

Challenges in Nursing Homeless People

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Happy 70th
Birthday!!!



1) Free at the point of delivery

**2) Care based on clinical need
(not ability to pay)**

3) Meet the needs of everyone

What are the issues in Homeless Health?

- Homelessness!!!!**
- Access to health/social care**
- Late intervention into acute/chronic conditions**
- Treatment Completion**
- Vulnerability (BI, LD, MI)**



**80% of homeless people report
suffering from mental health issue**

(Homeless Link 2014)



Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities

In a study of homeless people (2009)

- 12% had an intellectual disability

This is compared to 2% of homed population



Disabilities Trust Foundation

Toronto Study (2009): 53% of Homeless people have brain injuries

Leeds Study (2012): 48% Homeless people have Brain Injuries

90% of injuries happened before becoming homeless

‘Bringing in and Keeping in’

A simple model of healthcare for homeless people and those that live in poverty, that works under the paradigm:

The relationship between the individual and the service is as important as the service itself

- ❑ Earlier intervention in disease process
 - ❑ Screening
 - ❑ Improve treatment completion
 - ❑ Reduce health inequalities
- ❑ Prevent inappropriate reliance on Hospitals
 - ❑ Move patient back in to mainstream NHS

- ❑ Always Treat primary presenting problem (relieve suffering)
- ❑ Early emotional/psychological assessment on ability to recover
- ❑ Establish relationship (open, compassionate, non-judgemental, warm)
- ❑ Current use of NHS, what are the problems? Solve these!
- ❑ Establish entitlement and enable this
- ❑ Coaching on appropriate use of services in future
- ❑ Referring to 'mainstream' services' (Ensuring individual can use mainstream services, Advocacy, ensuring referral has been accepted, physical/logistical use of services, following up on DNA's)
- ❑ **Safety Netting** (giving patient clear invitation to return to us should relationship break down again)

Challenges to the homeless health nurse

3) Chaos

2) Low Self Preservation

1) Other Staff

“Systemic Compassion Failure”

Professor Aidan Halligan

Specialist Homelessness Teams

Homelessness not medical speciality

? Correct response?

No NO's

3 Questions...

1) Why Not?

2) Where Else?

3) How?

Summing Up

1) Don't let people fall in gaps

2) Don't let people stay in gaps

3) Be a gate opener not a gate keeper!

“The friend had been here and there, and had been played about from hand to hand, and had come back as she went. At first it was too early for the boy to be received into the proper refuge, and at last it was too late. One official sent her to another, and the other sent her back again to the first, and so backward and forward, until it appeared to me as if both must have been appointed for their skill in evading their duties instead of performing them”

Charles Dickens – Bleak House

References

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