, and an increase in positive gender norms and expectations).
X	Service providers have increased understanding of all forms of gender based violence, and work effectively together to address these issues through the provision of appropriate, high quality services.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The harmful effects of gender based violence experienced by women and children are reduced by early intervention and their safety and wellbeing needs are better met by effective service provision.
X	Interventions, service design and service delivery are improved as a result of the participation of women and children affected by gender based violence.
3	How much progress has been made towards your project outcomes? (see guidance note 3a and 3b)
	Project Outcome 1:
	<p>What you actually did:</p> <p><i>Activity: The Youth Commission will build on existing partnerships developed in 2016/17 to hold one event on LGBTI young people's experiences of domestic abuse and GBV, bringing together young people and key decision makers including MSPs, those within Scottish Govt and public bodies.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff attended 'A Way Home Scotland: A Coalition to End Youth Homelessness' and have agreed to co-host an event in June 2019 in partnership with the Rock Trust. Planning Meeting to take place Feb 2019. <p><i>Activity: We will work with young people to deliver messages through social media and the LGBT Domestic Abuse website on LGBTI young people's relationships, experiences of domestic abuse, and gender based violence: with specific delivery connected to 16 Days of Action (1 web article and 1 social media message created quarterly).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Messages posted July, August and November 2018 on LGBT Domestic Abuse Project social media platforms; content focused on promotion of the Fearless service, the LGBT Domestic Abuse website and promotion of the coercive control film (developed in partnership with Scottish Women's Aid with a focus on coercive control and LGBT people's relationships)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KfCFXBW8kmQ>

- Article written in collaboration with young people to promote opportunities to recruit new members for the youth commission on housing and homelessness. <https://www.lgbtyouth.org.uk/news/2018/november/join-our-housing-and-homelessness-youth-commission/>

Activity: *Young people will be supported to develop and deliver peer-led workshops to young people. Two workshops each year: November and March.*

- November peer-led workshop postponed due to lack of availability of Youth Commissioners as a result of further education and work commitments. In order to rectify this we began a new recruitment process for Youth Commissioners
- One external agency (Queens Cross Housing Association) have requested a workshop- date to be confirmed
- Staff have approached our Edinburgh Youth Services and agreed to deliver a session in May.

What difference you made as a result:

- Due to attending key strategic meetings key youth homelessness organisations are now aware of LGBT experiences of homelessness and the links to experiences of abuse and gender-based violence. This included the representatives of 'A Way Home Scotland' coalition, including local authorities, third sector organisations and policy focused organisations.
- Web and social media posts to promote opportunity to join the youth commission prompted 11 new young people to apply to be a Youth Commissioner; based on their application and initial engagement 7 new young people joined the Commission.
- LGBT Domestic Abuse Project Facebook page has increased followers by 3% between July 2018-Jan 2019 (resulting in more than 600 followers); giving more people access to information including how to access services.

Project Outcome 2:

What you actually did:

Activity: *The Youth Commission will undertake a minimum of 3 meetings per year with public bodies on LGBTI young people's experiences of GBV and the links to housing and homelessness. Year 2: Direct engagement with Local Authorities regarding housing/homelessness strategies and the CPG on homelessness.*

- One young person and staff co-delivered a presentation to Central Tayside & Fife Housing Options Hub, including providing key recommendations to improve responses to LGBT people who experience GBV and homelessness.
- Meeting with West Housing Options Hub was planned for Dec 2018, but was cancelled due to hub members availability. New date to be confirmed.
- One young person delivered a presentation to the LGBTI Cross-Party Group in Sept 2018, outlining the key findings from consultations undertaken in 2016/17 and highlighting key recommendations for change.
- One young person attended the Scottish Government Homeless Prevention Strategy Group meeting in September 2018

Activity: *LGBTI young people and staff will deliver a minimum of 4 service reviews per year in the area of domestic abuse, gender based violence, and housing and homelessness. 1 review per quarter: July, October, January, March*

- One young person conducted a service review with Glasgow East Women's Aid in July 2018.

