

Care Experience & Homelessness

Interim Findings

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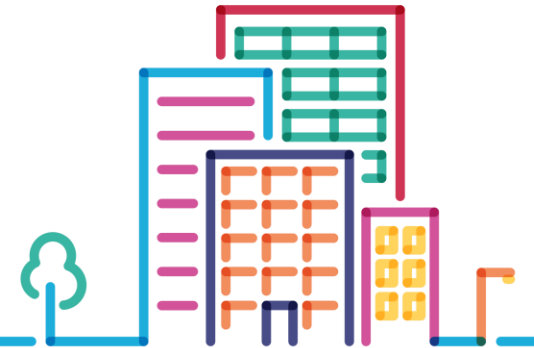
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Background & Context

There are clearly evidenced interconnections between care leaver status and homelessness:

- 25% of all single homeless people have been in care (Stirling, 2018).
- In Wales 11.5% of care leavers experienced homelessness during the year 2018-19 (Welsh Government, 2019).



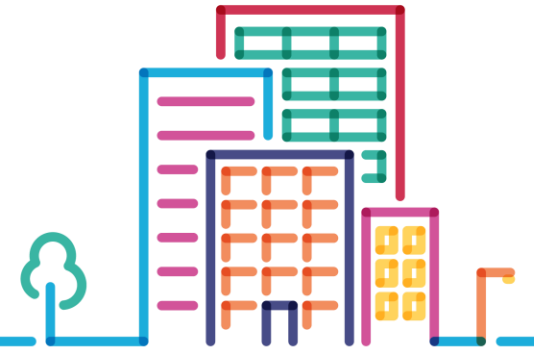
Systems Failures

- **System Failures** refer to situations in which inadequate policy and/or service delivery contributes to the likelihood that a young person will become homeless (Schwan et al, 2018).
- Experts suggest youth homelessness would drop significantly if government & community services coordinated and/or integrated to ensure transitions are seamless, rights-based and focus on housing stability (Schwan et al, 2018).



Methodology & Progress

- Participatory research design with care experienced young people being recruited as peer researchers.
- Peer researchers co-designed the interview questions.
- Drop in sessions and group interviews have also been conducted.
- To date we have interviewed 14 young people who are care experienced and been homeless.



Young People's Priorities



More Appropriate Accommodation

“I was 17 years old in the hostel with crack heads, junkies, heroin addicts, alcoholics”.

“Disgusting, it is full of drug users, it’s disgusting you know what I mean it’s dirty, full of men...I am literally the only female there”.



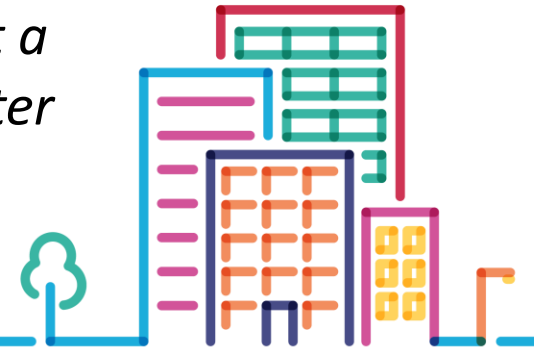
Equal Provision up to 25

“There’s a gap that’s missing in most projects you are out at either 18 or 21...and you are literally on your own. (A gap needs to be filled) because in the youth service young people are (aged) from 16 to 25. So I reckon we need some projects for 21-25 year olds”.



Additional Local Connection

“What it was when I moved over here I didn’t know anyone over here. I was a fresh face in (my local connection LA) I was getting looks left, right and centre and when I made friends I made friends with the wrong crowd and started getting myself into trouble. I started getting into debt and taking drugs and that wasn’t me, that’s not me. Over ‘in my (LA with foster parents’) I would never have thought of doing anything like that. I would have a better lifestyle. I would have a better job. I would have a nicer flat a better roof over my head. A good group of friends around me and my foster parents around me. I would have had a better outcome in life than living down here”.



Where Next?

- The aim is to interview 30 young people who are care experienced and been homeless.
- We will survey practitioners to get their perspectives on systems failures that can lead to homelessness.
- The final report will be launched in April 2020.

