Purpose of this Paper

This paper has been designed to help inform service and policy planning. It is part of a series of seven guides to available research and statistical evidence relating to the varying needs, experiences and outcomes of different equality characteristics in Bournemouth protected under the Equality Act 2010. It provides a top-level view of this specific subject area and identifies contacts and resources for people who would like more detailed information.

Structure of this Paper

Each protected characteristic has 10 domains which focus directly on the most important aspects of life that people identify with, in terms of who they are and what they do. They are central to the Equality Measurement Framework which provides a baseline of evidence that enables the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) to evaluate progress and decide priorities.

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The Local Population of Interest

Legend:

- [ ] National data
- [ ] Bournemouth data

In 2011/12, 1.5% of adults in the UK identified themselves as gay, lesbian or bisexual. 2.7% of 16-24 year olds identified themselves as gay, lesbian or bisexual compared to 0.4% of those aged 65 and over (Integrated Household Survey: Experimental Statistics 2011/12, ONS).
Nationally, since the Civil Partnership Act 2004 came into force in 2005, there have been 53,417 civil partnerships formed. 6,795 were formed in 2011, 3,444 were male partnerships and 3,351 were female partnerships (Civil Partnership Formations 2011, ONS).

Bournemouth has the fifth largest gay community in Britain (A Picture of Bournemouth 2011, Bournemouth Borough Council).

Key Domains for this Protected Characteristic

Health and Longevity

In 2008, 46% of disabled lesbian and bisexual women had never been screened for sexually transmitted diseases. 31% had deliberately harmed themselves in the last year compared to 0.4% of the general population, and 61% had negative experiences of healthcare in the past year (Prescription for Change 2008 (n=6,178), Stonewall).

In 2011, 3% of gay men and 5% of bisexual men attempted to take their own life, compared to 0.4% of men in general. Also, almost half of gay and bisexual men worried about the way they looked and wished they could think about it less. 13% of gay and bisexual men had a problem with their weight or eating in the last year compared to 4% of the general male population. Over half of gay and bisexual men had a normal BMI compared to under a third of men in general (Gay and Bisexual Men’s Health Survey 2012 (n=6,861), Stonewall).

The same survey also found that almost nine in ten gay and bisexual men had never discussed high blood pressure or high cholesterol with a health professional. Just one in ten had discussed prostate or bowel cancer with a health professional in their lifetime and only 3% had ever discussed lung cancer (Gay and Bisexual Men’s Health Survey 2012 (n=6,861), Stonewall).

In terms of sexual health, one in four gay and bisexual men had never been tested for a sexually transmitted infection. In addition, 30% had never had an HIV test despite early diagnosis now being a public health priority. A third of gay and bisexual men who had accessed healthcare services in the last year had a negative experience due to their sexual orientation (Gay and Bisexual Men’s Health Survey 2012 (n=6,861), Stonewall).

In 2011, gay and bisexual men over the age of 55 were twice as likely to have been diagnosed with depression and anxiety in their lifetime compared to heterosexual men. (Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual People in later life 2011, Stonewall).

Also in 2011, 49% of lesbian, gay and bisexual people over the age of 55 were worried about their mental health compared to 37% of heterosexual people (Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual People in later life 2011 (n=1,036), Stonewall).

For more information please see the series of health papers written in 2012 by Stonewall here.

In 2010, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people (LGBT) in the South West were most concerned about their mental and sexual health, which they linked directly to their sexual identity. It was also identified that there was a higher than average risk of severe depression, self harm or suicide amongst this group, which reflected national trends (Pride, Progress and Transformation: Health and Wellbeing 2012 (n=362; 26 from Bournemouth), Equality South West).
In 2011/12, there was a high incidence of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases (STIs) in Bournemouth that were transmitted between men in the gay population. These groups experienced higher risk social sex environments, often with multiple partners. Evidence suggests the 50+ age group was emerging as a ‘risk group’ for STI/HIV infection and transmission in Bournemouth (Sexual Health Needs Summary in Dorset, JSNA Bournemouth and Poole 2011/12).

