Housing First

The Fourth International Housing First Conference:
Knowledge Mobilization of Evidence-Based
Housing First Practices
October 5-7th, 2021

Summary Bulletin

Maintaining Fidelity Amid Homelessness Transformation in Wales

Alex Osmond

Objectives

To outline the context surrounding homelessness and Housing First specifically in Wales, at both a practical and political level. This includes discussing the accreditation process that has been developed in Wales to assess fidelity of Housing First projects to the Welsh Housing First principles.

Research or practice-based evidence

Evidence in the presentation comes from the presenter's organisation's insight and roles in the Welsh housing and homelessness sectors, as well as partner organisations and individuals who participate in the Housing First Network Wales meetings, and those of its more specialised sub groups. The accreditation process that the presenter oversees has also provided a wealth of evidence.

Implications for practice

While the Welsh housing and homelessness context is unique to the nation, there are lessons that others can learn here, including: how to address the need for fidelity to Housing First principles; one way of developing an accreditation process to assess this fidelity; the value of Networks of likeminded individuals; some discussion of good practice and lessons learned when it comes to all the above.

Areas of needed policy change

The policy context in this case is one of broad political buy-in to Housing First as a concept; however, fidelity and its evaluation remains vital, as does continued funding in the right areas. Also crucial are the relationships between national and local government agencies, and how they work together and with other stakeholders to deliver Housing First and other housing-led approaches.

Related resources

More information can be found at Cymorth Cymru's Housing First page.

EEnet

The conference is hosted by the Ontario Housing First Regional Network Community of Interest (OHRFN-CoI). The OHFRN-CoI is supported by Evidence Exchange Network (EENet) at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. The OHFRN-CoI assists communities across Ontario to develop, evaluate, and improve Housing First programs based on the Pathways model tested, adapted, and shown to be effective in the At Home / Chez Soi Demonstration Project. For more information, visit www.eenet.ca/housing-first.

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