



Threshold Housing First for women offenders

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17/07/2019

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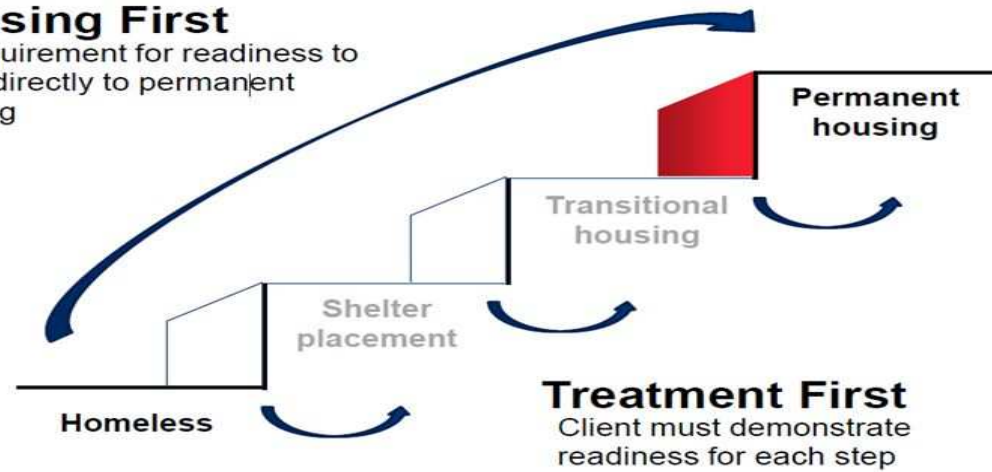
What is Housing First?



Step Model from Sam Tsemberis

Housing First

No requirement for readiness to move directly to permanent housing



Housing First core principles



- Housing is a human right
- Support for as long as is needed
- Housing and support are separated
- Choice and control
- Strength based approach
- Harm reduction approach
- Active engagement approach

Threshold Housing First pilot



Profile of a 'typical' customer



- Childhood trauma and violence in family settings
- Incomplete schooling
- Early development of illnesses (74%)
- High levels of mental ill health (92%)
- 79% were mothers. All had children removed permanently.
- Not always known to homelessness services
- Delayed presentation, when the problems have become much worse
- High numbers of low risk crimes
- Experienced domestic violence (99%)

Outcomes and Impact



- Women housed within 4 (now 10) weeks of referral
- 70:30 social to private rented lets
- Over 90% tenancies sustained
- Zero rent arrears - all accounts in payment
- Minor ASB issues (mostly linked to returning violent partners)
- Zero reoffending
- Average length of stay in service 17 months @ 5 hours support per week

Why does it work?

- Permanent housing.
- 'Home' (vs 'housed')
- Flexible by design.
- Person Centred
- Choice and Control.
- Trauma informed.
- Emergency response mechanisms

A 'tailored' Housing First?



Homelessness is a unique, and gendered issue. Responses should be unique and gendered too:

- Women have an increased risk of experiencing violence;
- Gender expectations normalise gender inequality;
- Multiplier effect when other disadvantages are present.

Housing First delivers excellent results for women when it is tailored to their needs.

Thank you!