**Physical and Legal Security**

Homophobic hate crimes are common but continue to be under-reported (Beyond Tolerance, EHRC, 2009).

In 2008, 39% of disabled lesbian and bisexual women had experienced domestic abuse in a relationship compared to one in four women in general (Prescription for Change 2008 (n=6,178), Stonewall).

In 2011, half of gay and bisexual men had experienced at least one incident of domestic violence from a family member or partner since the age of 16 compared to 17% of men in general. Four in five gay and bisexual men who had experienced domestic abuse had never reported the incidents to the police. Of those who did report the incidents, more than half were not satisfied with how the police dealt with the situation (Gay and Bisexual Men’s Health Survey 2012 (n=6,861), Stonewall).

In 2010, 16% of LGBT people in the South West had experienced homophobic or transphobic harassment, abuse or physical violence in the previous two years in their local area after dark. 68% of these people had not reported these incidents to anyone (Pride, Progress and Transformation: Safety and Security 2012 (n=362; 26 from Bournemouth), Equality South West).

Homophobic hate crime is low in Bournemouth. In 2011/12, there were 4 homophobic hate crimes in Bournemouth, while in 2012/13 this had dropped to 2 (Prejudice Free Bournemouth and Poole 2011/12, Bournemouth 2026 Trust).

**Education**

In 2010, young children with gay parents found they were answering lots of questions from friends about their family which could be stressful and uncomfortable. These children often felt invisible in school because lesbian, gay or bisexual people or families were never mentioned in school. Due to the stress of worrying about what might happen if other children knew, some children didn’t tell other people that they had gay parents which increased their feeling of isolation (Different families 2010, Stonewall).

In 2012, 55% of lesbian, gay and bisexual young people experienced homophobic bullying in Britain’s schools. More than half (53%) of gay pupils experienced verbal homophobic bullying, 23% experienced cyber-bullying and 16% experienced physical abuse. 6% of lesbian, gay and bisexual pupils were subjected to death threats (The School Report 2012 (n=1,614), Stonewall).

As a consequence of this bullying, 44% of lesbian, gay and bisexual pupils skipped school, while 13% skipped school more than 6 times in 2012. 32% of those who experienced bullying changed their plans for the future because of it. Finally, 53% of gay young people were never taught anything about lesbian, gay and bisexual issues at school in 2012 (The School Report 2012 (n=1,614), Stonewall).
Interestingly, homophobic bullying of gay pupils was lower in schools that explicitly stated that homophobic bullying was wrong. Schools that sought to eliminate homophobic remarks and where such language was rarely or never heard, the incidence of homophobic bullying was just 37% compared to 68% where homophobic language was heard more frequently (The School Report 2012 (n=1,614), Stonewall).

At the time of writing, local data was unavailable for this dimension.

**Standard of Living**

Lesbian, gay and bisexual people can experience a range of housing issues. Young people can find themselves thrown out of the family home, or may choose to leave to escape homophobia. Older people in care accommodation can feel isolated and fail to receive the services they need. All LGB individuals can experience harassment and violence in their neighbourhood. Another issue is the lack of emergency accommodation for LGB people, especially gay and bisexual men, when escaping domestic abuse (Stonewall.org.uk).

In 2011, 42% of gay and bisexual men in the UK drank alcohol on three or more days a week compared to 35% of men in general. Half of gay and bisexual men had taken drugs in the last year compared to just one in eight men in general (Gay and Bisexual Men’s Health Survey 2012 (n=6,861), Stonewall).

According to Homeless Link in 2011, 7% of clients in an average project identified themselves as LGBT. They also suggested that 79% of homelessness services worked with people who were LGBT, which meant they needed to be aware of the complex issues LGBT people faced (Survey of Needs and Provision 2011, Homeless Link).

The Government does not envisage an adverse impact on any specific sex groups in the UK following the introduction of benefit caps in 2013. However, it is not possible to give any accurate assessment of the impact as the DWP does not collect information on the sexual orientation of claimants (Benefit Cap: Equality Impact Assessment 2012, DWP).

At the time of writing, local data was unavailable for this dimension.

