

# Beyond Abuse: LGBT accommodation- based domestic abuse services

**BRIGHTON & HOVE FINDINGS**

**November 2017 - October 2018**



*“I just want to say thank you for the other day, I smiled for the first time in more than I care to think. You really made me feel hope.”*

*“My caseworker was supporting me after a difficult relationship, one that had a huge impact on me. When I first started seeing my caseworker all I wanted was to get back with my ex; I put my life on hold, didn’t care about anything and I was so unhappy I got to the point of not wanting to go on and planned to take my life.*

*With the support I have been getting from RISE and my counsellor from THT, I have managed to move forward and face things that were previously crushing me.”*

**Service user – aged 37, Brighton**

## Contents

<b>Overview</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Referrals and support</b>	<b>4</b>
Number of referrals	4
Where have referrals come from?	4
Support offered	5
Length of support	7
Presenting risk	8
Improvement in WMWBs	8
<b>Demographics</b>	<b>9</b>
Location	9
Gender identity	10
Sexual orientation	10
Age	11
Religion	12
Relationship Status	13
Case studies	14

## Overview

As part of the Beyond Abuse- LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans) accommodation based domestic abuse services, RISE have been providing a support service within the Brighton and Hove area. Similar projects were funded in the Greater Manchester Area and the in the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham. LGBT Foundation and Stonewall Housing provided these services. Due to all running similar projects through the same funder, a national partnership was formed between all three agencies.

Locally, RISE partnered with Southdown Housing and were supported in furnishing the refuge flats by Sussex Beacon.

Rise was funded to provide a caseworker and a part time peer support worker. We were, however, unsuccessful in recruiting to the role of the peer support worker despite 2 recruitment attempts. Due to the time limitations of the project we decided not attempt a third round of recruitment and proceeded with just the caseworker who worked 30hrs per week.

