Housing First Guide Europe
Housing First in Practice

The Role of the Guide

- Flexibility in service design for variations in *context*

- Within a clearly defined and demarcated framework of what Housing First is, and what it is not

- In practice, ensuring high *philosophical* fidelity with Pathways Model

- But enabling practical modifications to operation

Following Core Principles

- Housing is a human right

- Choice and control for service users

- Separation of housing and treatment

- Recovery orientation

- Harm reduction

- Active engagement without coercion

- Person-centred planning

- Flexible support for as long as is required

Allowing operational differences

- Two examples

- Housing

- Support

Housing

- Original Pathways model used the private rented sector, leasing arrangements

- Where social housing exists and is suitable, no reason not to use that

  – More secure
  – More affordable
  – Full tenancy rights

- What is practical in terms of providing housing will vary between countries

- But *cannot* compromise on housing 'first' not 'last' or on choice of where to live

Support

- Original Pathways model used ACT and ICM team

- In a context where access to healthcare, psychiatric services and drug/alcohol services was often limited

- Northern EU, universal or near universal health systems, in that context using case management only becomes practical

  – And more affordable…

Summary

- Ignoring the core principles, or only following some of them, means a service is not Housing First

- But being totally inflexible about how Housing First is delivered is equally problematic

- Simply replicating every detail of the original model is not useful, it was designed for New York, not Brussels, Amsterdam, Madrid or London

Thanks for listening

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  - Deputy Director, Centre for Housing Policy
    - www.york.ac.uk/chp/
  - European Observatory on Homelessness
    - www.feantsaresearch.org/
  - Women's Homelessness in Europe Network
    - http://www.womenshomelessness.org/

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