



Eastern Region- Homes For Cathy Housing First

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Crisis

What we do

- High quality housing, employment, skills, health and arts services for 11,000 people across Britain
- Leading source of knowledge on the causes, effects and solutions homelessness.
- Campaigning for change

Together
we will end
homelessness



Feedback from this morning's session

•Challenges for Implementation

Availability of
accommodation

Choice of
accommodation

Prejudice
from
neighbours
and
community

How do we
build the right
relationships?

Quality of support

How do we get
people to think
differently?

What about
the
allocations
policy?

Lack of
knowledge
about HF

Isn't this
queue
jumping?



Where are we now?

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On your phone or computer please go to:

www.Menti.com

- Enter Code **93 70 050**
- How much do you know about Housing First?

Housing Led System with Housing First at
the core

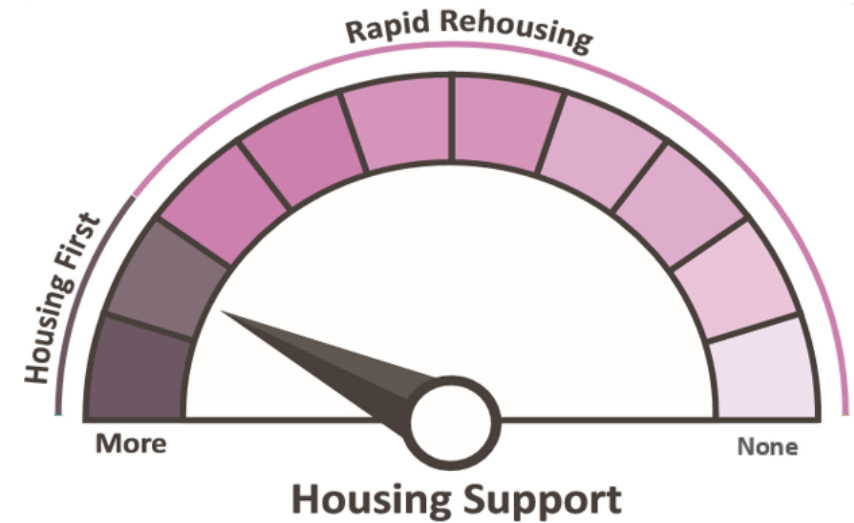
Housing Led and Housing First

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- Housing Led or Rapid Rehousing approaches to ending homelessness simply mean trying to get someone into their own home as **quickly as possible** and providing them with the support they need to make it work.
- It involves **minimising** the amount of time spent in **temporary accommodation** and seeks to minimise the **number of moves** someone has to make before they move into a permanent home.
- **Housing First** is a form of Housing Led solution to homelessness but one which supports people with the most **complex needs**.

What housing led means

- ✓ To understand being housing led, look first at the **Housing First principles**
- ✓ Housing led adopts the **same principles**; the difference is one of **degree**
- ✓ Housing First services are **targeted** at specific, and proportionally small, cohorts; being led **includes all** people getting out of homelessness
- ✓ Housing led is a **whole system approach**, as well as a way of working with individuals