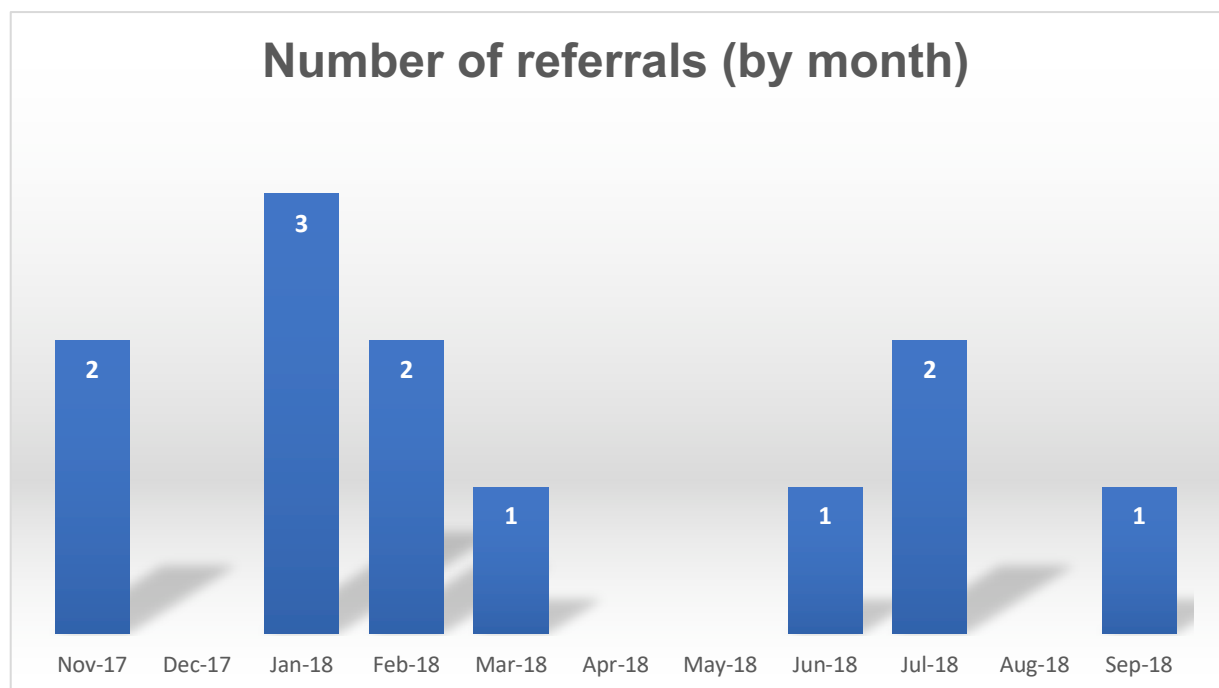
## Referrals and support

In total RISE received 12 referrals to the LGBT refuge project. Out of these 12 referrals 4 individuals were successfully placed in refuge accommodation. The other 8 individuals were supported via outreach.

We were cautious about advertising the project locally as the housing situation in Brighton and Hove is currently very challenging. We did not want to raise expectations that we would not then be able to meet.

Based on our previous experience managing a GBT project we decided not to advertise the project other than when we had a refuge space available. We relied on the rest of our referrals to come through our LGBT IDVA service.

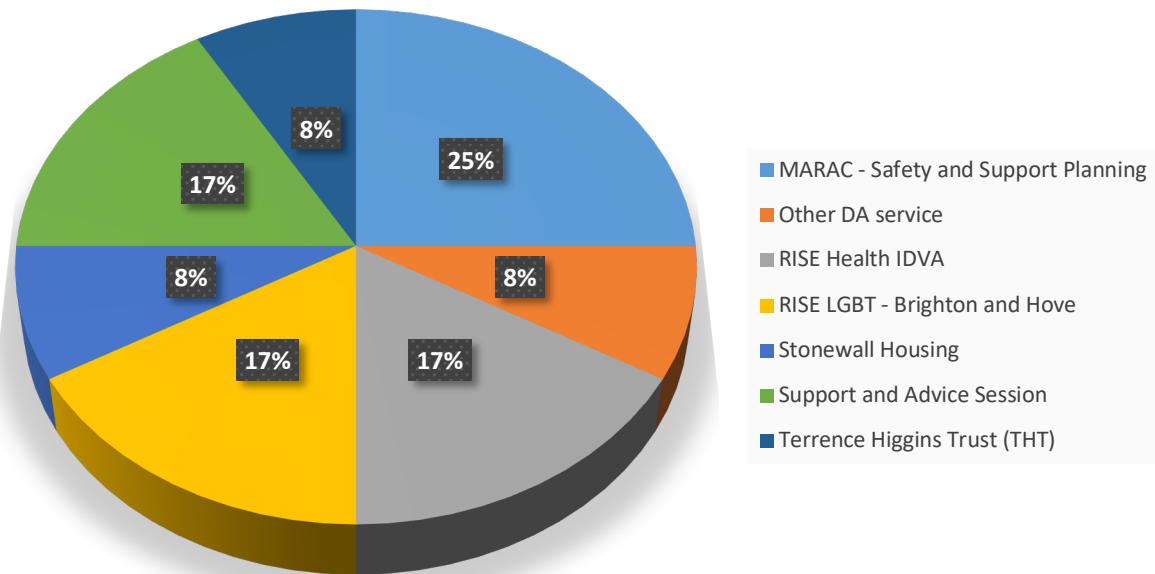
There were no referrals in December 2017, April, May and August 2018.



### Where have the referrals come from?

Our referrals have come from variety of sources. Just over a third of the referrals came internal from RISE through our Portal service and through our RISE Health IDVA who is based at the Royal Sussex County Hospital.

