**A guide to Housing First for social care professionals**

This briefing is an introduction to Housing First for social care professionals, including those who work in local authority, hospital and community-based services. For more detailed information visit <https://homeless.org.uk/areas-of-expertise/housing-first/>. For local information, please contact the Housing First service in your area (see below).

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**5. Your local Housing First Service**

**3. Who it is for**

**2. Context**

**4. Housing First and your role**

**6. Supporting the approaches**

**1. What Housing First is**

**7. Next steps**

In Housing First [61 % of people have a longstanding illness/disability, and 21 % have a learning disability](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1102005/Housing_First_Evaluation_Third_process_report.pdf). Many residents are vulnerable adults with multiple safeguarding concerns. A small number of people have care and support needs and require assistance under the Care Act 2014. Around [3% of people](https://homelesslink-1b54.kxcdn.com/media/documents/Reducing_changing_or_ending_Housing_First_support_2021_full_report.pdf) transition from Housing First to a care-led setting.

Unconditional access to permanent housing with open-ended specialist support. Housing First adheres to seven key [principles](https://homeless.org.uk/knowledge-hub/the-principles-of-housing-first/), watch [Michelle’s Story.](https://vimeo.com/684255605)

Housing First can support the social care sector.

* Talk to colleagues about Housing First
* Look at Housing First resources
* Connect with your local Housing First team
* Build partnerships and joint working protocols with Housing First teams

Housing First ends homelessness for people experiencing multiple disadvantage and tenancy sustainment rates are between 70-90%

The mortality of people experiencing homelessness is very high, [45 years for men and 43 years](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/bulletins/deathsofhomelesspeopleinenglandandwales/2021registrations/pdf) for women and sadly, death is the most common reason a person would exit a Housing First service.

People facing multiple exclusion and disadvantage who experience a combination of issues. For many, their current circumstances are shaped by long-term experience of poverty, deprivation, trauma, abuse and neglect.

Housing First uses three key approaches:

1. [Trauma informed care](https://homeless.org.uk/areas-of-expertise/improving-homelessness-services/trauma-informed-car/)

2. [Strengths-Based practice](https://homeless.org.uk/areas-of-expertise/improving-homelessness-services/strengths-based-practice/#:~:text=It%20involves%20re%2Dframing%20the,organisations%20and%20those%20accessing%20them.)

3. [Harm reduction](https://homeless.org.uk/knowledge-hub/supporting-people-who-use-drugs/)

These structural inequalities intersect in different ways, manifesting in a combination of experiences including homelessness, substance misuse, domestic violence,

contact with the criminal

justice system and

mental ill health.

You can read the above resources and seek training to ensure consistency in support.

Social care teams have a vital role in supporting Housing First residents at different points in their journey. Key activities may include:

**TO BE COMPLETED BY HOUSING FIRST SERVICE**

Name of service: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Lead Contact: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Capacity of service: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Supporting [safeguarding](https://www.voicesofstoke.org.uk/2020/06/01/multiple-exclusion-homelessness-a-safeguarding-toolkit-for-practitioners/) concerns around multiple disadvantage and co-ordinating multi-agency meetings
* Completing a [care needs assessment](https://www.voicesofstoke.org.uk/care-act-toolkit/) in a dynamic and flexible way
* Implementing care packages to keep someone living independently in their home
* Facilitating a move to a residential care setting

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Referral information (if relevant):

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Any other information:

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