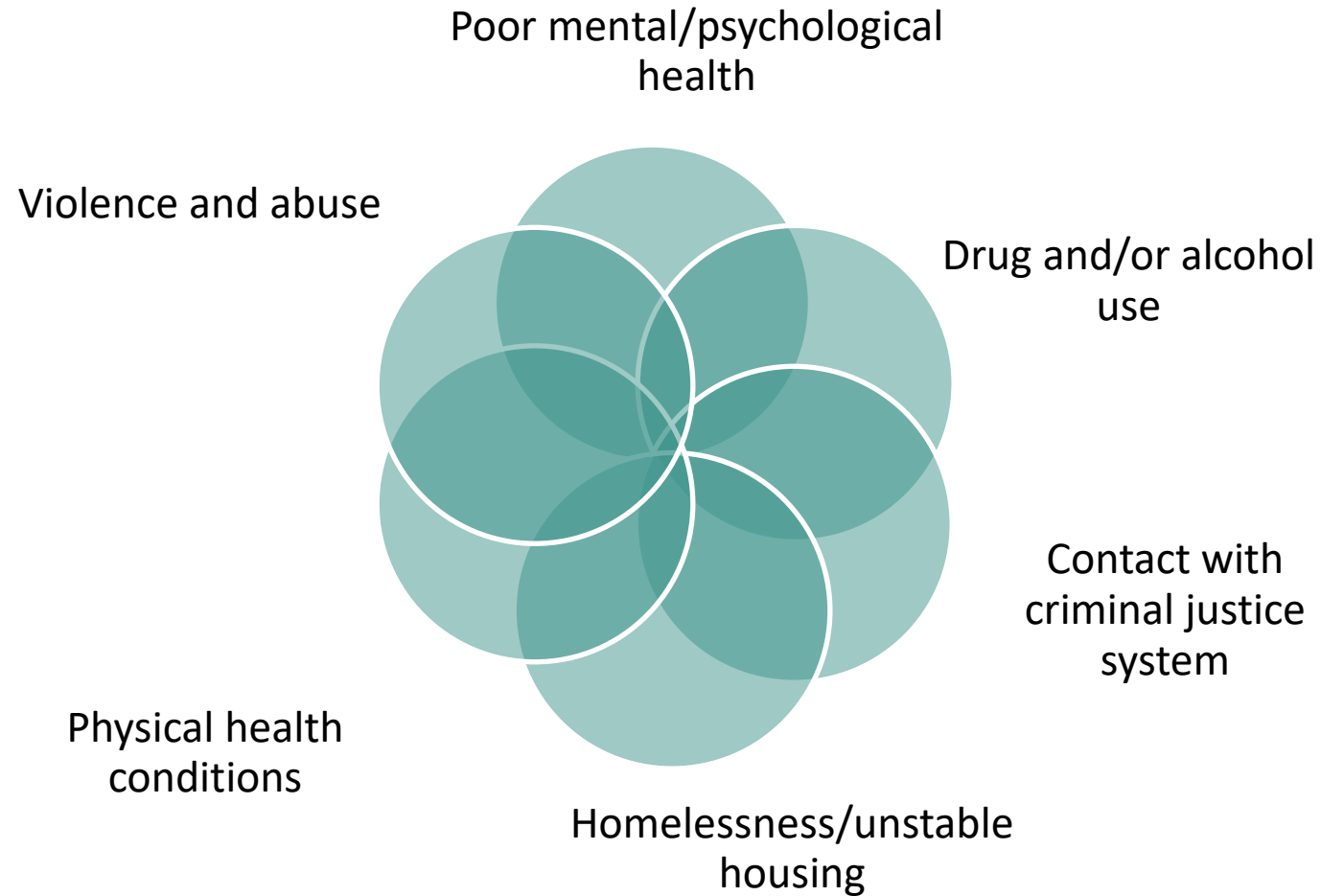
What being housing led isn't

- ✓ simply getting people off the streets and into hostels or shelters
- ✓ placing households in temporary accommodation for very long periods
- ✓ housing people quickly without consideration of tenancy sustainability
- ✓ erecting rigid barriers to affordable housing based on past behaviour
- ✓ using a “treatment first”, “tenancy ready” or “staircase” approach as the only pathway into housing for people with support needs
- ✓ treating all single homeless people as if they have support needs
- ✓ only for local authorities to implement!

Who is Housing First For?