## Route of referral



## Support offered

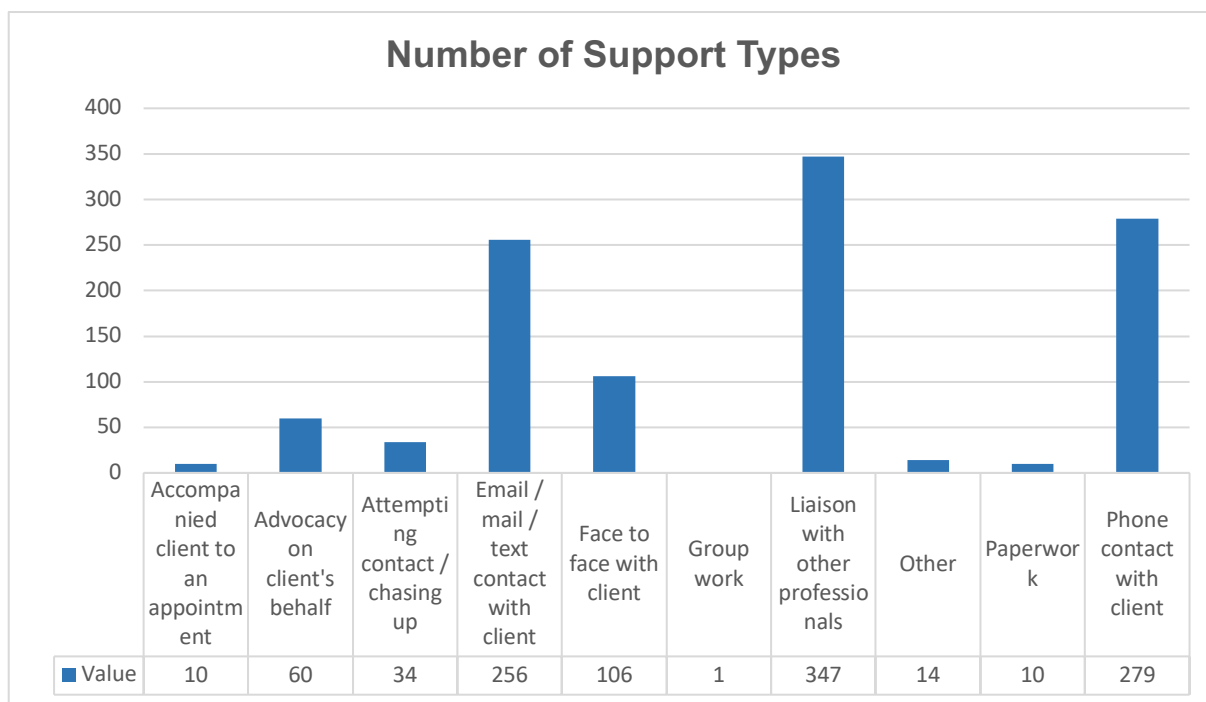
Within our LGBT Domestic Abuse Service, we were offering refuge provision for a minimum of six months with at least weekly engagement with the caseworker. Casework sessions were to used complete needs matrix assessments and safety plans and also to explore healthy relationships, the cycle of abuse and power and control, relationship rights, benefits and budgeting. This support was also offered to those who engaged with the service but who were not in our refuge provision.

## Support Type (Total Hours) :

### Breakdown of support types by hours

Support Type (Total Hours)	Value	%
Accompanied client to an appointment	11:25:00	3.1
Advocacy on client's behalf	21:35:00	5.8
Attempting contact / chasing up	4:50:00	1.3
Email / mail / text contact with client	45:15:00	12.1
Face to face with client	136:30:00	36.5
Group work	0:20:00	0.1
Liaison with other professionals	72:00:00	19.3
Other	2:45:00	0.7
Paperwork	8:10:00	2.2
Phone contact with client	70:00:00	18.7
Support at court	0:40:00	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>373:30:00</b>	<b>100%</b>

- 36% of the total support hours was spent by providing clients with face to face appointments
- 19% of the total support hours was spent on phone contacts with clients
- We spent 19% of the time liaising with other professionals
- The average support hours per LGBT refuge case is 31 hours and 7 minutes



## Length of support

The length of support has tended to vary in relation to where the individual has been living when working with us. If the client has been out of area and receiving phone support only, then the length of support has been relatively short. Those we have supported in Brighton and Hove have been supported for a longer due to either being in refuge provision or because they have needed ongoing support to find suitable, safe accommodation in the city.

