



Homelessness Partnership BCP

"Working Together to Prevent
Homelessness"

Conference Pack



@HomelessnessPartnership



@BCP_HP



@homelessness_partnership

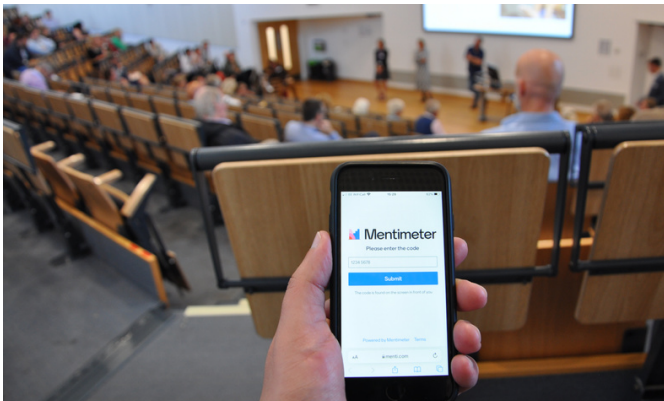


@Homelessness Partnership BCP



Conference presentation

To download the Conference PowerPoint Presentation, please click [here](#)





Inspiring ideas shared on the day

Topic – Preventing homelessness

Golden Nuggets –

- **Priority needs decisions (e.g. prison release, hospital discharge)**
- **Safe spaces - no wrong door - get key info to all sites**
- **Go more upstream - youth services, employers**
- **Direct payments to landlord if tenant in trouble / review Housing discretionary payments**
- Look at obstacles for both lived experience and professionals to enable partnership working
- Confidence-building- seamless approach to build self-worth of individuals. Explore models such as Denmark
- Current homelessness is like sea levels rising – those close to the shore are now in the sea, and those who were further inland are now at risk
- Funding- needs to be the whole life, from youth provisions to prevention – spend on neighbourhoods rather than services
- Place based prevention – should we be spending more on local businesses?
- Lack of resources within supported accommodation due to lack of time, wages, recruitment issues and support worker skill
- “Local connection” problem- the most vulnerable often don't get a service from housing but do from all other services
- Better education about homelessness and the risk for children and young people e.g. theatre group previously commissioned to deliver a production about homelessness
- Take services to people and make the offer attractive and person led considering the physical environment
- Meaningful and positive relationships are pivotal to success
- Education – early prison school and adult life skills, GPs
- Sharing Information – like we did during Covid





Inspiring ideas shared on the day

Topic – Preventing homelessness

Other points of discussion-

- Need to ensure people access eligible funding- is cash always helpful? Vouchers as an alternative. A lot of funding is quick intention
- Suitability of location of support services – it may be detrimental
- BCP have an early prevention service accessible online too, more broad than what CAB are offering but agree it needs to be broader
- Difficulties getting into the prisons to complete assessments before release
- Could a data sharing agreement (overarching) be established? Perhaps linked to digital transformation
- Community hubs, collective service and thorough signposting really valuable
- Create an environment where people want to go. Non-directive
- Language of client vs guest
- A move back to home visits/ face to face appointments – Stop gap safety plans not in place, people often make short term decisions
- Probation intervention raised as a good example
- Probation establishing a panel to identify those in prison at risk of homelessness in 56 days
- BCP recruiting a housing options officer to work specifically with probation
- Give people purpose through meaningful activity
- Supported accommodation – evictions, lack of empathy and training around addictions
- DWP – BCP need to become involved and take over payment of rent. Wrap around service needs to be present. Landlord needs guarantee of payment
- Weekly payments good, problematic for people with substance misuse issues to manage monthly payments. Budgeting issues – UC direct payments needs to be more responsive
- Information sharing top ups, problematic? Lack of understanding and knowledge of life skills
- Intentional homelessness – moving between accommodation, floating support from tenancy to supported accommodation
- Redundancy – big companies going into liquidation – BCP to visit prior to closure of company
- Commissioning of youth funding – a hole?
- Good news stories and invested
- Treat everyone as an individual – what is someone's sticking point. How can we get over the stumbling block, needs to focus on support and their individual needs
- Affordable homes and caps on the private sector, who is behind on rent, debt management plans?
- Knowledge for GP's providence showing their expertise, support/ signposting. Spotting health and wellbeing issues.





