

Polling results report: 24 March 2021

This report

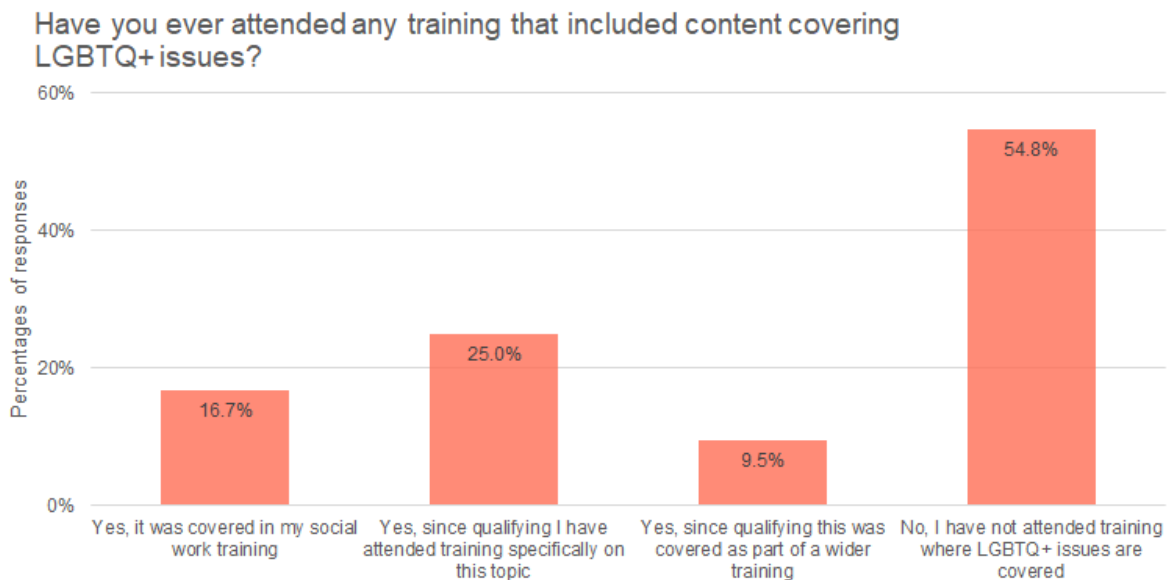
This report covers the period between the 9th March and 22nd March 2021. Eighty five participants responded.

LGBTQ+ Training

For this polling survey WWCSO wanted to know about the training opportunities available for social workers in the area of LGBTQ+. Participants were asked whether they had attended any training and if so with whom and what specific areas were covered. Social workers were also asked whether they had spoken to young people on any issues they faced as LGBTQ+ young people.

In fig 1 you will see the results for how many social workers had received training in this area.

Fig.1



Over half (55%) of respondents had never attended training where LGBTQ+ issues were covered. Just under 17% had been provided with training in their social work training.

The results reflected here would seem to support the current consensus that there does not appear to be a wide range and availability of courses available for social workers to access. Of those that said they did receive training when training as social workers, three of them were Frontline workers.

In a study entitled [Speakout](#), Local authorities were asked about their policies of care for those young people who are Looked after and identifying as LGBTQ+. It was generally reported that they did not have a specific policy and were largely dependent on social



