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Scottish Drugs
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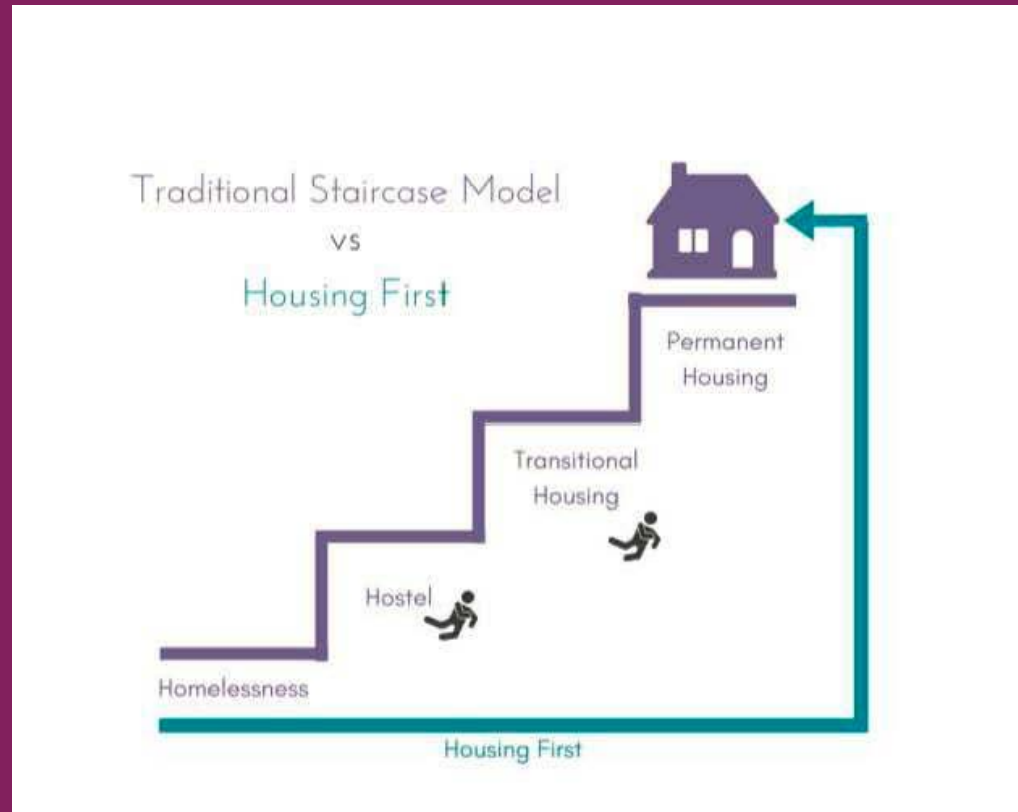
Housing First

Emma Hamilton (emma @sdf.org.uk)
National Training and Development Officer

A national resource of expertise on drug issues

www.sdf.org.uk
www.scottishdrugservices.com

What is Housing First?



Source:
Turning Point
Scotland

Aim: To reduce re-occurring homelessness

What makes Housing First, Housing First?

Underlying Principles

No requirement for housing readiness

Independent accommodation in scattered site housing

Harm reduction approach

Provision of permanent housing and holistic support

Respect for service user choice re: apartment, levels of engagement, location and times of support

24/7 support from multidisciplinary team

Targets most vulnerable – those that have difficulty coping with traditional services, resistant to service engagement

Target Group

Source: Report on Homelessness,
February 2018

Traditional services fail those
with the most complex and
multiple needs

Service providers
often discharge
people with
multiple complex
needs

Housing Options
Model did not
serve people
with the
multiple/
complex needs

Culture of blame on
individual as opposed
to review of structural
barriers

Target Group

Housing First: target group

Originally, chronically homeless people with severe mental health problems

Subsequently, homeless people with 'complex needs', i.e. co-occurring mental health and alcohol and/or drug problems

Also recently (to lesser extent) 'lower / less complex needs' groups, e.g. families

