

against remaining in the property and increasing safety measures via the civil and criminal courts.

Some people may anticipate recriminations and may not want to remain at home whilst allegations are being investigated. Some may also be worried about counter allegations, especially if they have little trust in the legal process. They may not want to involve the police, especially if the perpetrator is a family member or carer well known in their social circles and fear that reporting to the police will cause isolation from other groups that they prioritise. For example, are members of religious groups or sports clubs.

Disabled LGBT people may need continued access to medical treatments, care and support. Access to medical services and support networks should be taken into consideration when discussing moving into alternative accommodation. NHS funding for gender identity services may also be a major consideration as levels of funding vary in each PCT area.

Disabled LGBT people with parental responsibility may also need to consider the welfare of their children. Children who witnessing hate crime may become emotional distressed. Threats can be extended towards the whole family, putting children at risk of harm. Moving home but this might disrupt a child's education, and friendship groups. It might on the other hand relieve stress and reduce risk to the whole family.

Special consideration should also be given if there are family court proceedings in progress or there are court orders in place that relate to child contact. In this situation contacting a family law advocate is highly recommended.

Finance is also an issue. If a person is in rent arrears, it might be more difficult to arrange a move to safe accommodation. An advocate who can suggest a repayment plan would be useful in this instance.

Moving home is not cheap. House removals for large properties can cost thousands. There may be some financial assistance available via Adult Social Care, a personal budget or other hardship grants. There may also be help available with arranging packing and transportation for furniture via the same route.

There is **no requirement** to report hate crime to the police to obtain new social housing although a crime reference number or a third party report can certainly help. The fear of physical retaliation (or counter allegation) should not be dismissed, especially as quick escape housing options are so limited for disabled people.

Hate crimes or hate incidents frequently take place where there are no independent witnesses. With this in mind, housing departments will take other forms of evidence into consideration. This evidence may include:

- A third party report
- A report to a medical practitioners/ GP/Consultant
- A report from a local estate officer or anti-social behaviour officer
- An affidavit from a friend or family member, stating that they had witnessed a hate crime or incidents

- Evidence from the noise abatement departments
- A diary or log of incidents. (See information sheet 2 below)

Type of accommodation

LGBT hate crime can happen to anyone, irrespective of their income or housing status although in a recent study Liverpool Council found that 75% of victims of hate crime were social housing tenants. According to Home Office data 1 percent of social renters were victims of hate crime nationally in 2009/10 or 2010/11 compared with 0.3 percent of owners and 0.5 percent of private renters.

The type of housing a person occupies will raise different types options. (See information sheets 4 and 5 below).

This information sheet was produced by Stonewall Housing, an LGBT charity providing housing advice, support for LGBT people in their own homes and supported housing for young LGBT people. It is a part of a series of 17 resources on hate crime for LGBT people and service providers, created on behalf of the National LGBT Hate Crime Partnership. The other useful information sheets are:

1. Glossary of Terms Relating to Hate Crime
2. Diary Sheets and Guidance on Keeping a Written Record of Hate Crime
3. Hate Crime Laws: A Guide for LGBT People
4. LGBT Hate Crime and Emergency Accommodation
5. Non-Emergency Housing Options for LGBT People Facing Hate Crime
6. Financial Assistance Schemes: Help for LGBT People Experiencing Hate Crime
7. Talking to your Children about Bullying and Hate Crime: Advice for LGBT Parents
8. Training Toolkit on LGBT Hate Crime
9. LGBT Hate Crime Quality Standard: A Service Improvement Tool for Organisations
10. Tackling Biphobia: A Guide for Safety Services
11. Tackling Transphobia: A Guide for Safety Services
12. Complaints to Statutory Agencies: A Guide for Advice Workers
13. Understanding Hate Crime Statistics: A Guide for Organisations
14. Hate Crime and Older Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans people in Care Settings
16. Commissioning LGBT Hate Crime Services: A Guide for Organisations
17. Building Partnerships to Tackle Hate Crime

Find out about our work at www.stonewallhousing.org and www.lgbthatecrime.org.uk.

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