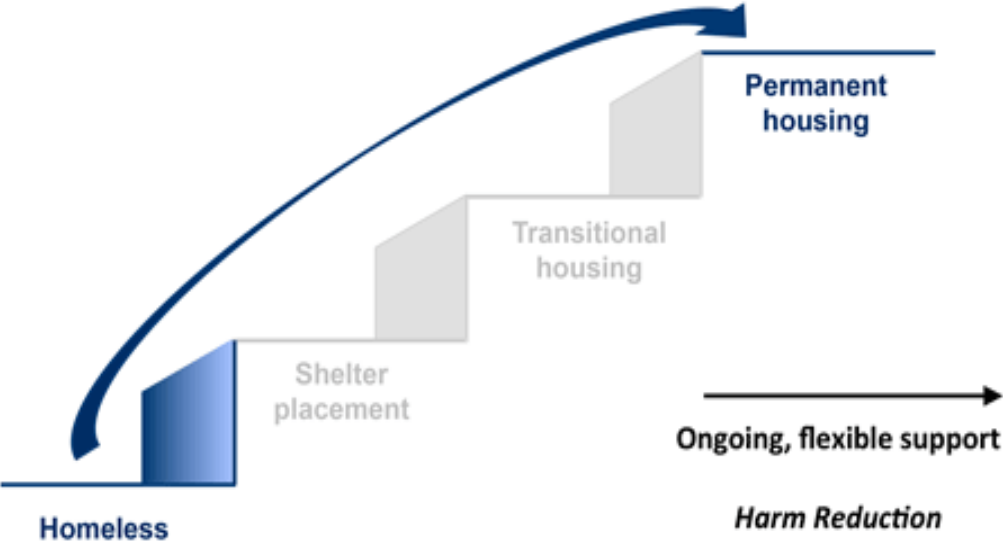


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Housing First Approach

Housing First approach



Traditional support



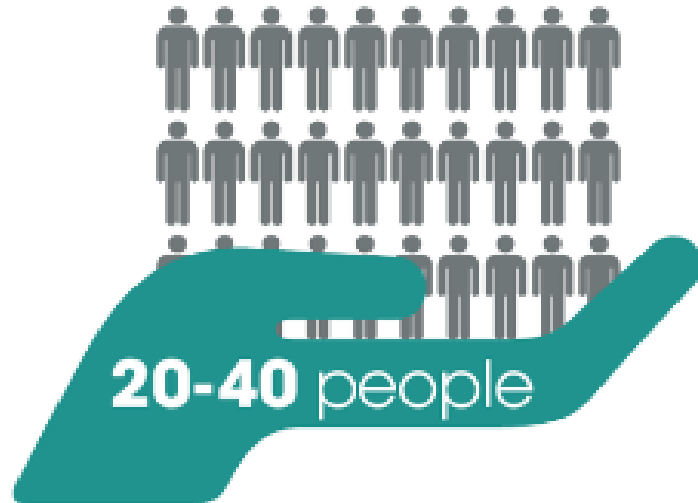
Housing First



Housing First Approach

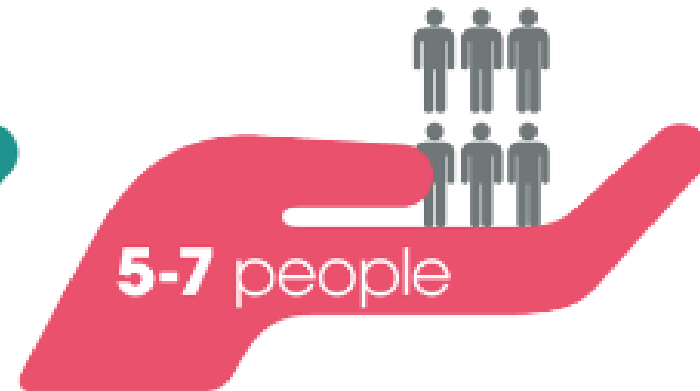
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**Traditional
support**



