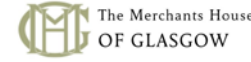


HOUSING
FIRST
SCOTLAND



Housing First in Scotland

Claire Frew, GHN

@GHNtweets @HFScotland



"Many people who become homeless or end up sleeping rough have complex needs that require specialist support as well as a house. **Traditionally the approach has been to provide support and get a person 'tenancy ready' before giving them a house.**

But that can mean they spend long periods of time in temporary accommodation, making it harder for them to address the other issues they face.

We want to change that, **which is why we are ... invest[ing] in and expand[ing] Housing First to make it a key element of all homelessness services in Scotland.** It is our priority to get a person into settled accommodation first, so they can then access support from the security of their own home"

Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister, October 2018

If Housing First is the answer ...

Then the question before us is how best to respond to homelessness when it is compounded by a range of other experiences including:

- Institutional Care (prison, LA Care, mental health hospital/ward);
- Substance misuse (drugs, alcohol, solvents, gas);
- 'Street Culture' activities (begging, street drinking, survival shoplifting, sex work)

(Heriot Watt University, Multiple Exclusion Homelessness, 2012)



How do we currently respond?

Traditionally our response has been based on the 'staircase' or 'treatment first' approach:

- People are expected to make progress through a series of linear stages, living in projects separate from their communities and living by a different set of rules;
- Each stage is designed to 'fix' a problem;
- Built on the assumption that people need to be 'housing ready';
- A permanent home is the last step on the staircase (and if you drop out at any stage you are back at the beginning)





Housing First is different because ...

It prioritises a settled home as the first rather than last step

It recognises a home (not a project or temporary accommodation) as the best base for recovery

It adds flexible, resilient support provided by the best support and peer workers

Housing First Principles

- 1. People have a right to a home;**
- 2. Flexible support is provided for as long as is needed;**
- 3. Housing and Support are Separated;**
- 4. Individuals have Choice and Control;**
- 5. An Active Engagement approach is used;**
- 6. The support is based on people's skills, goals and aspirations;**
- 7. A Harm Reduction approach is used**



And if we do this, sticking as closely as possible to the principles ...

We are far more likely to end someone's experience(s) of homelessness rather than keep them trapped in a damaging cycle

80-90% housing retention rates for Housing First tenants (Tenancy Sustainment in Scotland 88% in 2017-18 – SHR)

Positive outcomes in relation to health, substance misuse and involvement with the criminal justice system

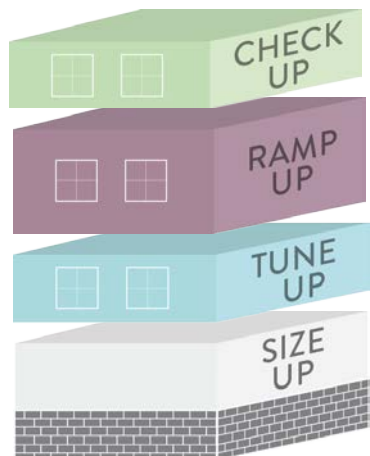


Five Steps *to* Housing First Scotland





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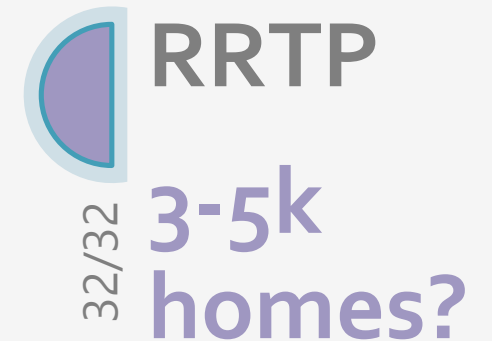
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4.
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Housing First needs people

A **small group** of people took Housing First **some** of the way:



It needs many **more people** to take Housing First **all** the way:



Housing First what people want



Housing First is
what people
affected by
homelessness want



The type of support
that great frontline
workers want



The outcomes and
cost savings that
national and local
governments want



The additional
reassurance that
housing providers
want



The wellbeing
outcomes that
health professionals
want



The evidence of
'what works' that
academics want