Timescale	Number of clients accessing	Percentage
Under 1 month	1	8
1-2 months	2	17
2-3 months	1	8
3-4 months	0	0
4-5 months	0	0
5-6 months	2	17
Over 6 months	6	50



## Presenting risk

Out of our 12 clients 10 had DASA/RICS completed when they began working with the service. 50% of these were complete by the caseworker and the other 50% already had their RIC completed when they engaged with our service.

RIC Score	Number of clients in this range
0-4	0
5-9	2
10-14	5
Over 14	3

## Improvement in WMWBS Scores

The partnership partners decided to use evaluation statements based on the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well Being Score (WEMWBS) with the addition of two questions around feelings of safety. This data has been collected at various points during the client's journey through the services from point of referral to exit from the service.

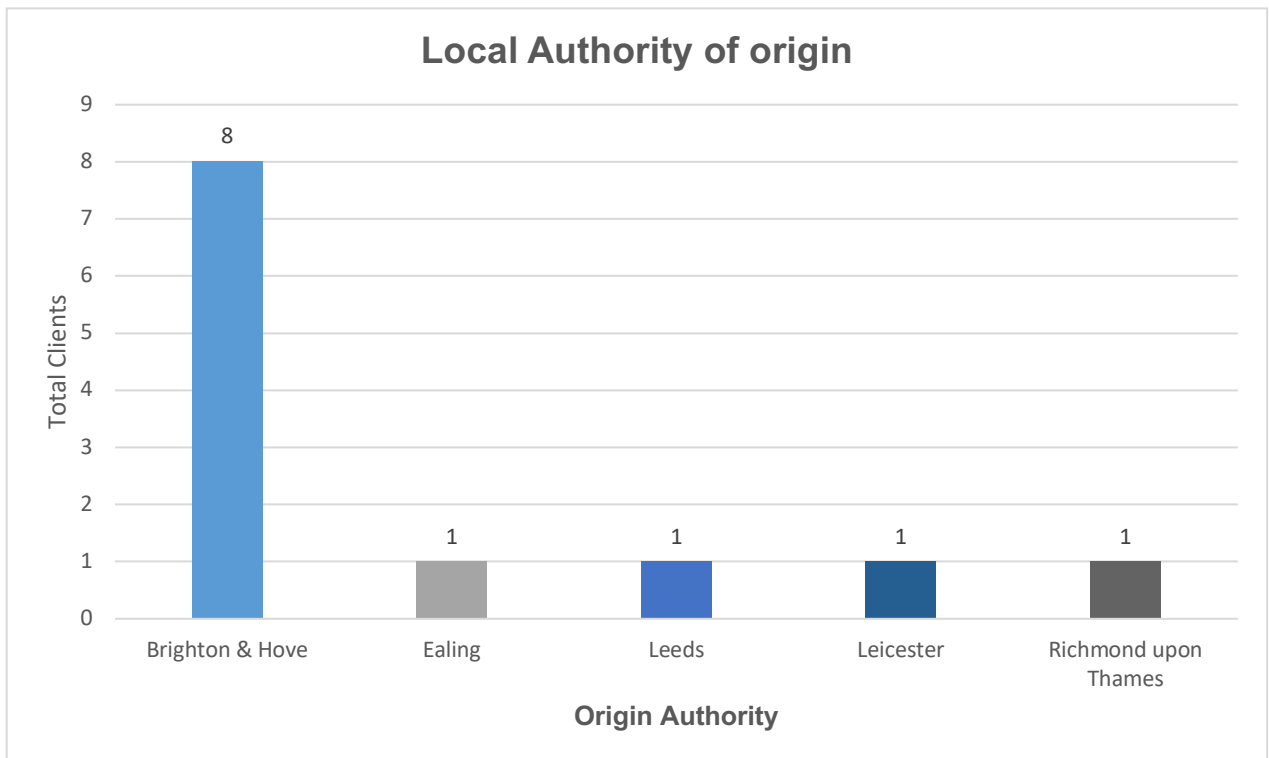
Six clients completed these forms both at the beginning and at the end of their time with the service. The below chart depicts if there has been increase, decrease or no change in the following outcomes.