Activity: *LGBTI young people and staff will attend a minimum of 2 national events with a focus on domestic abuse, gender based violence, or housing and homelessness.*

- 4 x young people attended the Albert Kennedy Trust conference in London in Oct 2018
- Staff attended the Centre for Homelessness Impact mapping seminar
- Staff and 2 young people attended #MeTae conference; exploring GBV prevention in youth work, Jan 2019. Introduced the Voices Unheard Educational resource and highlighted approaches to LGBT inclusive GBV prevention work.

Activity: *Building on the training resources developed by the Youth Commission in 2016-2017 we will deliver a multi-agency training for housing and homelessness services with a focus on LGBTI young people's experiences of gender based violence, including domestic abuse and familial abuse. The training will have space for up to 20 participants. At least one multi-agency training will be co-delivered with young people. Training in year 2 to focus on influencing strategies.*

- No activity undertaken as yet; trainings planned for April/ May 2019.

Activity: *We will support a maximum of 10 GBV services each year to undertake the LGBT Charter, with a minimum of 4 achieving the award each year. Trainings delivered within 2 months of registration, with quarterly development meetings taking place.*

- We are currently supporting 10 GBV organisations through the LGBT Charter; Moira Anderson Foundation; Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre; Glasgow and Clyde Rape Crisis; Monkland's Women's Aid; Motherwell and District Women's Aid; Perthshire Women's Aid; South Ayrshire Women's Aid; Rape Crisis Grampian; Women's Aid East and Midlothian and Lanarkshire Rape Crisis Centre.
- Since July 2018, Glasgow East Women's Aid, West Lothian Women's Aid and Argyle and Bute Rape Crisis have all achieved bronze level charter.
- The LGBT Charter folders reviewed evidence strong practice across a range of indicators, including more skilled staff, inclusive policies, and engagement with LGBT people.

What difference you made as a result:

- We have supported organisations across Scotland to improve their policies and practice, engage with LGBT people, and be able to evidence that their services are inclusive.
- Members of the Central, Tayside and Fife Housing Options Hub have increased awareness of LGBT experiences of homelessness and abuse, including increased knowledge of how to develop more inclusive policies and practice. Hub members indicated an interest in further training in 2019.
- LGBT Cross- Party group have increased awareness of LGBT experiences of homelessness and abuse. Group Chair has raised 3 parliamentary questions

	<p>following this input, raising awareness of the key issues and calling for action.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people in the youth commission are more familiar with parliamentary processes • Training evaluations show that professionals from across the youth work sector and Housing Hub representatives have increased awareness of LGBT young people's experiences and are more aware of how to deliver inclusive GBV prevention work.
	<p>Project Outcome 3:</p>
	<p>What you actually did: No Activity for Outcome 3</p> <p>What difference you made as a result:</p>
	<p>Project Outcome 4:</p>
	<p>What you actually did:</p> <p><i>Activity: We will deliver 6 development days, using the Youth Commission structure, which focus on building young people's skills and knowledge in the areas of domestic abuse, gender based violence, and housing and homelessness, as well as action planning and the delivery of key tasks. Bimonthly, beginning in August 2017.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 development days have taken place in August September and December with further dates planned in February, March and May 2019. Development days focused on: evaluation and reflection; planning for events; recruitment of new Youth Commissioners; planning for cross party working groups including CPGs; and engagement with Housing Hubs and inducting new Commissioners using a peer-led approach. • Key themes and activities planned for the remaining development days include: peer workshop and training development, web and social media content delivery, project development and event planning, (in partnership with A Way Home Scotland). <p><i>Activity: We will support the Youth Commission to bring the domestic abuse experiences of LGBTI young people to mainstream organisations through building and maintaining partnerships with 1 GBV organisation and 1 homelessness organisation.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people's work with Scottish Government to consult with Local Authorities on approaches to LGBT inclusion in housing/homelessness services was delayed by due to other priorities emerging from the Homeless Prevention Strategy Group. Meeting scheduled for Feb 2019 to discuss data collected and plan next steps. • Meeting arranged to plan an event in partnership with A Way Home Scotland to raise awareness of youth homelessness and highlight key recommendations of the A Way Home Coalition, 'Aff The Streets' and LGBT Youth Commission on Housing and Homelessness. • Staff supported Cyrenians by attending their event to celebrate Transgender Awareness Week and highlighted trans people's experiences of GBV as well as promoting the Fearless service. • Staff and young people supported the St Paul's Youth Forum at the #MeTae Conference in January; raising awareness of LGBT inclusive approaches to GBV prevention, including promoting the Voices Unheard Educational Resource and promotion of the Fearless service.