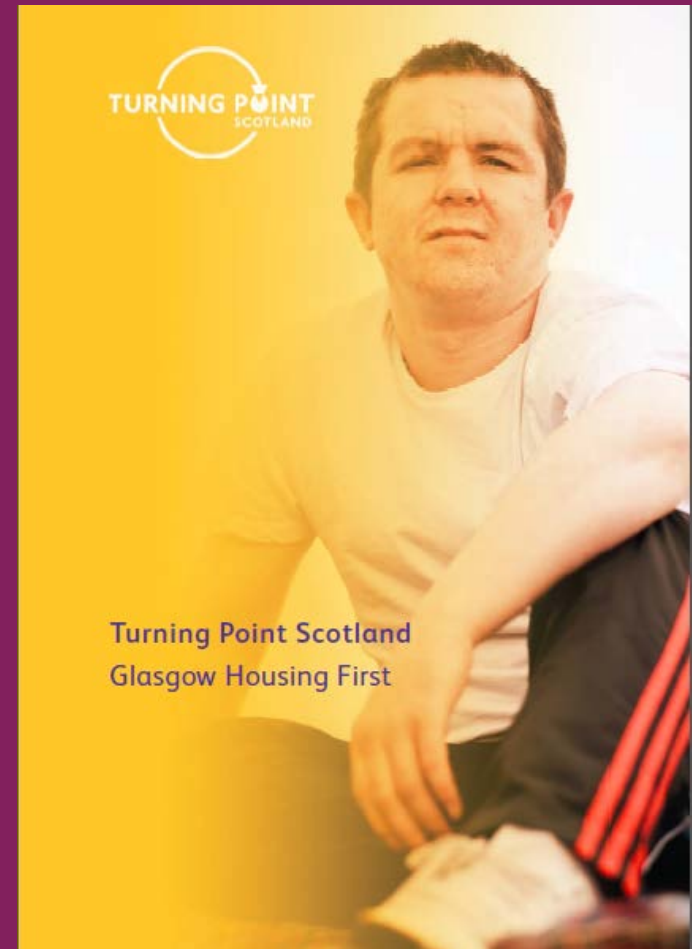
Housing First in Scotland



‘Housing first’ scheme needed to tackle homelessness, says Holyrood committee

Read more at:

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/housing-first-scheme-needed-to-tackle-homelessness-says-holyrood-committee-1-4687548>




Outcomes

The existing evidence would therefore strongly support **scaling up** the Housing First model up as the default option for homeless adults with complex needs in Scotland,

- **Housing retention:** generally **80-90%** still accommodated after 2 years
- **Health:** clinical outcomes more mixed but positive on balance
- **Criminal and anti-social behaviour:** decreased involvement; stakeholder anxieties re: ASB rarely borne out
- **Financial wellbeing and social support:** typically improve, but clients often still 'poor' and/or lonely


Challenges:



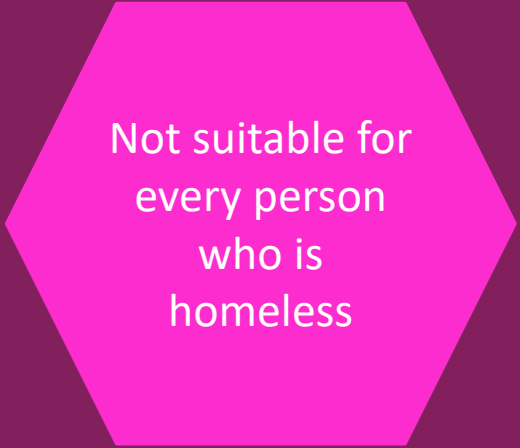
Shortage of
affordable
accommodation




Cost – wrap around support



Loneliness and
social isolation



Not suitable for
every person
who is
homeless



Changing
existing
service
provision

Main Office

Scottish Drugs Forum

91 Mitchell Street

Glasgow G1 3LN

t: 0141 221 1175

f: 0141 248 6414

e: enquiries@sdf.org.uk

www.sdf.org.uk

Find drug services in your area:

www.scottishdrugservices.com

Hepatitis Scotland

www.hepatitisscotland.org.uk

Take Home Naloxone

www.naloxone.org.uk

Edinburgh

139 Morrison Street

Edinburgh EH3 8AJ

t: 0131 221 9300

f: 0131 221 1556

e: enquiries@sdf.org.uk

www.scottishdrugservices.com

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