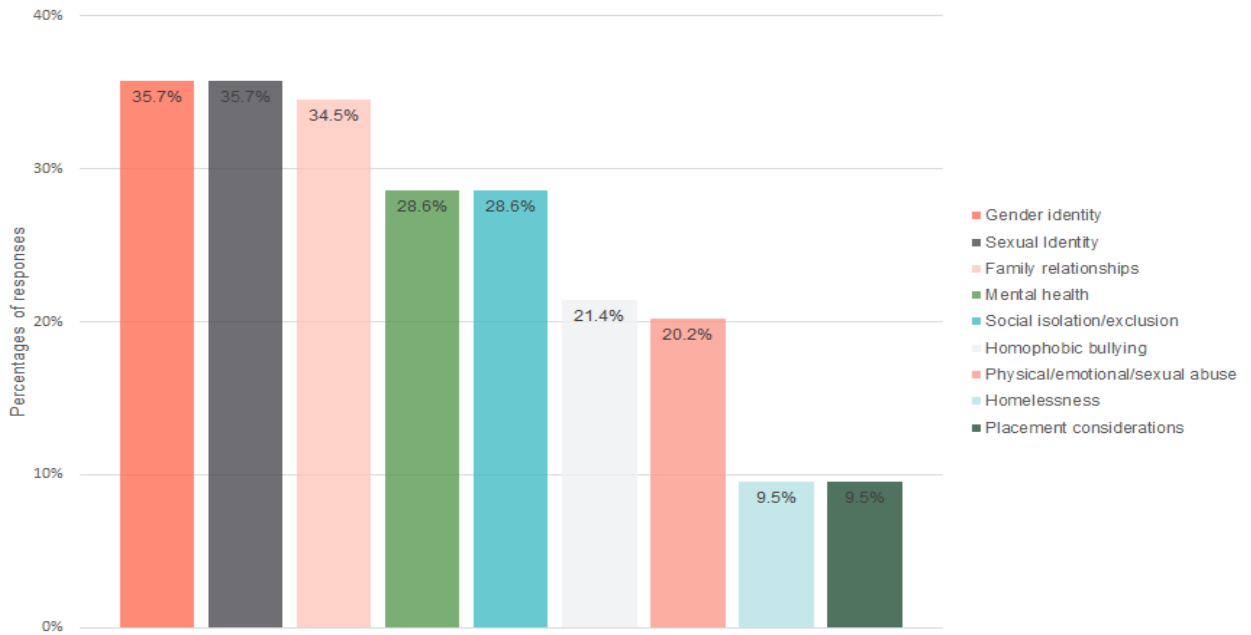
workers seeking their own information or relying on those that had specialist knowledge within the organisation. They were keen to improve in this practice area.

Course content

In Fig.2 you will see the results for the question focussing on course content.

Fig. 2

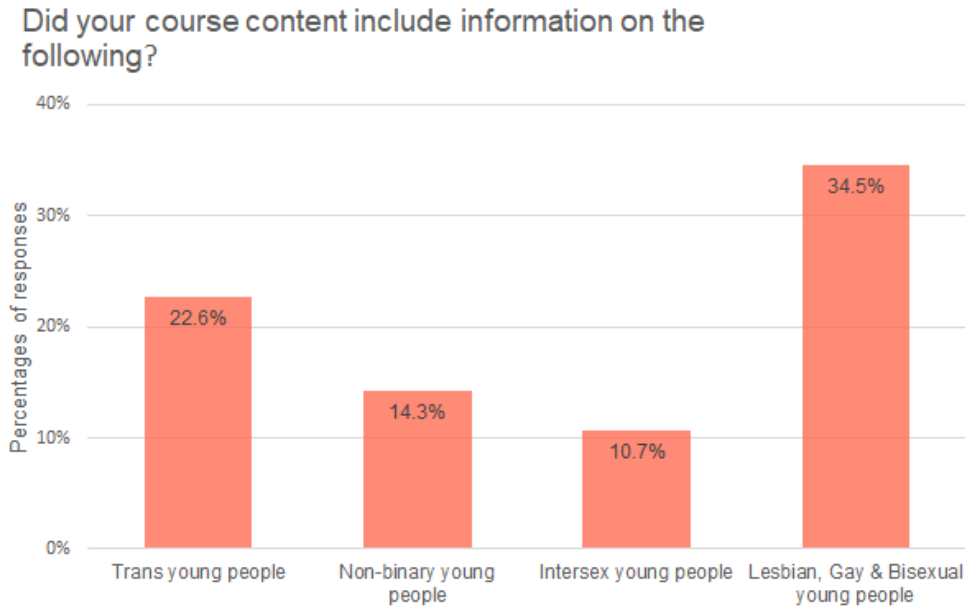
Did your course content include information on any of the following challenges that LGBTQ+ young people experience



For those that have attended training the subject content that appeared most frequently was both gender and sexual identity. Placement considerations and homelessless appeared less frequently. In the Speakout survey the ability for foster carers and other professional staff to be able to have conversations with young people when they were thinking about or coming out about their gender/sexuality was seen as central to their wellbeing and feelings of acceptance. The outcome of the study recommended further [research](#) in the area of homelessness and placement stability.