Activity: We will provide face to face support for LGBTI young people who experience domestic abuse or face barriers to participating, and provide information and support through social media platforms.

- The Youth Commission have a dedicated, private Facebook page to allow easy access to staff for support. Staff utilise the page to share information and notify young people of opportunities. Young people contact staff directly through email and Facebook Messenger to access support.
- Staff have provided one-to-one support to two young people who have experienced or been affected by gender-based violence and/or homelessness.
- Staff referred one young person to a specialist service for domestic abuse and supported one young person to make a homelessness application.

Activity: Support a minimum of 10 LGBTI young people to complete Saltire Awards, supporting their progression into positive destinations. June 2018

- 7 Youth commissioners were newly recruited in Dec 2018 and will be given the opportunity to register for Saltire Awards at the Feb development day. 4 existing members already registered.
- Youth Commissioners continue to record volunteer hours and all are expected to receive a saltire award.

Activity: Young People will be supported to engage with their local authority around its housing plan. Access, analyse, and respond to their local authority's housing plan. Attention will be paid to the extent to which each plan recognises LGBT identities, young people, and LGBT people's experiences of GBV.

- Young people have analysed the housing plans/ homelessness plans of 4 local authorities; Glasgow, City of Edinburgh, North Lanarkshire and Falkirk Council and have identified key issues and recommendations.
- We are awaiting the results of consultation conducted in partnership with Scottish Government in order to complete analysis and write reports. This is expected to be complete by June 2019.

What difference you made as a result:

- Young people report feeling more confident in their role and having a clearer understanding of their responsibilities.
- Young people report feeling more prepared and confident to engage with professionals and key decision makers such as MSPs.
- Young people experiencing GBV and/or homelessness are now aware of services and felt able to access support
- Young people and staff have a working action plan for the year ahead

4 Has the project enabled your organisation to maintain and/or develop connections, networks and partnerships? (see guidance note 4)

Building on our partnerships formed in 2016/17, the youth commission have continued to engage with a wide range of services and people of influence.

Our relationships with Rock Trust and Homeless Action Scotland created an opportunity for LGBT Youth Scotland staff to join A Way Home Scotland: A Coalition to End Youth Homelessness. This group has created opportunities for the youth commission to share their findings and key recommendations to improve service responses for LGBT people