Inspiring ideas shared on the day

Topic – Increase supply of homes

Golden Nuggets –

- **More engagement with landlords**
- **Empty properties - informal network**
- **Act on the need for more housing with pets**
- **More affordable housing through Housing Association**
- **Invest in property to support vulnerable tenants**
- Use movable shipping containers/ tiny homes with support available
- Sometimes a home is a tent
- Communities to support households facing homelessness

Other points of discussion-

- Female only / self-contained units
- Co-ordination of non-commissioned bed spaces in supported housing
- 10,000 new homes through Council
- Looking at empty homes- vacant properties- high street empty spaces above shops, offices- refurbishment
- Agencies leasing properties from private landlords to provide for vulnerable people- BCP work with landlords-retail – social investment link with BCP, purchase properties/manage
- Modular houses – community e.g 'Bus Shelter Project DC'
- Landowner portfolio issue – cost and value of assets – unoccupied vs occupied
- Access to properties and identifying conglomerate ownership
- Prevention homelessness – unsuitable properties- signpost to support tenants, support agencies. (reluctance of agencies/ landlords to signpost)
- Involve participants in decision making and choice
- Service to support landlords in offering property to more vulnerable
- Support through partners to households needing rehousing
- Communities wrap around families facing homelessness- prevent children going to B&B/ accommodation elsewhere and safe in the community
- Need check and balance to ensure payment and security of tenure – support package for landlords to keep tenants in house





Inspiring ideas shared on the day

Topic- How do we get our message of all of this work out to the public?

Golden Nuggets -

- Interactive screens and tools for service users AND donors (places of interest/where people congregate)
- Traditional “stands” at events with options for cash donation for elderly/digitally excluded
- Social Media- short lived experience videos that let people know where money goes, focus on families/pets that people can relate to

Other points of discussion-

- Social media- can be targeted, Youtube, Twitter and Facebook
- How to connect with people? Pets, lived experience – following the journey
- In person storytelling e.g. school visits, preventative focus
- Contactless giving.- stories of what happened with the money are vital. Exactly where the money goes and what it does
- Interactive screens- telling people’s stories/ providing service info for service users AND people finding out, donations, advantage of one off small amounts. People are struggling; don’t want to give details, identity theft etc.
- Independent coffee shops. Group chats
- Cashless society- no sign up, struggling people can’t commit
- Cash points- a way to advertise to service users? Info given with soup runs – whilst food is delivered (outreach teams)

Topic – How can trauma informed care and psychologically informed environments (PIE) help?

Golden Nuggets –

- PIE training for all with homeless link
- Person centred care with better outcomes and success rate

Other points of discussion-

- More person centred approach rather than working through lists/ set format
- Finding out what is important for the personal and their perspective
- More holistic rather than processes
- Encourages staff self-reflection on practice and self-assessment
- Ensures that practice is up to date and holistic
- Enables individuals to have a voice in their support
- Shaping services on the needs of the individual
- Promotes self-worth



Inspiring ideas shared on the day

Topic- How do we deal with the issue of begging being confused and conflated with rough sleeping?

Golden Nuggets –

- Educate both the public and services on the language we use
- Informing people/ soft campaigning
- QR code for just giving (banking). Details and facts to be provided and delivered to services

Other points of discussion-

- Who is it aimed at i.e. Public Sector? or services that don't understand individual needs/vulnerability or secondary services. who's who?
- Vast majority of homeless are involved in one form of begging
- Engagement and not telling the truth
- Communicate with RIS important
- Direct them to appropriate services i.e. trauma/ to assist with self-esteem. To provide them not with money or food- this is a short term need
- Awareness activity, begging perception but in reality this is 'not' the case
- Public perception of RIS and begging
- Police will engage and this is an offence

Topic – How do we help people get into work when in temporary accommodation?

Golden Nuggets -

- Need both financial and emotional support for 3/6 months

Other points of discussion-

- Private rent vs supported housing rent – difference in rates
- Saving up for deposits and move on accommodation
- Rent deposit scheme
- Flexible ways of working from providers
- Should be some sort of actual transition of benefits when starting employment rather than new claim onto UC etc.
- Kickstart/subsidised work schemes
- Understanding that some might not be in that place of being able to work yet
- Support during process, better off in work calculations
- Challenge of going into the unknown (particularly w/ cost of living crisis)
- It's in the governments benefit to support people into work
- Prevention/policing
- Move on accommodations
- Educate employers about transition process



Inspiring ideas shared on the day

Topic- How do we work more effectively with those who are hidden homeless and those at most disproportionate risks?

