

2018

# Beyond Abuse: LGBT accommodation- based domestic abuse services

**MANCHESTER FINDINGS**

**June 2017 - October 2018**

**LGBT**  
  
foundation

“I received support with personal safety issues, considering future relationships, housing issues, accessing local services and information and encouragement about engaging in the community.

Without this support, I would have either given up and/or done myself serious harm. I am now thriving, feeling much better, optimistic, independent, and confident because of the professional and well-coordinated holistic service I have been able to access and benefit from.

I take part in a range of creative activities, have a fulfilling social life and support other people through voluntary work. I know that the service is there for me if I need further help in the future. I am not alone.”

**Service User Aged 63, Manchester**

## 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	5
Presenting risk	6
Improvement in WMWBs	6
<b>Demographics</b>	<b>8</b>
Location	8
Gender identity	8
Sexual orientation	9
Age	10
Religion	10
Ethnicity	10
Disability	11
Employment Status	11
Relationship Status	11
Other demographics	11
<b>Case studies</b>	<b>12</b>

## Overview

As part of the Beyond Abuse- LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans) accommodation based domestic abuse services, LGBT Foundation have been providing a support service within the Greater Manchester Area. Similar projects were funded in Brighton & Hove City Council and the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham. Brighton Rise 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.

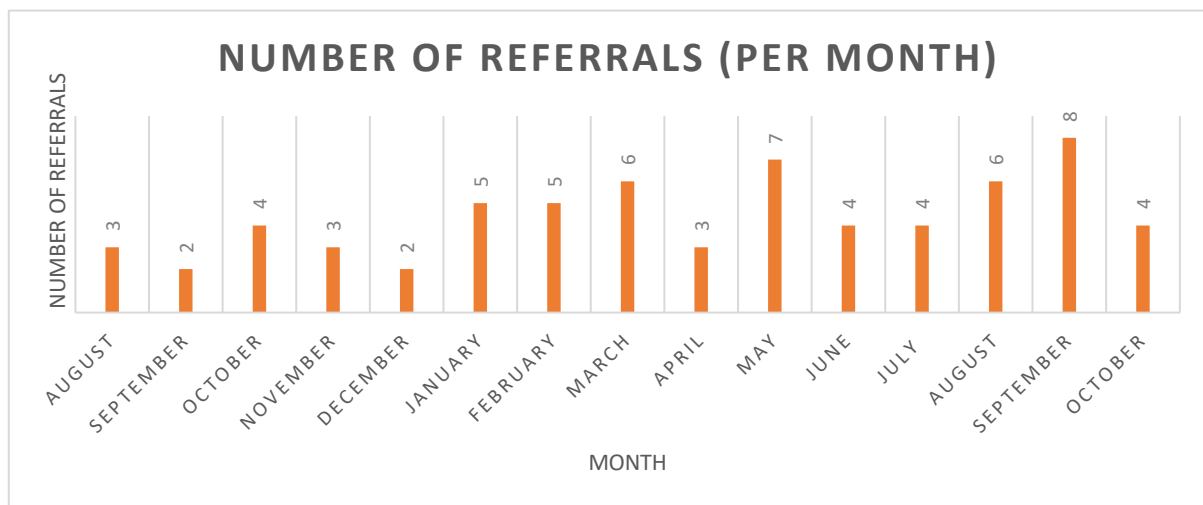
Locally, Manchester City Council, who were successful in getting this bid, has supported LGBT Foundation. Independent Choices provided casework supervision for the worker in the project. In terms of housing, LGBT Foundation collaborated up with both Great Places, who provided three housing units, and City West Housing Trust, who provided one.

**All of the findings in this report have be collected via the use of demographic forms, monitoring databases, and initial risk assessments with clients. All data has been anonymised. This data was collected between 1 August 2017 and the 15 October 2018.**