Outcome	Increase	Decrease	No Change
1. I've been feeling optimistic	5 (83%)	0 (0%)	1 (17%)
2. I've been feeling useful	6 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
3. I've been feeling relaxed	5 (83%)	0 (0%)	1 (17%)
4. I've been dealing with problems well	6 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
5. I've been thinking clearly	5 (83%)	0 (0%)	1 (17%)
6. I've been feeling close to other people	2 (33%)	1 (17%)	3 (50%)
7. I've been able to make up my own mind about things	4 (67%)	0 (0%)	2 (33%)
8. I feel confident enough to ask for help if I need it	6 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
9. I've been feeling safe where I live	6 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

## Demographics

The demographics data below shows where a client was located at their initial point on contact with the service. Three of the out of borough clients subsequently moved to the Brighton and Hove area.

Local Authority of origin	Value	%
Brighton & Hove	8	66.7
Ealing	1	8.3
Leeds	1	8.3
Leicester	1	8.3
Richmond upon Thames	1	8.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>100</b>



## Gender identity

The below data shows how RISE collect gender identity information. All of our clients have identified as being either female (including trans women) or male (including trans men).

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>%</b>
Female	4	33.3
Male	8	66.7
Intersex	0	0
Gender Queer	0	0
Non-Binary	0	0
Other	0	0
Don't know/Not asked/Declined	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Sexual orientation

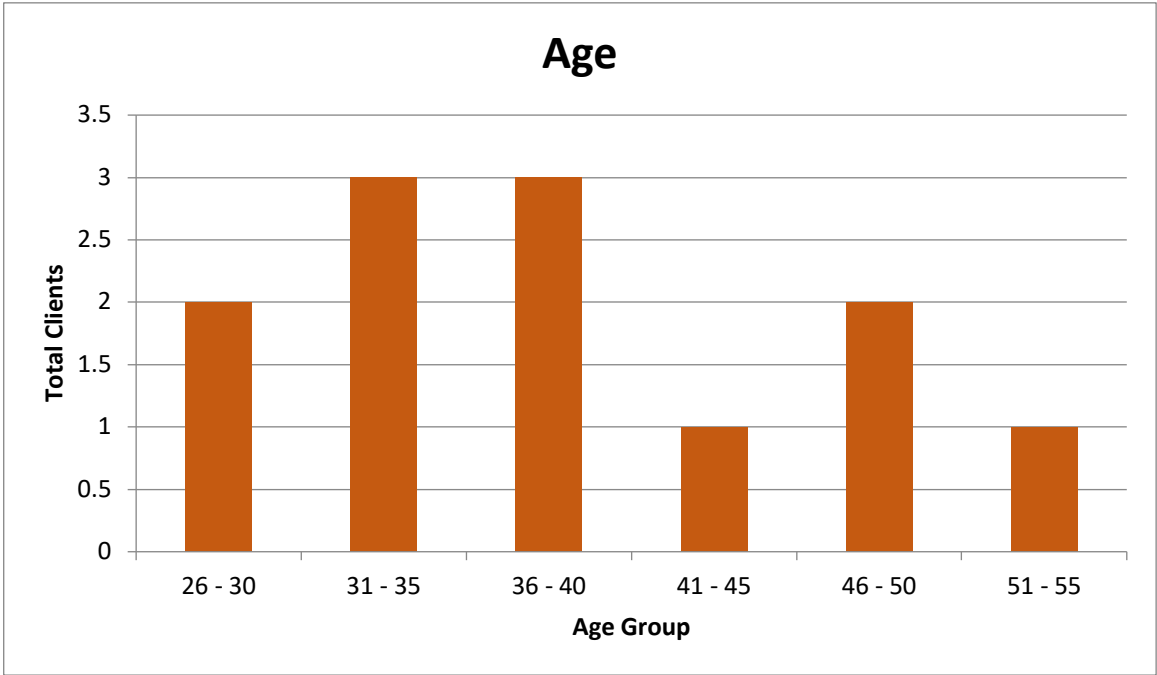
The table below shows how individuals identified their sexual orientation.