	<p>affected by GBV and homelessness across the partnership. We are currently in discussion with coalition partners regarding hosting a joint event.</p> <p>Our relationship with the Tenant's Participation Advice Service (TPAS) enabled us to engage a wider audience of housing associations, which led to one; Fyne Homes, undertaking training for 20 staff in Sept 2018. One local authority; Aberdeen Council, also approached the commission to ask for recommendations on service improvement as a result of hearing the commissioners speak at a TPAS event in 2017/18.</p> <p>Our relationship with Cyrenians continues to develop as they work towards the LGBT Charter Mark, and we are currently setting up meetings with the Social Bite Village with a view to having the commission review their service delivery and policies.</p> <p>In addition to this, LGBT and youth organisations from across Europe's Feantsa network, and one organisation in New Zealand have contacted the youth commission after hearing about their work to raise awareness and influence positive change in Scotland from sector partners. This has enabled the commission to connect with a broad range of organisations and share learning. Feantsa are now proposing to hold an trans-Europe conference on LGBT youth homelessness if funding can be identified.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Have there been any significant challenges or changes? (see guidance note 5)</p> <p>Within our small team we have seen high levels of staff absence, particularly affecting the staff member responsible for this project and other GBV work across the organisation. These absences were unavoidable yet have affected some of the activities and timescales.</p> <p>As a result, the recruitment of new youth commissioners was delayed, which caused significant difficulties in progressing key tasks. We do however anticipate that funded outcomes will be achieved by June 2019.</p> <p>In addition, we faced significant delays in recruiting and inducting 2 new staff members; one of whom manages this project.</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>What have you learned? (see guidance note 6)</p> <p>Through the work of the youth commission, we have learnt that there is a real desire across the housing/ homelessness sector to understand the needs of the LGBT youth population affected by homelessness and/or abuse and the links to gender-based violence.</p> <p>As an organisation, we have developed a more in-depth understanding of housing policy and processes. This has enabled us to respond effectively to the consultation on the proposed new Scottish Housing Regulations, and to work more effectively to influence change at a local and national level.</p>

Guidance notes for six monthly progress report

Guidance note 1: About your funded project (no more than 250 words)

Please tell us about the part of your project that is funded by the Scottish Government grant. Please give us a brief outline of the project and, if the grant is providing part funding of the project alongside other grants, please tell us about the project as a whole.

Guidance note 2: What Fund Outcomes did you work towards?

The Fund Outcomes were set by the Scottish Government in application documentation. Please tick the relevant Fund Outcomes that you are working towards (you should be working towards a minimum of one and a maximum of three fund outcomes). Refer to your original application or re-profiling form if the original outcomes have changed.

Guidance note 3: How much progress has been made towards your Project Outcomes?

Project Outcomes were set individually by each organisation. In sections 3a and 3b, please tell us about each of your outcomes separately – no more than one page of A4 per outcome.

Guidance note 3a: What you actually did

Here we are interested in hearing about the activities you undertook to achieve the project outcomes. Please give a brief description of what you did under each, and the reason why you did this particular activity. For example, in addition to saying 'we provide group work', tell us about what the group does, who typically participated, how it supported the individuals involved and what happened during a session. You may wish to describe your activities in separate paragraphs or, if you prefer, you can use bullet points to identify key information.

We have provided separate headings in this section. If you would prefer to include the evidence of your work (what difference we made as a result) after each activity rather than in separate sections then please feel free to write as one narrative.

Guidance note 3b: What difference you made as a result

This section is where you provide your **evidence** of the difference you have made through your activities. This could include quotes and other soft evidence, hard evidence and statistics, links to electronic files/case studies/websites/videos, observations, questionnaire results, the media, or through relevant sections of anonymised support plans charting progress.

Guidance note 4: Has the project enabled your organisation to maintain and/or develop connections, networks and partnerships? (no more than 500 words)

Has the grant allowed your organisation to engage with other organisations, develop new connections and/or participate in new networks, including any funded through Equality Budget funding? If so, please give examples describing the relationships and what impact this has had on your work.

Guidance note 5: Have there been any significant challenges or changes? (no more than 500 words)

We are aware that you will experience many challenges due to the very nature of your work. However, this section is for capturing unforeseen challenges or changes to your circumstances, e.g. staffing issues, funding challenges, environmental or organisational changes, and partnership working. You may also want to talk about increased demand for your service or activities if appropriate.

Guidance note 6: What have you learned? (no more than 500 words)

What have you learned since the project started? What you have done, or what do you intend to do, as a result of this learning? Have you made, or do you intend to make, any changes to the way you operate as a result? For example, you may have changed or refined your outcomes.