## Referrals and support

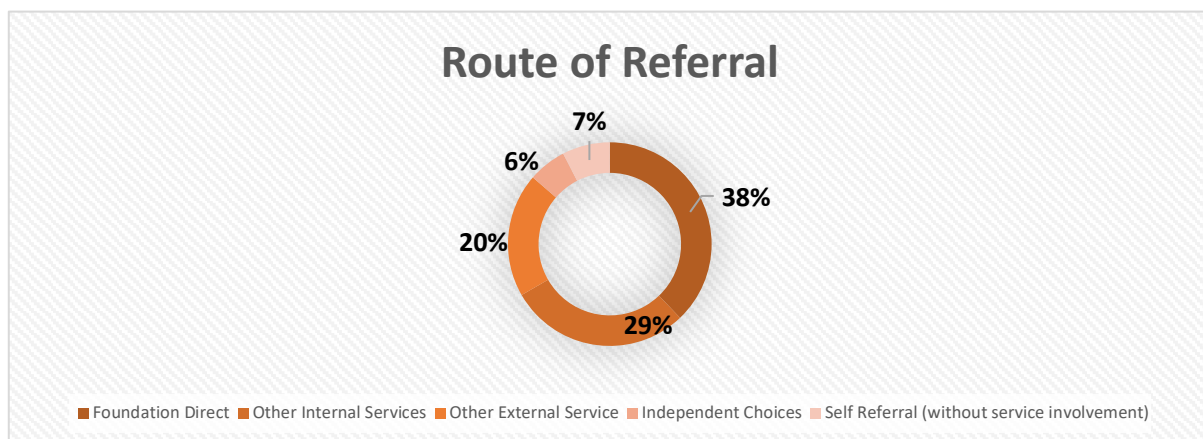
### Number of referrals

Although Sophie, the project worker, started in June 2017, referrals were not received until August 2017. The reason for this is due to the project having to be set up including paperwork, referral pathways, and the planning the casework element of support. Although referrals did not start to come in until August, LGBT Foundation have received 66 referrals to the domestic abuse service. Please see below for the breakdown of when these were received.



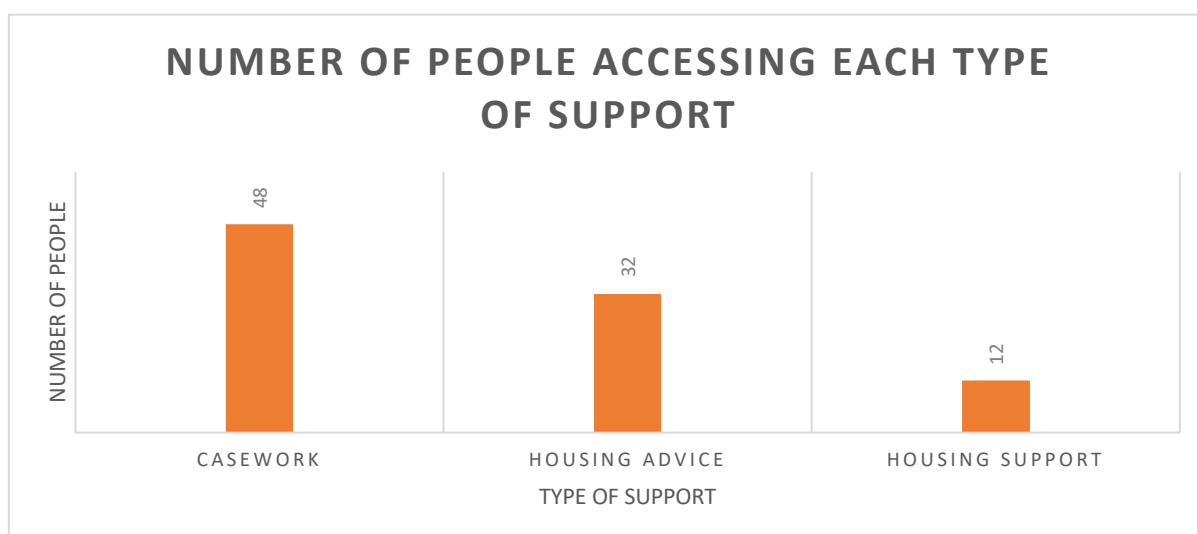
### Where have referrals come from?

When the programme started, we hoped that we would get referrals both internally and externally. When looking at the data, it shows that two thirds of referrals (44 out of 66) came through internal services, including Foundation Direct. We have also received referrals from the LGBT IDVA at Independent Choices (4 referrals) and other external services including child protection teams, homelessness charities, and Motiv8 (13 referrals). Finally, we also received five self-referrals from those who were independent from services.