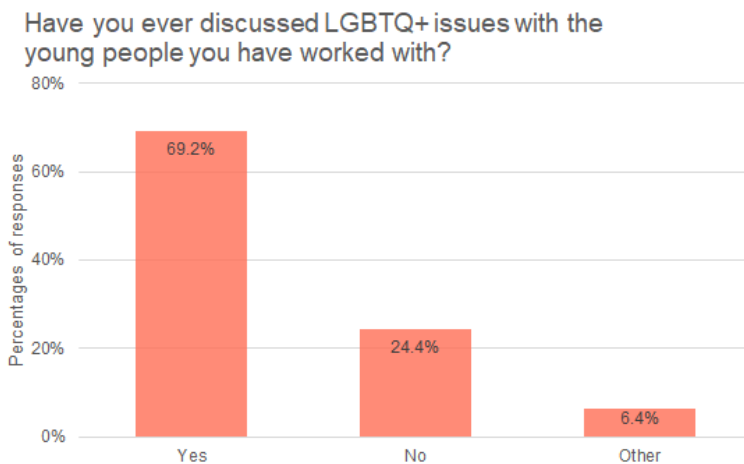
Fig.3



Course content was aimed mainly at the lesbian, gay and bisexual community at 34%. On reflection there were other categories of identifiers that were not listed in the question posed although results may have confirmed that lesser known categories would receive even less attention in training than those we did list above.

Discussing LGBTQ+ issues with young people

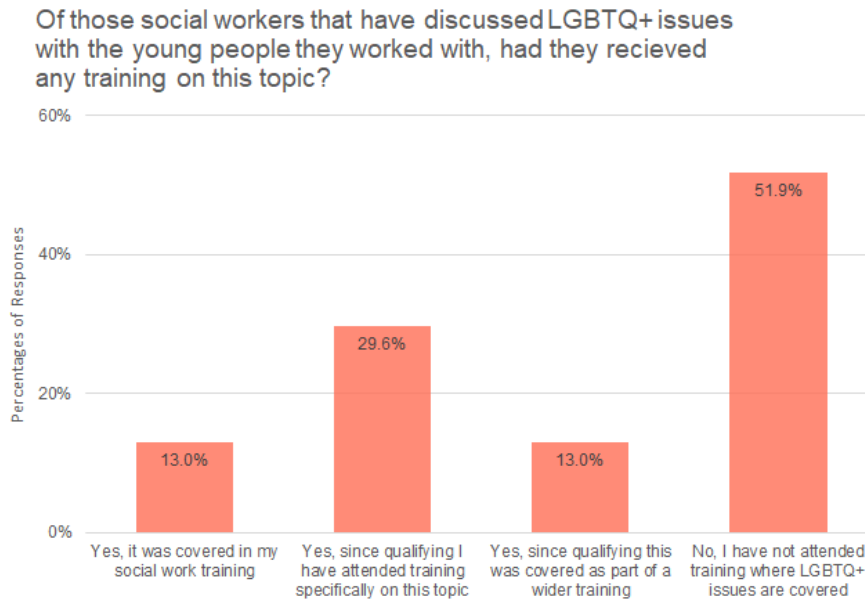
Fig.4





In Fig.4 above you will see the results for the question regarding how many social workers have discussed LGBTQ+ issues with their young people. Just under two thirds of social workers have had this experience. When comparing the figure above with those that reported they had never had any training, one can see in the fig. 5 below that over half of social workers supported their young people without specialist training.

Fig.5



There is no way of assessing how that support was received by the young people from social workers who have not attended specialist training. It appears that social workers seek information at the time of need and will refer young people to services identified. There may need to be further research into how young people feel supported and how social workers feel supported by their employers.

About WWCS Polling

What Works for Children's Social Care runs fortnightly polls with social workers who have registered with us. Social workers registered with us are currently employed in a range of organisations and we canvas their opinions about our current and future research agenda as well as current affairs, Wellbeing and social work practice. We would like to thank you all for taking the time to complete the polls and also ask that you encourage your colleagues to [sign up](#).