<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>%</b>
Gay	9	75
Heterosexual	0	0
Lesbian	2	17
Queer	0	0
Bisexual	1	8
Asexual	0	0
Pansexual	0	0
Other	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>100%</b>

# Age

The age range of clients accessing the service has been relatively wide ranging.

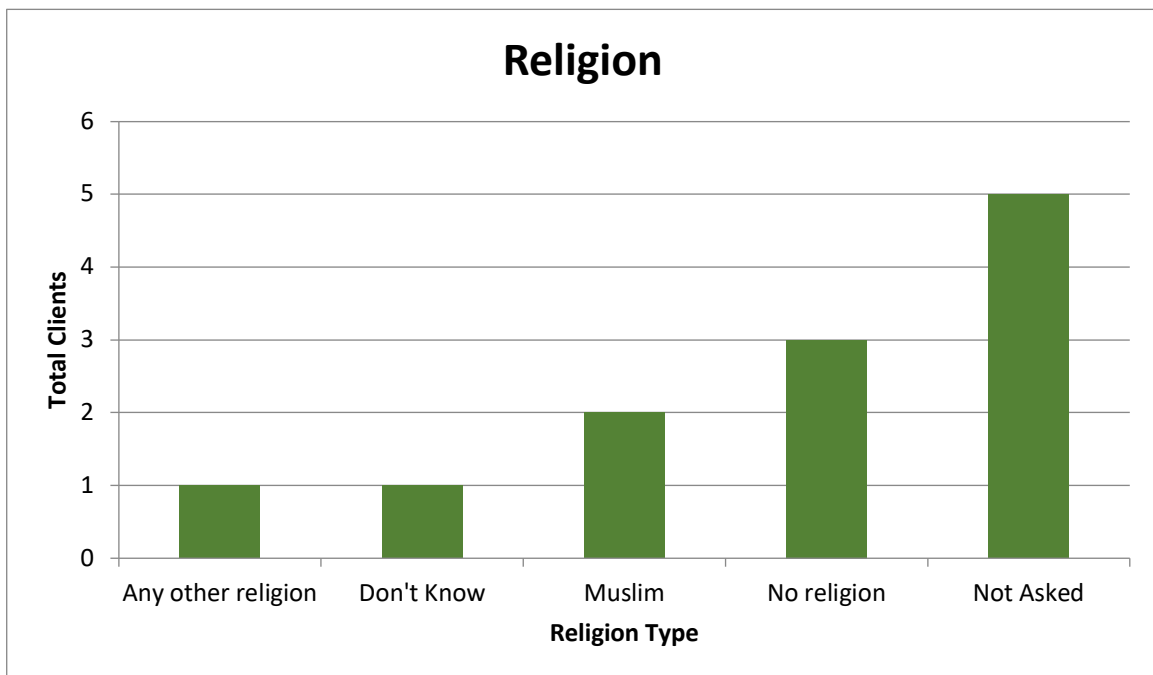
Age	Value	%
26 - 30	2	17
31 - 35	3	25
36 - 40	3	25
41 - 45	1	8
46 - 50	2	17
51 - 55	1	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>100%</b>



## Religion

As part of our standard data collection we asked individuals engaging with the service about their religious beliefs. One client identified themselves as being spiritual, which was classed as “Any other religion”. Most were unsure of their religious beliefs at this time or did not identify with any religion.