## Support offered

Within our LGBT Domestic Abuse Service, we were offering two different types of support. One was casework looking at providing emotional support including healthy relationships, power and control, boundaries, consent, communication, benefits, and budgeting. In terms of the housing support, we offered some accommodation units, a total of four, and housing advice for those who wanted more long-term solution or who had somewhere safe to say. Below is a breakdown of the number of people who had housing support (either our accommodation or supported into other accommodation), housing advice, and casework.



## Length of support

As part of the project, we offered three to six months support for individuals. For those who have made use of the accommodation units this could vary as they get six months in the property. Some clients have not engaged in support, and 100% of the clients who have accessed the service for under one month have been referrals from external services. Below is a breakdown of how many clients have accessed the service for each length of time. This is out of 48 clients who are closed cases.

Length of support	Number of people	Percentage
Under 1 month	11	22.9%
1-2 months	7	14.6%
2-3 months	9	18.8%
3-4 months	9	18.8%
4-5 months	1	2%
5-6 months	5	10.4%
6 months plus	6	12.5%

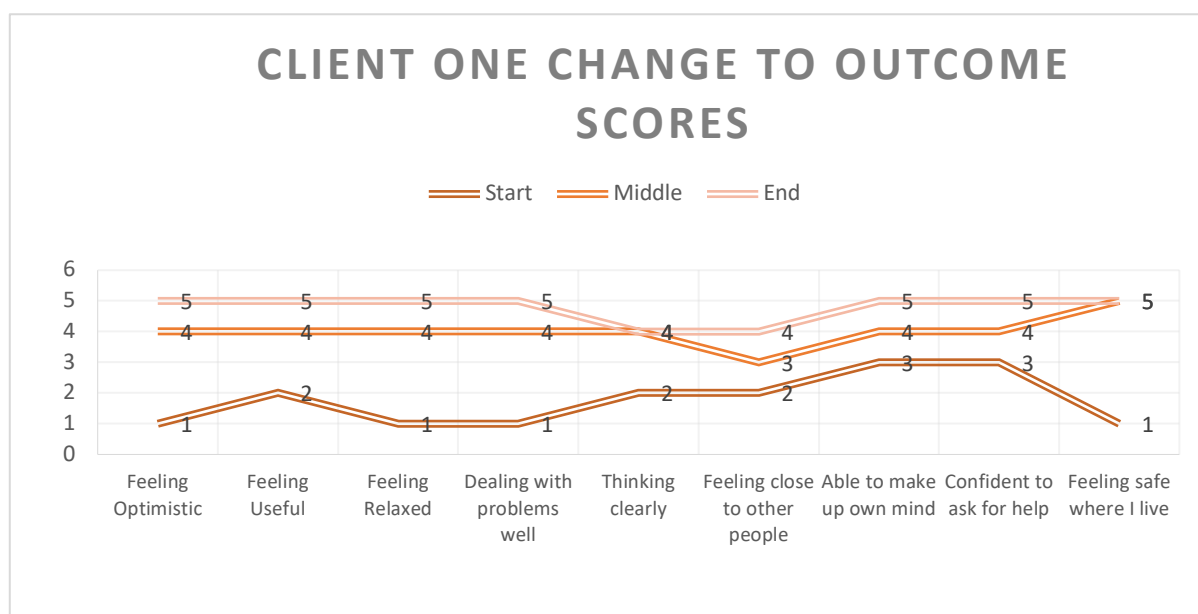
## Presenting risk

When working with clients it is key that a Risk Identification Checklist takes place to see what the client has been experiencing and what type of risk they are at. Within our service, we have completed RIC's with all clients who have engaged within the casework and made referrals as necessary. Some clients who were referred into the service had already had their RIC completed, for example, those referred over for housing support from independent choices and their risk had been reduced. Below shows examples of the level of risk that presented when working with clients accessing the support.

