

Help-line Themes

Homophobic abuse

By Eileen Chubb ©

I have noted a marked increase in calls to our helpline that involve homophobic abuse in care homes.

Looking at 50 cases in total the following patterns emerged.

All but 2 cases occurred in London Care Homes.

Verbal abuse was the most common issue reported in all 50 cases, 41 of the cases included verbal abuse from staff that stemmed from a religious belief.

19 of the cases also included issues around power of attorney and the exclusion of partners from care decisions.

All 50 cases reported a failure to act on concerns by the home or relevant authorities, this was attributed to a lack of understanding or respect and the presence of bias.

Clearly there is a serious problem emerging in the care sector and drastic action is required to stamp out this appalling treatment.

Training is clearly not the sole answer, there urgently needs to be a lot more done at the staff recruitment stage to ensure that those who hold such intolerant and abhorrent views are stopped from working in the care sector. Vulnerable people should be protected from all abuse including Homophobic abuse.