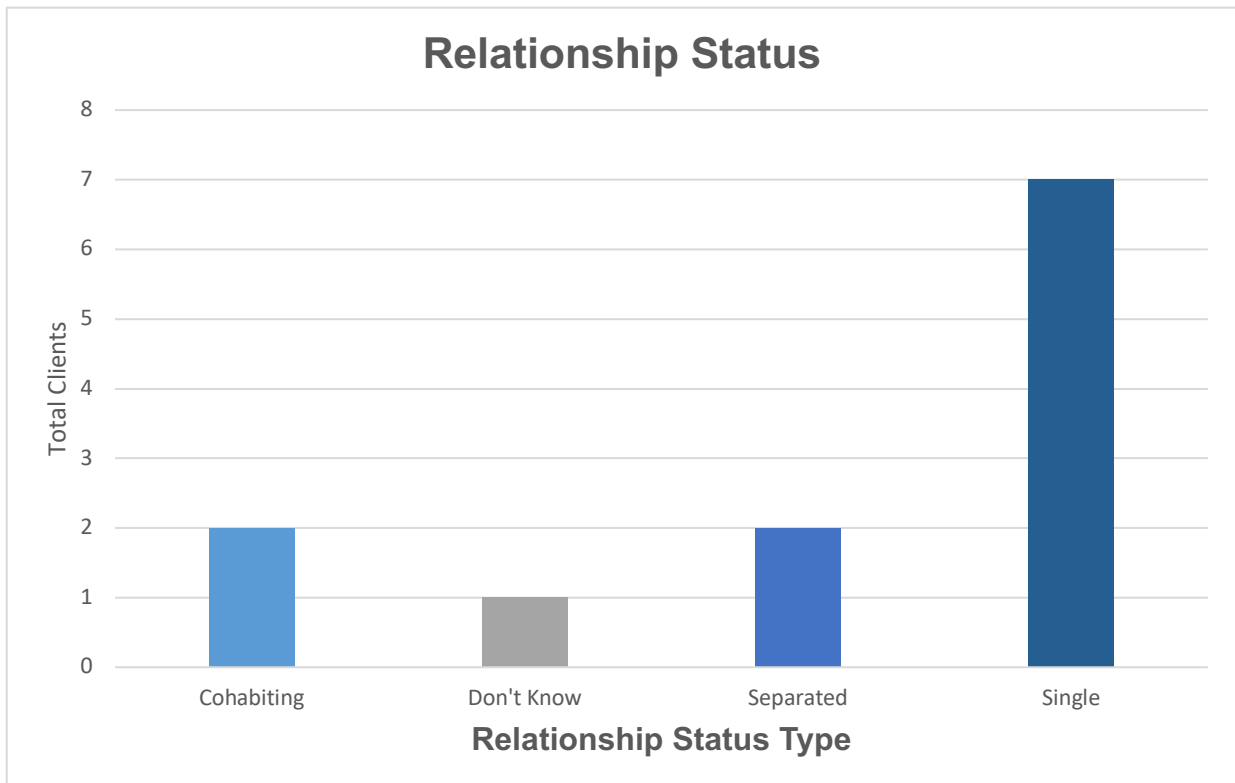
Religion	Value	%
Any other religion	1	8
Don't Know	6	50
Muslim	2	17
No religion	3	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>100</b>



## Relationship status

At the time we started supporting clients, 2 stated they were separated, 2 were cohabiting and 7 stated they were single.

Relationship status	Value	%
Cohabiting	2	17
Don't Know	1	8
Separated	2	17
Single	7	58
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>100</b>



## Case study

### **S's story**

S, a 30-year-old gay man, first accessed Brighton LGBT Refuge Project through our partner Stonewall Housing. S initially referred for an LGBT refuge flat after fleeing home due to honour based violence, and being made homeless after sofa surfing with a friend in Brighton. S was diagnosed with depression and anxiety, and suffering the effects of trauma from abuse and historic trauma. There were no available refuge vacancies at that time, so S was offered outreach and was supported to refer to the local council who placed them in emergency accommodation. S experienced homophobic and racist hate crime from other residents at this property, and the police attended on several occasions. Due to the unsuitability and lack of safety this housing provided, compounded by complex PTSD presenting symptoms, S' mental health deteriorated rapidly to the point where they were highly suicidal and had to be admitted to hospital for 2 weeks respite care. We supported with some 1:1 trauma stabilisation and therapeutic support, and regular casework and emotional support. S was eventually placed in an available LGBT refuge place and is still engaging well with our service, as well as accessing local mental health support. Now they are in a safe place of their own, S is going from strength to strength as they rebuild their life and resettle in to their local community.