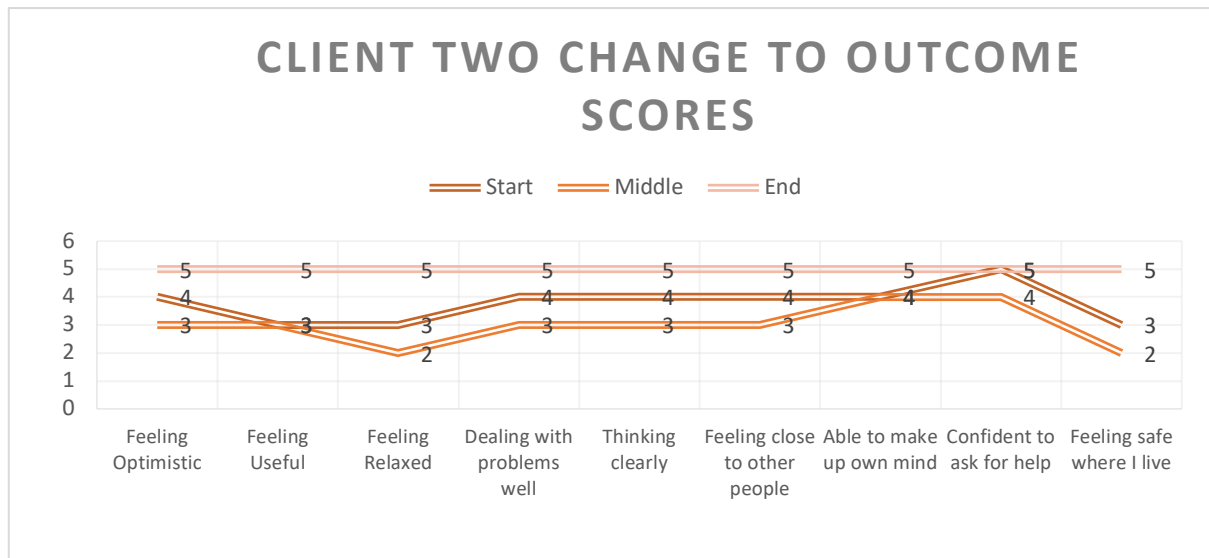
RIC Score	Percentage of clients in this range
0-4	2.9%
5-9	50%
10-14	41.2%
Over 14	5.9%

## Improvement in WEMWBS Scores

As part of our project, we have been collecting WMWBS scores at the start, middle and end of support to look at their progress. Below is an example of one individual who has filled in all outcome measurements form. The time between both of the forms being completed is exactly three months. As you can see that has been an improvement in every area with the feeling of safety in their home going from a one to a five after moving property.



Here is another example of scores across accessing support; this comes from a client who is currently in the project accommodation.