**Productive and Valued Activities**

One in five lesbian and gay people have experienced bullying from a colleague because of their sexual orientation (Stonewall, ‘Serves You Right’, 2007).

In 2009, the Equality and Human Rights commission revealed that 7 in 10 lesbians and gay men felt that they could be open about their sexual orientation in the workplace without fear of discrimination. However, only around 2 in 10 of bisexual men and 3 in 10 of bisexual women felt the same (Beyond Tolerance, EHRC, 2009). In a survey with lesbians in the workplace, some felt that keeping their orientation secret at work was exhausting, stressful and damaging to the morale of the individual and of the team (The Double-glazed Glass Ceiling – Lesbians in the Workplace, Stonewall.org.uk).

At the time of writing, more recent national data was not available.

In 2010, 43.4% of LGBT people in the South West said they did not feel that their sexual identity affected their opportunities to participate in voluntary or community activities (Pride, Progress and Transformation: Knowledge, influence, voice and engagement 2012 (n=362; 26 from Bournemouth), Equality South West).
**Individual, Family and Social Life**

During the year ending March 2012, 4% (160) of children were adopted by same sex couples, up from 3% (100) the previous year (BAAF, 2012).

A recent study by University of Cambridge’s Centre for Family Research found that there was no evidence to suggest that children’s masculine or feminine tendencies were affected by having gay or lesbian parents. Family life and the quality of relationships were very similar regardless of their parent’s sexual orientation (British Association of Adoption and Fostering, 2013).

A 2013 survey revealed that 70% of people in Britain said that same sex couples in civil partnerships with children were a family and 52% considered an unmarried couple without children a family (Westminster Faith Debates series 2013 (n=4,437), YouGov).

At the time of writing, local data was unavailable for this dimension.

**Participation, Influence and Voice**

A 2010 poll by the social networking site Gaydar revealed that the majority of gay people (39.9%) said they voted for Labour in the 2005 general election. However, prior to the 2010 general election, the majority of gay people were intending to vote for the Conservatives (Gaydar 2010 poll).

In 2010, 44% of LGBT people in the South West said that they did not feel that their sexual or gender identity affected opportunities for them to influence local decisions in their area. 17% said their sexual or gender identity had a negative affect on this aspect of their lives (Pride, Progress and Transformation: Knowledge, influence, voice and engagement 2012 (n=362; 26 from Bournemouth), Equality South West).

**Identity, Expression and Self-Respect**

Homophobia can be defined as 'the irrational hatred, intolerance and fear of LGB people.' Heterosexism is 'bias shown by a society or community where cultural institutions and individuals are conditioned to expect everyone to live and behave as heterosexuals.' While homophobia can cause the most obvious harm to LGB people, such as bullying and violent attacks, heterosexism can cause more subtle damage to self-image and self-esteem. (Mind Factsheet 2009)

In 2007, a study found that trans people have complex gender identities, often moving from one ‘trans’ category into another over time. In addition, 44% of respondents not living permanently in their preferred gender (who would be known as transvestites), intended to do so in the future (Engendered Penalties: Transgender and Transsexual People’s Experiences of Inequality and Discrimination, Equailties Review, 2007).

A 2013 poll by YouGov discovered that the more religious a person was in the UK, the more they were against same sex marriage. 53% of people who described themselves as religious did not approve, while 48% who believed in a God or higher power were against it (Westminster Faith Debates series 2013 (n=4,437), YouGov via British Religion in Numbers).

In 2010 in Dorset, most LGBT people felt that they were treated with respect in a variety of situations, including at work, by police, by council workers and when using health services. 36% of LGBT people felt that their sexual or gender identity sometimes had a negative affect on how they were treated. However, 22% said it had no effect (Pride, Progress and Transformation:
Marriage and Civil Partnership

Nationally, since the Civil Partnership Act 2004 came into force in 2005, there have been 53,417 civil partnerships formed. 6,795 were formed in 2011, 3,444 were male partnerships and 3,351 were female partnerships (Civil Partnership Formations 2011, ONS).