Caseload

**Housing
First**



Caseload

Housing First Principles



People have a right to a home



Flexible support is provided for as long as it is needed



Housing and support are separated



Individuals have choice and control



An active engagement approach is used



The service is based on people's strengths, goals and aspirations



A harm reduction approach is used

Evidence base for Housing First

Housing First

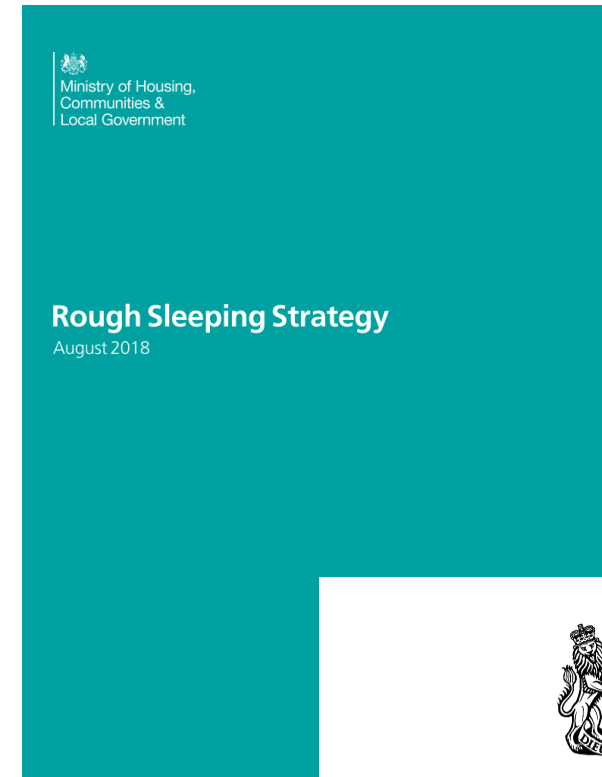
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crisis.org.uk

Homelessness Policy in England

- Homelessness Reduction Act 2017
 - Greater burden on Local Authorities to prevent homelessness
 - Duty to refer – did not include Housing Associations
 - Move away from ‘gatekeeping’ behaviors by Local Authorities
- Rough Sleeping Strategy 2018
 - Not a Homelessness strategy
 - Increase in multiple short term funding streams to address rough sleeping
 - Commitment to half rough sleeping during parliamentary term



Homelessness Reduction Act 2017

CHAPTER 13

Liverpool City Region feasibility study – 2017

- To develop a Housing First model within a wider ‘housing-led’ system that will transform the approach to homelessness
- To develop a model that will – over time – free up resources
- To co-produce this model with local authorities, front-line professionals and with homeless people themselves
- To work out how much it would cost
- To design a process for all this that other cities can follow
- Led to MHCLG funding England pilot in 2018

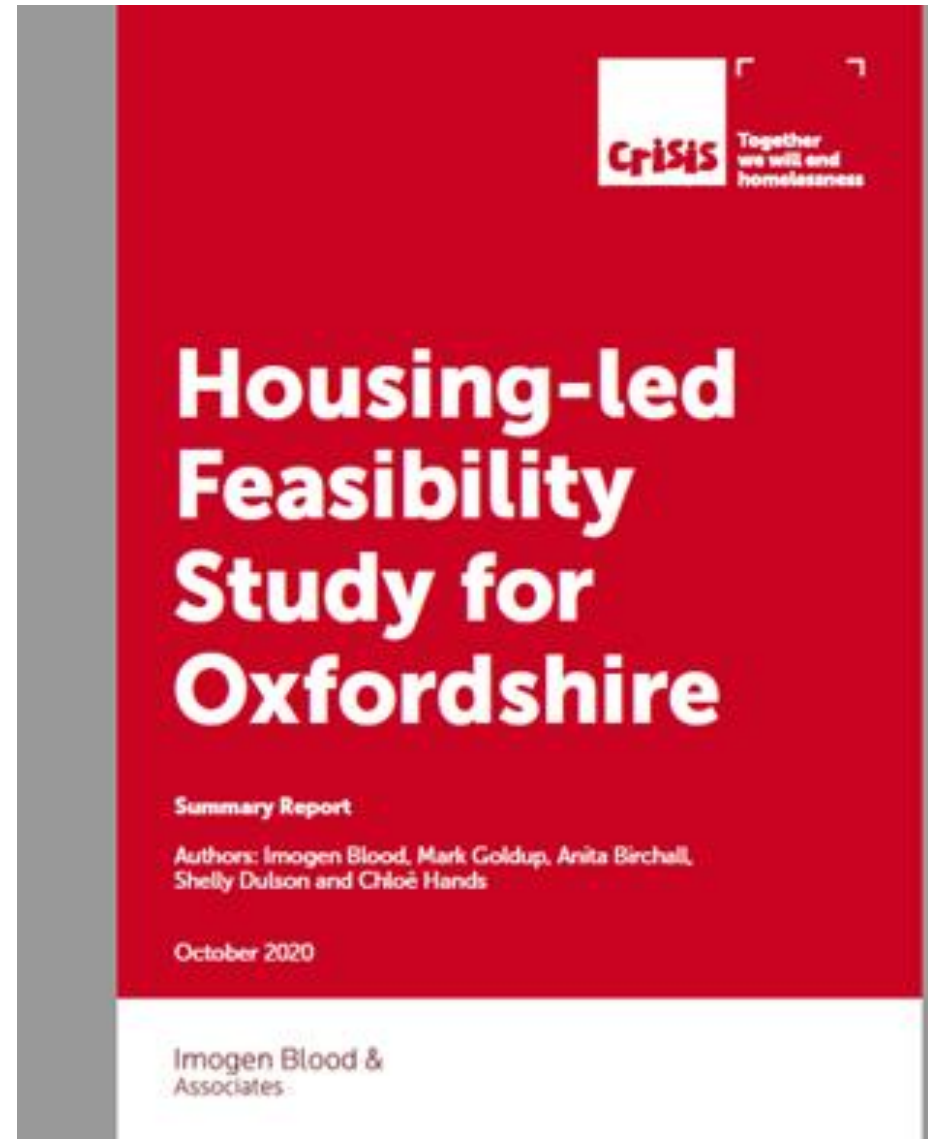
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Oxfordshire feasibility study – 2021