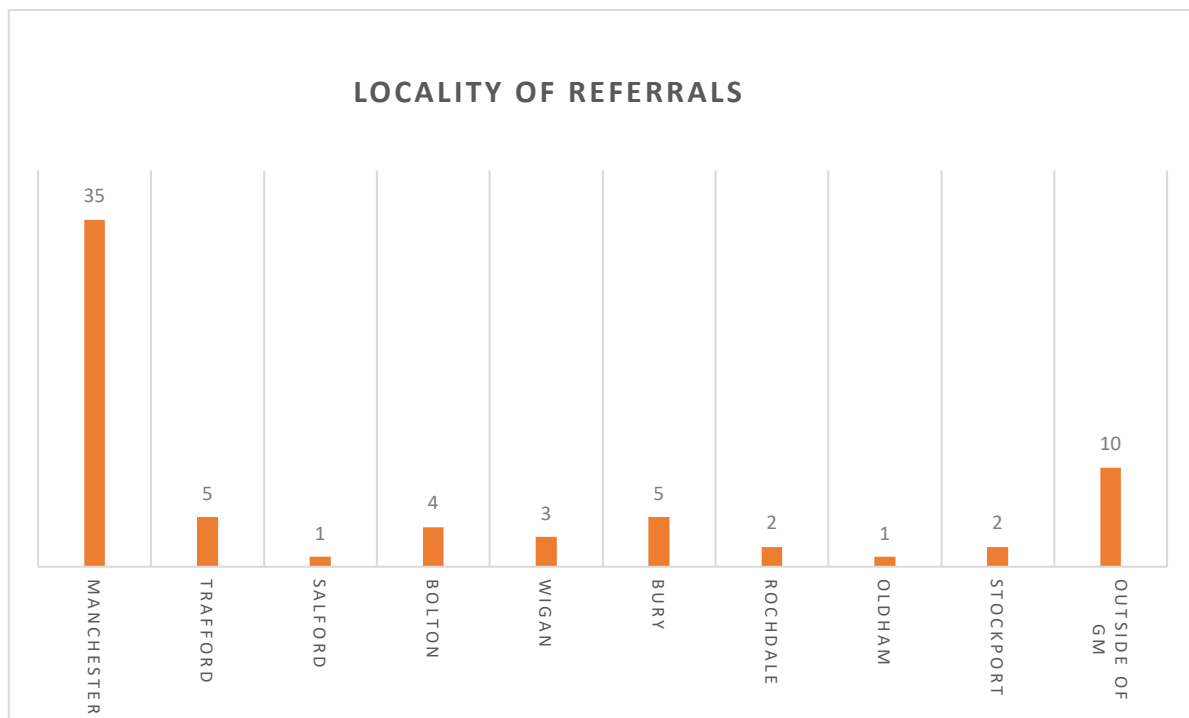


## Demographics

Within all of our services at LGBT Foundation, we collect demographic information to show who is accessing our services; this is no different for our domestic abuse project. For every client referred in we have collected demographic information. This is broken down into different categories below.

### Location

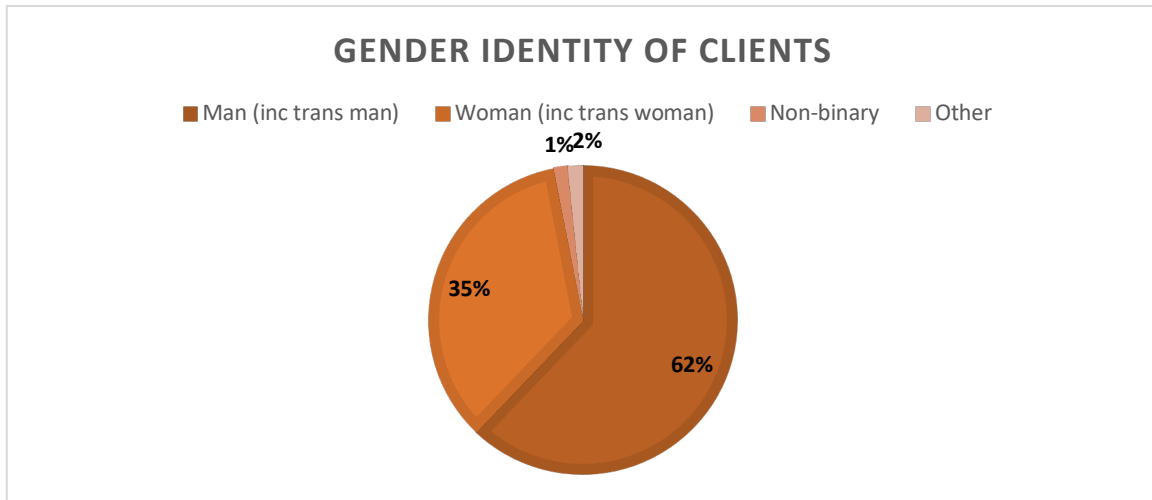
To see where clients were being referred from or where they were living at the time, we collected information on their location. As you can see from below, we have reached most areas of Greater Manchester, minus Tameside. However, we have also worked with clients from out of area whether this be supporting them through casework or supporting them to move into the Greater Manchester area. The areas outside of Greater Manchester include Wales, Newcastle, Leeds, Nottingham, Blackpool, and Grimsby.



