

Housing First in England



**Rick Henderson CEO
Homeless Link**

Housing First



The Housing First Services

- **Changing Lives**
- **Brighter Futures**
- **Bench Outreach**
- **CRI**
- **SHP**
- **St Mungo's Broadway**
- **Thames Reach**
- **Stonepillow**

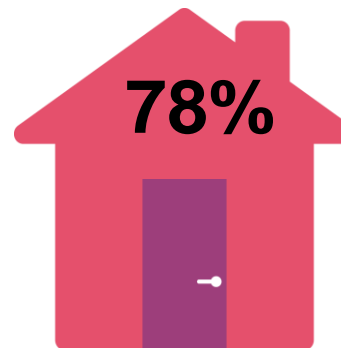
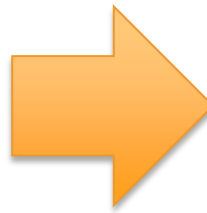
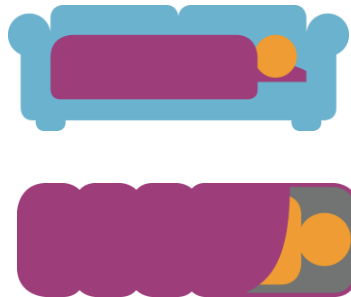
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What were the housing outcomes?



Successful engagement with long-term and repeatedly homeless people, with **high rates of support needs**

People had history of sustained contact with services **without homelessness being resolved**



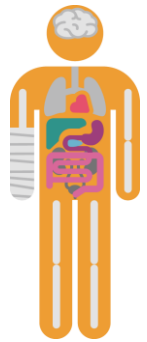
December 2014, **78% of people were housed.**

5 services housed **74%** of current users for 1+ year

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What were the health outcomes?

Proportion of users reporting the following:



Bad or very bad **physical health**

43%

one year prior to working with service



28%

currently reported



Bad or very bad **mental health**

52%

one year prior to working with service



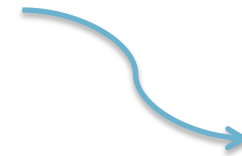
18%

currently reported



Drug and alcohol use

Outcomes uneven...



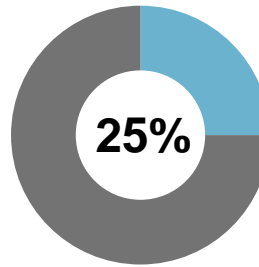
...but some evidence of reduction

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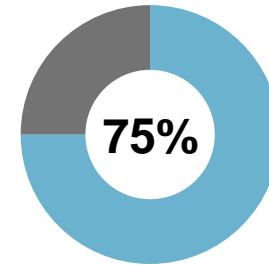
What were the social integration outcomes?



Daily, weekly or monthly **contact with family**



one year prior to working with service

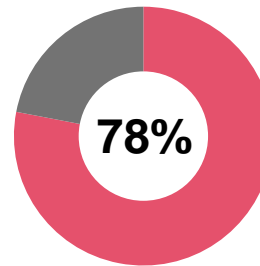


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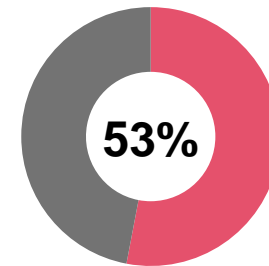


!?\$£!

Involvement in **anti-social behaviour**



one year prior to working with service



currently reported



...but again, positive effects were not uniform

The Key Findings (summary)

- **Average client had been homeless for 14 years**
- **Improvements in mental and physical health**
- **Reductions in drug and alcohol use**
- **Evidence of re-establishing links with family**
- **Fall in anti-social behaviour**
- **Potential saving of £15000 per person per annum**

What are the issues for England?

- **An inconsistent definition and understanding of Housing First** among providers and commissioners – there are local variations with some projects referring to floating support models as Housing First
- **Lack of affordable and accessible social housing** - over reliance on the PRS which raises questions about tenancy sustainment , affordability and conditions for clients
- **Rigid inflexible culture** – a culture shift is required by local authorities and registered providers of social housing to take referrals, implement the HF model and be flexible with their allocations policies
- **Variation in effective partnership work dependent on locality** - there is inconsistent buy-in from adult social care, health, criminal justice and substance misuse agencies across local authority areas
- **Lack of co-commissioning arrangements and short term funding** – heavy reliance on housing related support with most projects being funded between 1 to 3 years

Where next for Housing First?

Homeless Link wants to establish Housing First as an accessible option to all chronically homeless people with complex needs across England within the next 5 years. To achieve this Homeless Link plans to:

- Lead an alliance of cross-sector partners with the vision and confidence to make Housing First a reality for all who need it
- Challenge a service culture that places higher demands on people with the greatest needs and end the practice of making a home of one's own conditional on a standard of housing readiness that some people can never meet
- Build an evidence base in order to target Housing First resources at those whose need is greatest and for whom this approach will be transformational
- Engage local and national partners to deliver, review and replicate Housing First projects that are effective and sustainable

**Bretherton, J. and Pleace, N. (2015)
Housing First in England: An Evaluation
of Nine Services York: University of York**

What we do

Homeless Link is the national membership charity for organisations working directly with people who become homeless in England. We work to make services better and campaign for policy change that will help end homelessness.

Read the full report at:

www.homeless.org.uk

www.york.ac.uk/chp

www.changing-lives.org.uk

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