- To review existing approaches to homelessness across the county and make recommendations that would support a transition to Housing Led
- Found only 8% of spend was on floating support
- Only 13% of people supported by homelessness services each year moved into settled housing
- Only 3% of social housing lettings were to people moving from supported accommodation
- Recommended a total system shift to Housing Led underpinned by principles of Housing First

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Housing First in UK

- **England**
 - No national policy on Housing First
 - 3 large scale pilots funded by MHCLG in West Midlands, Greater Manchester and Liverpool City Region
- **Scotland**
 - National policy to end homelessness means all Local Authorities have Rapid Rehousing Plans- many include Housing First
 - National Housing First Pathfinder programme in 5 cities
- **Wales**
 - National commitment to Housing First
 - New national accreditation for Housing First services

Housing First in England - 2020

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active services
in England,
compared to
32 in 2017.

87 services
that responded can support

1,995



individuals at any
one time between them
– nearly **6x** as many
as in 2017.



of services have
been operating for
more than
2 years.



The picture of
Housing First
in England 2020



Housing First in England - 2020

- There are Housing First services in every region of the country.
- The South East has the greatest proportion of services (23%), followed by London (20%). However, the North West supports the highest number of people (453).
- On average, services support 6-20 people, but the range is very wide, from just 1 client to over 250.
- 71% of services have caseloads of 6 or less - an excellent sign of fidelity to the Housing First Principles.
- 81% of services use social housing for their residents. This has increased significantly since 2017, while use of private rented sector housing has decreased.
- 45% of services use accommodation from more than one source.

CSJ – Close to Home report

- Report published February 2021
- Focuses on what is needed for a national roll out of Housing First in England
- Includes evidence from the three City region pilots and case studies of Scotland and Finland
- Focuses on Housing First being one part of a wider strategic response to homelessness