### Gender identity

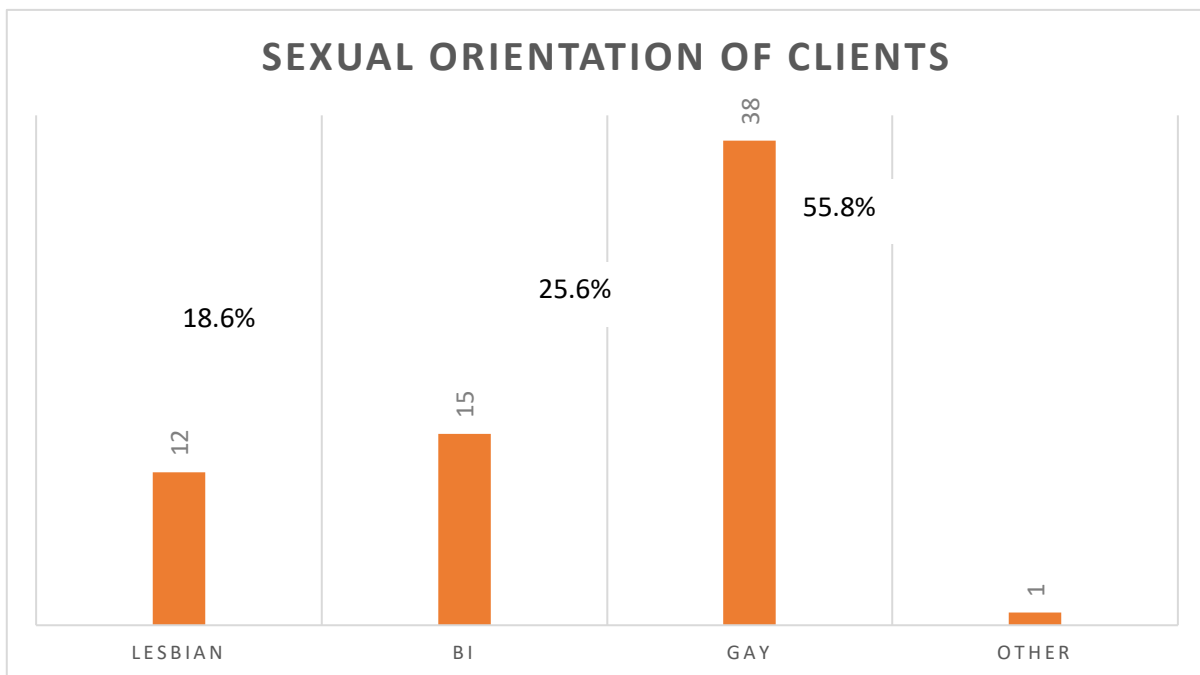
Concerning gender identity, we have seen individuals who identify as being a woman (including Trans women), a man (including Trans man), non-binary, and one individual who ticked other. Throughout the programme, we have seen a majority of male identified clients compared to female identified clients. We have also seen eleven people, whose gender

identity had changed from birth, meaning that we have had eleven people who identified under the Trans umbrella. Below is a breakdown of this.



### Sexual orientation

When looking at sexual orientation of clients, we were able to let people identify, as they felt fit. An example of this is women choosing to identify as gay rather than ticking the lesbian box. This made individuals feel more confident. One person ticked other and stated pansexual. Across the year in this project, no one who accessed the service identified as heterosexual. See below for a breakdown of all client’s sexual orientation.



## Age

We have seen a wide age range within this project. The youngest client was 16 years old, and the oldest client was 69. The majority of the cases we have seen have been in the age range of 25 - 39. Below breaks down how many individuals and the percentage of individuals within each age range. These will be out of 65 clients, as one client's age was unknown.

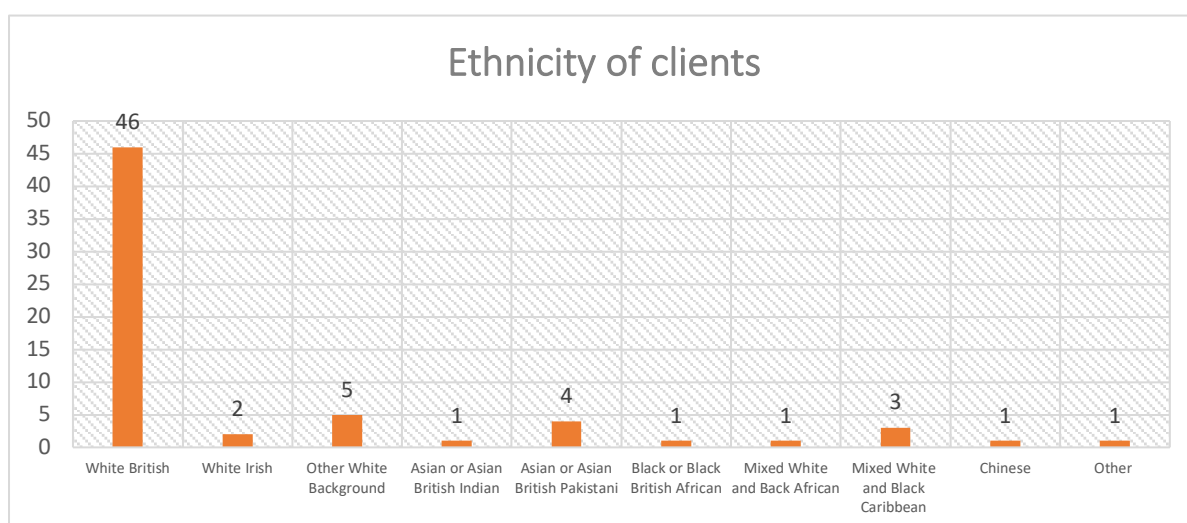
<u>Age Range</u>	<u>Number of Clients in age range</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
24 and under	9	13.8%
25-39	36	55.4%
40-49	17	26.2%
60+	3	4.6%