There is currently heated debate in the UK over whether same sex marriage should be legalised. In February 2013, the Marriage (Same Sex couples) bill received its second reading in the House of Commons. At the time of writing, a decision is yet to be reached.

In 2012, 22 cases (7.7%) of reported forced marriages in the UK involved people who were LGBT (Forced Marriage Statistics Jan-Dec 2012, UK Border Agency).

The Government does not envisage an adverse impact on any marital or civil partnership groups in the UK following the introduction of benefit caps in 2013. However, it is not possible to give any accurate assessment of the impact as the DWP does not collect information on the marital or civil partnership status of claimants (Benefit Cap: Equality Impact Assessment 2012, DWP).

At the time of writing, local data was unavailable for this dimension.

Pregnancy and Maternity

Since a new law was passed in 2009, civil partners who have children are both considered parents, removing the need for the non-mother to adopt the child. This also means that the birth mother can access maternity leave and the non-birth mother can use paternity leave (Pregnant Pause 2009, Stonewall).

Currently, there is no data on the number of conceptions amongst people in same sex relationships both nationally or locally.

Sources of Information Regarding Sexual Orientation:

The following section provides links to local reports and datasets that offer further insight into sexual orientation issues in Bournemouth. However, it should be noted that due to population sizes and inconsistent data monitoring, the information available at local level is often limited. For more robust, national sources of equality information, please refer to the Local Government Association ‘Equality Evidence Base’ and the Equality and Human Rights Commission ‘Review of Equality Statistics’. If you are aware of any further local information please contact statistics@bournemouth.gov.uk.

Please note that a more detailed analysis of all subject areas will be possible once 2011 Census cross tabulation data is made available.

Reports Providing Specific Information on Sexual Orientation

A Firmer Foundation, 2006 – community based evidence from the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered populations in the rural south west peninsula. Available here.
Lifting the Lid - Gay and Grey Report, 2006 - explored the needs, experiences and aspirations of older lesbians and gay men in Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset between June 2003 and September 2006. Available here.

Pride, Progress and Transformation: Health and Wellbeing - identifies key health issues for lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people in the South West region. Available here.

Pride, Progress and Transformation: Knowledge, influence, voice and engagement - identifies participation issues for lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people in the South West region. Available here.


Weymouth Lesbian & Gay Liaison Officer Survey, 2005 – A survey conducted by Dorset Police’s LAGLO officers to gauge awareness & perception of LAGLO within the LGBT community of Weymouth and West Dorset. Available here.

Reports Which Contain Analysis of Information By Sexual Orientation

A Picture of Bournemouth 2011 – provides information on the size of the gay population in Bournemouth. Available here.

JSNA Sexual Health in Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole 2011/12 – highlights key areas of need relating to the gay community in Bournemouth. Available here.


Reports on Sexual Orientation Relevant Services

Not currently available for the local area.

Local Sexual Orientation Relevant Datasets and Indicators

Joseph Rowntree Foundation - Independent development and social research charity, supporting a wide programme of research and development projects in housing, social care and social issues. http://www.jrf.org.uk/.

Knowledge Base, Equality South West Data Tool - collates and disaggregates (where possible), by local area and by equality characteristic and socio-economic status, existing data from a wide range of reliable and widely used national data sets, and is capable of detailed interrogation and analysis for a range of local equality purposes. Available here.

Neighbourhood Statistics – Allows you to find detailed statistics within specific geographic areas e.g. Local Authority, Ward, Super Output Area. http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/.

Nomisweb – service provided by the Office for National Statistics providing detailed and up-to-date UK labour market statistics. https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/.
This paper is one in a series of seven profiling the protected Equality Characteristics produced by the Corporate Research Team, Borough of Poole, in co-operation with the Research & Information Team, Bournemouth. These reports have been produced in line with LGA guidance (2012) on measuring equality at a local level. To view the papers on Age, Gender, Ethnicity, Disability, Religion/Belief and Social Inequality [insert link for profiles].

For more information on research and consultation reports for Bournemouth please contact the Research & Information team on (01202) 454684 or email statistics@bournemouth.gov.uk.