CLOSE TO HOME

Delivering a national Housing First programme in England

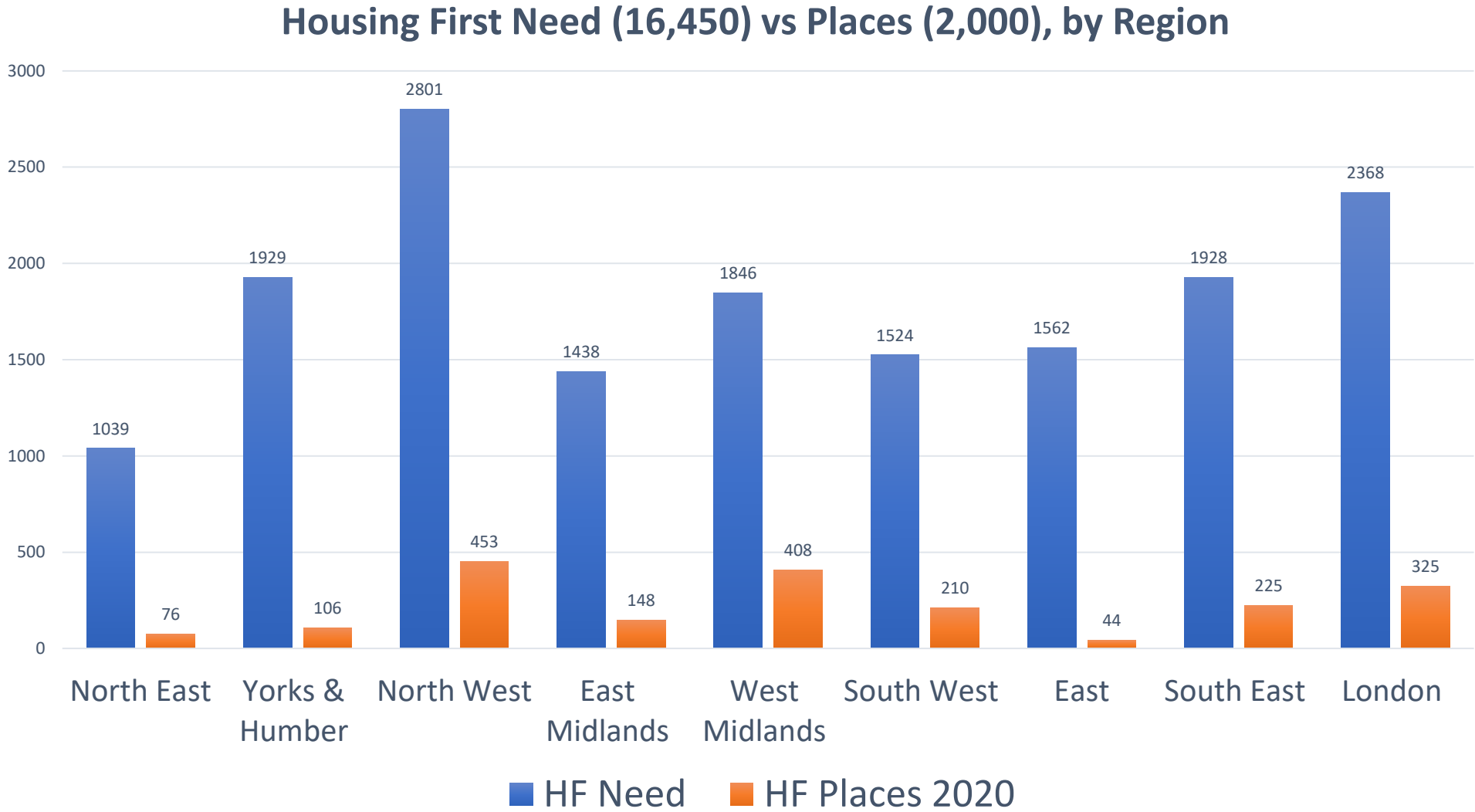
February 2021



Need for Housing First in England



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What needs to change to enable large scale roll out?

Sustainable funding for support

- Three year cross departmental fund (phase 1)
- 16,450 national target, delivery to reflect local targets
- Generic and targeted services
- Incentivise multi-agency commissioning and cross border working
- Prepare plan for longer term funding from year 4

What needs to change to enable large scale roll out?

Increase supply of social and private rent for HF

- Bring forward £12.2b Affordable Homes Programme (social rent focus)
- Flexibility to extend RSAP/Next Steps tenancies
- HF clients moving in social housing matched by additional provision
- Prioritise early engagement with housing providers to address allocations/management issues
- More investment to support social lettings agencies

What needs to change to enable large scale roll out?

National stewardship

- Oversight cross govt and with wider stakeholders
- Aligns with strategic response to homelessness (national & local)
- National Implementation Plan
- Shared vision grounded in high fidelity approach
- Workforce development plan, including peer support
- Commitment to sharing learning
- Commitment to embedding co-production with people with lived experience
- Outcomes monitoring & quality assurance

What needs to change to enable large scale roll out?

