

Lived Experience and Leadership

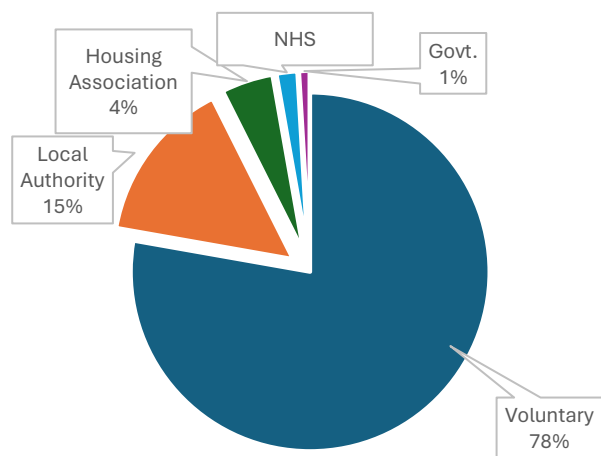
Note of the Leadership Webinar

10 January 2024

About the webinar

Homeless Link ran a webinar on lived experience and leadership for established and emerging leaders in the homelessness sector on 10 January 2024.

Homeless Link's lived experience partner for its leadership programmes, Sunny Dhadley, led the session. Experts by experience from a range of organisations led breakout sessions on a range of topics.



The webinar provided a useful opportunity for more than 160 participants from the homelessness sector (from more than 100 organisations including from charities, housing associations, local authorities, and other government bodies) to contribute to learning about the relevance of lived experience to leadership, priorities, and opportunities for action.

Key themes

Dialogue during and after the webinar demonstrates that there is a strong appetite for the equitable involvement of people with lived experience in a variety of ways within organisations. Some are further along with this journey, whilst others are at the start. Nevertheless, the conversations, feedback and actions recorded demonstrate the ongoing commitment to lived experience; from funding specific lived experience posts, reviewing and updating strategy, achieving best practice, creating more robust pathways, to diversifying boards, and more.

- *"I have already spoken to our board about the need to be more robust in our EDI and will look for ways to (meaningfully) embed it in our service design"*
- *"More involvement from lived experience members across the whole board"*

~ Attendees



Homeless Link

Organisations positively highlighted that they generally have staff and volunteers with lived experience, however ensuring that the right level of support is in place, dealing with time pressures and further improving diversity (particularly at a senior/board level) was seen as a challenge.

- *"Reframe how I think about ways of involving those with lived experience"*

~ Attendee

The value of the creative arts in co-production and to amplify the voice of lived experience was a common theme, with numerous examples of good practice among the organisations represented.

Breakout Topics:

1. The Practicalities of running a lived experience organisation - **SUIT**
2. How to effectively consult with marginalised communities - **Working with Everyone**
3. Effective Co-Production - **Changing Futures/SYHA**

Our next open-to-all leadership webinar is on **equity, diversity and inclusion, intersectionality and homelessness** on

14 March, 10-12.30