Golden Nuggets –

- Need safe spaces – Just need someone to talk to
- Education of the wider community, coming at things sideways – community events
- Regular contact professionals raising flags and being curious

Other points of discussion-

- Building trust where there may not be trust
- Council pathways don't often match up hidden homeless. When assistance kicks in and when it doesn't, things have to get a lot worse before it got better.
- Preventative: DV mental health
- How to pick up hidden homeless families while finding space in refuges; schools, housing, community food, police, probations services, identifying mental health.
- Education for communities, coming at the issue sideways – community centres, family hubs, warm spaces, (identifier) Community development events.
- Regular contact professionals, being curious. Then what? not enough people to support folks, no after care
- Safe spaces, consistent overtime, just need someone to talk to.
- Hidden homelessness – people who have never navigated support “process”, disproportionate risk – often prioritised?

Topic - How do we ensure that people with lived experience are fully included in shaping service provision and delivery?

Golden Nuggets –

- Co-Produce
- We go to them rather than expect people to come to us
- Remuneration

Other points of discussion-

- By having people with lived experience inputting into strategic policy and decision
- Making sure that we go to people
- Taking our service to the places where people are already going – utilising agencies who already work with that client group
- Making sure service users are listened to rather than professionals assuming we know what it is like
- In places that are already safe e.g. BH1, Drug Service, Routes to Roots, Health Bus
- Asking people what went wrong? Who are currently going through the struggle
- BCP coming to the places, the top have to come and talk to real people
- Co-producing material with clients
- Remuneration, compensation for those with lived experience who talk at events. (Dorset Recovery Education centre can help BCP with this if needed.)



Inspiring ideas shared on the day

Topic- How do we prevent people rebounding back to the street once in accommodation

Golden Nuggets –

- Creating HOMES rather than accommodation, without the pressure of having to 'move on'
- Providing the right accommodation without 'Setting people up to fail' by listening to what the client needs
- Increasing/ retaining support when in longer-term housing. Add up meaningful activity, elasticity to support in previous accommodation

Other points of discussion-

- Language, ethos, definitions/terms being inclusive and making people feel at home
- Trauma informed care for support – non-punitive
- Creating a way to provide EA if people are evicted
- More support for people when they move in to longer term accommodation
- The RIGHT support or the RIGHT accommodation to prevent returning to the street
- Suitability if placement/accommodation
- Routine or access to meaningful activity
- TIME to adjust and move on
- Training, inter agency
- More targeted support
- Creating homes rather than accommodation
- More personal/ human services
- Using strength and stat resources in the best way
- Partnership worth supporting people
- Sharing responsibility for supporting clients with other agencies. MDT
- Changing futures programme (Plymouth)
- Ask service users
- Joint funding arrangements (starting with a small group of clients)

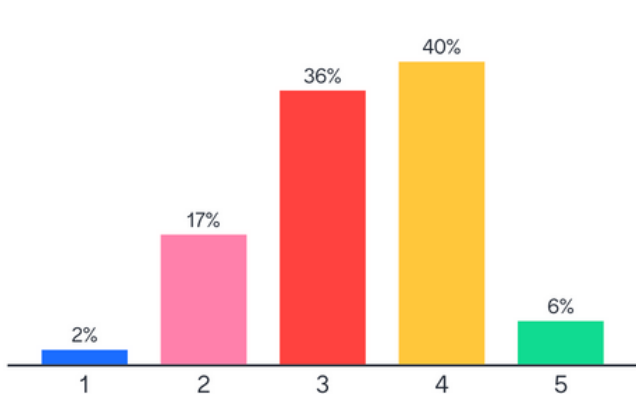




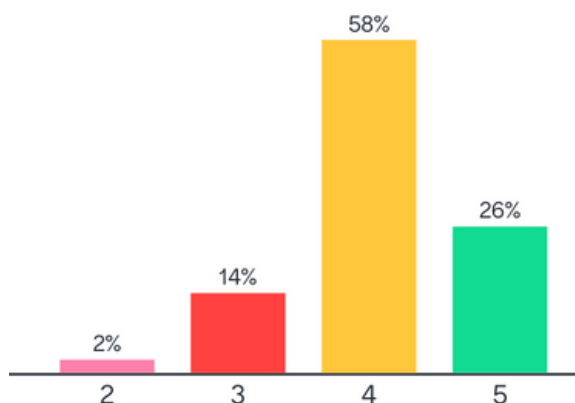
Your feedback on the day

Please give a score of 1 to 5 on how much you know about what homelessness support is available in the BCP area

Before the Conference



After the Conference



Please provide three words to describe your impressions at the end of the day



Thank you to everyone who contributed to our "Working Together to Prevent Homelessness" Conference

Members of the Homelessness
Reduction Board will now look at how
we can take this refreshed energy
forward, so that together we can
ensure everyone in BCP has a safe
place to call "home"



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