National outcomes monitoring

- Standardised national framework
- Addressing housing, criminal justice, health, well being and employment outcomes – and capturing distance travelled
- Headline results published

National quality assurance framework

- Accreditation framework focussed on fidelity & outcomes
- Self assessment tools, performance benchmarking
- Training academy/accredited qualifications

Housing First in Rural Communities

Homelessness in Rural Communities

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- Number of households categorised as homeless in rural local authorities in England rose to 19,975, an increase of 115 per cent from 2017 to 2018
- Homelessness in rural areas has more than doubled in the past two years, according to an analysis of government figures from CPRE (Oct, 2020)
- In 2019 The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust published
- Key recommendations for rural communities:
 - In areas with limited homelessness services beyond housing options, invest in outreach services as a first step
 - Co-design service with local communities and people with lived experience

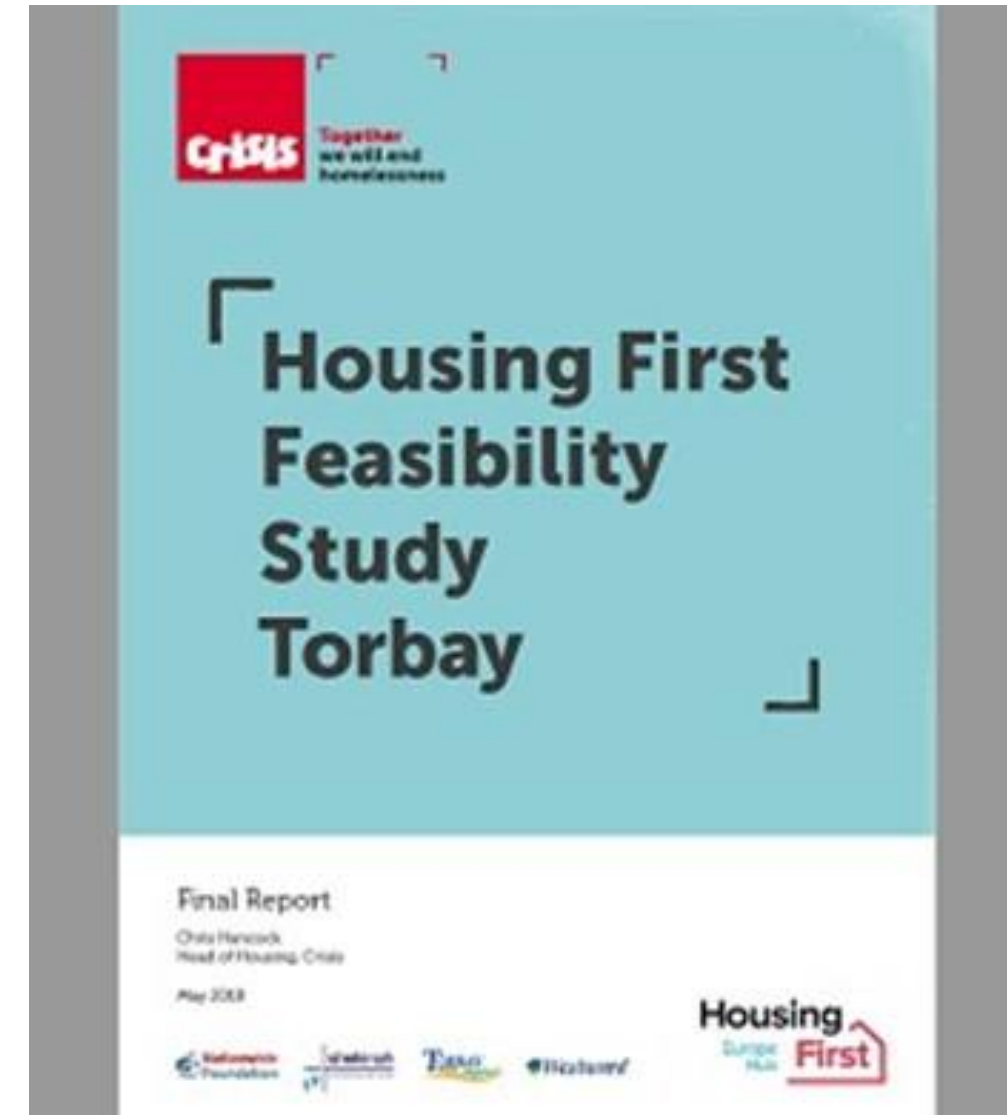
Out of the woods?
Lessons from the United States on tackling rural homelessness