## Religion

Religion is another demographic that we monitor at LGBT Foundation. When looking at the demographics, thirty-eight (58%) individuals stated that they had no religion, and nineteen (30%) clients identified their beliefs as being Christian (including all denominations). Two (3%) clients were Jewish, four (6%) were Muslim, one was agnostic (1.5%), and one (1.5%) was in the other category and was Pagan.

## Ethnicity

Just under three quarters of clients were White British. We have had individuals with other ethnicity such as mixed white and black Caribbean, Asian or Asian British Indian, and those from other white background. Below shows the split in this demographic.

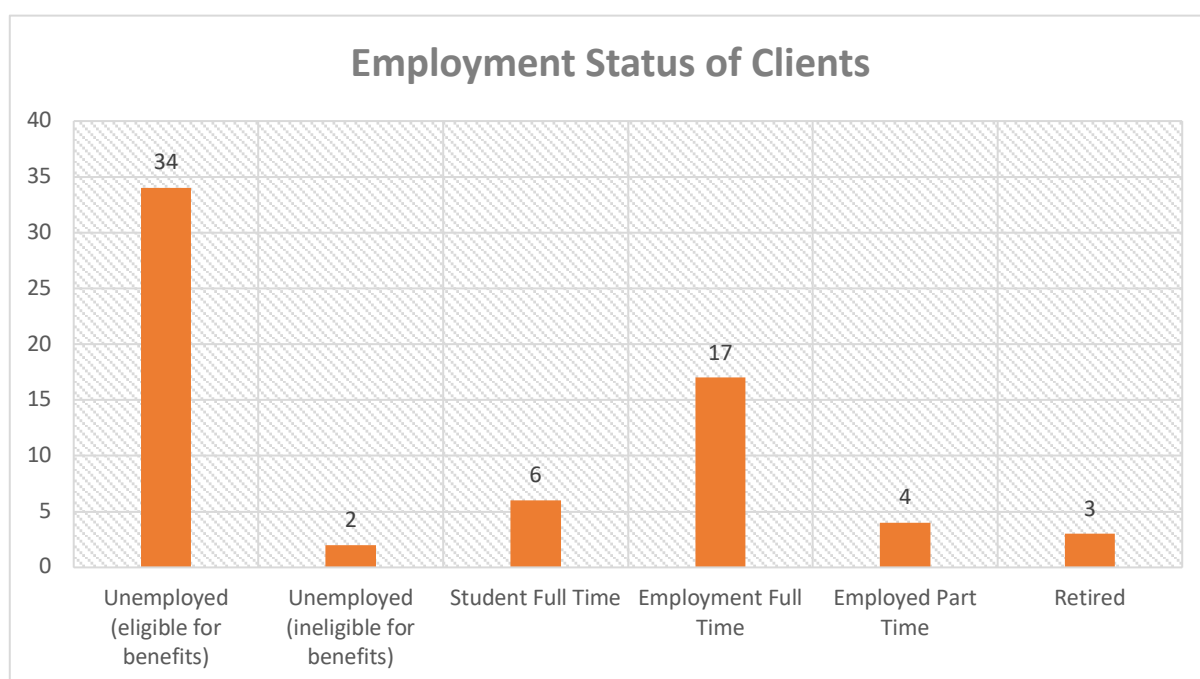


## Disability

Disability is another protected characteristic we collect data on. We had 21 people, out of 66, who classed themselves as having a disability or a long-term health condition. This is just over thirty percent of the clients. Some of these clients had carers who supported them.

## Employment status

When looking at the employment status of clients, we can see that just over half of the clients (51.5%) were unemployed but eligible for benefits. Two clients were unemployed but ineligible for benefits as they were both in the process of seeking asylum. Again, there is a breakdown below to show the different types of employment status.



## Relationship status

When looking at the relationship status of our clients, 41 out of 66 identified as single (62.1%). Five clients were married (7.6%), one client was in a civil partnership (1.5%), and nineteen people were in a relationship. Eleven of these were in a relationship and co-habiting (16.7%), and eight were in a relationship and not cohabiting (12.1%).

## Other demographics

As part of our organisations demographic monitoring, we collect data on carer status, parents and guardians, and HIV status. When breaking this down three clients were carers (4.5%), two being full time and one being part time. Ten clients had children over the age of one (15.2%), and nine clients identified themselves as being HIV Positive (13.6%).

## Case studies

### Bob's story

Bob, who is a 63-year-old male, was one of the first clients to enter our domestic abuse support service through a referral from LGBT Foundation's intake service. Bob was in a heterosexual marriage for a second time with a female, although he self-identified as a gay male. Bob had been through various traumatic life events prior to accessing the service and was struggling with suicidal thoughts due to the abuse he was experiencing at home. Bob was out of area but regularly visited Manchester to attend support and social groups, some being accessed at LGBT Foundation. The abuse manifested itself through constant humiliation, stalking and harassment, homophobic insults, and threats to his physical harm. Bob suffered this abuse for over twenty years. He considered accessing services for domestic abuse previously, however did not due to feeling unworthy, blaming himself for the abuse, and worrying about the consequences of seeking support. Since accessing support from the domestic abuse service, he has moved to Manchester, which has supported him to get his independence back. He also started to build his confidence and self-esteem through having a safe space to talk through his emotions and experiences. Bob has also recently become a volunteer at LGBT Foundation and in his work is 'now thriving, feeling much better, optimistic, independent, and confident'.

### Daisy's story

Daisy, who is a 34-year-old Trans woman, first accessed LGBT Foundation through our helpline. After speaking to different members of staff, a housing need being identified and Daisy was passed onto Sophie. At this point domestic abuse was not identified and Sophie exhausted all support and housing options in Daisy's local area with no positive outcome. A few weeks passed and a call was received from a worker at a local homelessness charity discussing Daisy's case. Daisy had been victim of sexual assault carried out by a person she was in an open relationship with. Since this point she was unable to return to her property where the incident happened, meaning she was street homeless. Daisy was highly suicidal and had attempted to commit suicide frequently over the past year. She was also a regular user of both spice and marijuana. She was engaged in multiple mental health and social care services but was still falling through the gaps. Daisy was invited in for a chat within the domestic abuse programme, where she was also assessed for wider support within the organisation. Discussions were had around counselling and casework support, which Daisy was happy to engage in, and she wanted housing advice or accommodation through the project. Daisy is still currently engaging.

## **Mark's story**

From a young age Mark, who is now 35-years-old, has always had abuse in his life. Whether that be from his father as a child or his partner from being a teenager until now. Mark had been hit over the head with a machete at a young age by his father, and had been repeatedly stabbed throughout his life by his partner. As a child, Mark was in the care system, but fled from care repeatedly until the age of 15 when he fled for good. He was introduced to sex from a young age, being a rent boy in Manchester. Mark contracted HIV around 10 years ago, but did not know until recently. He was also introduced to a life of heroin and crack which he was reliant on for nearly 15 years, until recently when his friend died of a drug overdose in his arms. After years of suffering violence and abuse from his partner, the day come where his partner held a gun to his head and Mark decided to leave. He grabbed as much as he could and fled to Manchester when his partner was out of the property. On arrival to Manchester, he slept on the streets for around a week until he made his way to the booth centre. At the booth centre, he met staff from Shelter and Motiv8, who brought him to LGBT Foundation. He met with Sophie and within two hours, Mark had his own place to stay where he was safe. Shortly after this, Mark was supported the Hathersage Centre to get his HIV medication, where he was later diagnosed with Hepatitis C. Support is still ongoing with Mark, with a team wide plan to support him in any way that we can.



**LGBT**  
foundation