Torbay feasibility study – 2018

- Commissioned to conduct feasibility study into Housing First in Torbay by Local Authority and housing providers
- We Found:
 - Individual interventions can be successful but there were few examples of people moving through each stage of support and out of homelessness for good
 - Significant use of emergency accommodation for single people considered to be in priority need. Proportion of single people to families in emergency accommodation in Torbay is 65% whereas the national average is 20%
 - Housing First would be nearly 2 times more cost effective at achieving a successful outcome for homeless people with complex needs than the current provision in Torbay

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Housing First in Rural Communities

- There are examples of successful rural Housing First delivery across the UK and beyond
 - In the UK – Scotland, Wales, Torbay and West Sussex
 - Further afield – Canada, Finland and USA
- Key considerations for Rural Housing First delivery:
 - Insufficient housing stock for scattered-site approaches
 - Landlord(s) buy-in
 - Inability to reach efficiencies of scale due to low client numbers
 - Transportation challenges
 - Staff recruitment
 - Availability of health and addiction services

Housing First- Best Practice

Housing First Best Practice

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Housing is a Human Right

- Everyone deserves housing
- No-one needs to prove they are 'housing ready'
- People should have choice in where and how they live
- What is the option if not housing?
 - ✓ Multiple housing offers for HF service users, to ensure choice .
 - ✓ Dispersed accommodation; don't want lots of HF tenants in one place
 - ✓ Choice of properties – tailored to each tenant



People have a right
to a home

Flexible Support is provided for as long as needed

- There is no set amount of support determined for people
 - Amount and time of support will vary for each person
 - There should be no set end date to support
 - Support moves with the person and at their pace
-
- ✓ Support contracts are flexible
 - ✓ Ebbs and Flows to be expected
 - ✓ Tenant chooses how to receive support



Flexible support is
provided for as long
as it is needed

Separation of Housing and Support



Housing and support
are separated

- Already the norm in other areas of social care e.g. Disability
 - Change in support needs should not force people to move home
 - Often people in temporary housing end up with least rights/ choice
 - Less money spent on buildings more on people
-
- ✓ Regular communication between landlord and Housing First Team
 - ✓ Issues can be addressed / resolved as early as possible
 - ✓ Team around the person approach

Choice and Control for Service Users



Individuals have
choice and control

- People in the most difficult circumstances often have the fewest choices
- Choices are personal and will be informed by experience (good and bad)
- Trauma can lead to people giving up control/ fighting for it – new approach will take time
- Small choices can make huge differences
 - ✓ Does not mean all choices/options are available to all
 - ✓ Adult to adult conversations are required
 - ✓ Workforce development to support new approaches

Assertive approach to support

- No one's housing is at risk if they don't engage with support
- People choose when/how to engage with support
- Active engagement is used – so everyone is continually offered support
- Always a level of active engagement linked to safety – regular contact
 - ✓ Tenancy is supported – not just the tenant
 - ✓ Caseloads managed so doesn't mean less time for tenant
 - ✓ Disengagement is very rare



An active engagement approach is used

Strength Based Approaches

- Based on belief that there is always a possibility for positive change and improved health and wellbeing, relationships and community integration
- People are supported to identify their strengths and goals
- People are supported to develop increased self-esteem, self-worth and confidence, and to integrate into their local community
 - ✓ Support team does with not for
 - ✓ Supported not enabled
 - ✓ Pace dictated by tenant



The service is based on people's strengths, goals and aspirations

Harm reduction

- Being housed reduces harm
 - People do not need to abstain from drugs/alcohol
 - Staff support individuals who use substances to reduce immediate and ongoing harm to their health
 - Staff support individuals who self-harm to undertake practices which minimise risk of greater harm
-
- ✓ Improvement in other areas of physical and mental health and wellbeing can be achieved
 - ✓ Safety is improved for all



A harm reduction approach is used

Next Steps and Questions

Next Steps?

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On your phone or computer please go to:

www.Menti.com

- Enter Code **86 55 184**
- What are the most important next steps for me and my organisation?

Any Questions?



For more information please contact:

Kate.Farrell@crisis.org.uk



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Thank you



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