The importance of accommodation; a fundamental human need.

Jessica Lomas, Professor Belinda Winder, Dr Nicholas Blagden, Rebecca Lievesley & Lynn Saunders
Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs

- **Physiological needs:** food, water, warmth, rest
- **Safety needs:** security, safety
- **Belongingness and love needs:** intimate relationships, friends
- **Esteem needs:** prestige and feeling of accomplishment
- **Self-actualization:** achieving one’s full potential, including creative activities
In the media...

Housing problems causing mental illness, says charity
Homelessness issues

• Cannot give exact figures
• Different types of homelessness
• Rough sleepers: 4,134 on a single night
• Temporary accommodation: 75,740 households on a single night
• Statutory homelessness: 57,740 households in last year
• Hidden homelessness not accounted for in statistics
• Reach an average age of 47
• Increased likelihood of experiencing violence
• Increased suicide rates
  (Crisis, 2017)
• Considering the bigger picture
Offender populations

- Added difficulties for offender populations
- Employment issues (job restrictions, disclosure, stigma)
- Social isolation (friendships, relationships, the wider community)

Accommodation
- Landlords are less inclined to rent to those with previous convictions, compared to a matched non-offending control group (Evans & Porter, 2014)
- People entering custody are more likely to be homeless than the general population (Williams, Poyser, & Hopkins, 2012)
Accommodation and recidivism

• Every one move in accommodation = 70% increased chance of re-arrest (Makarios, Steiner, & Travis, 2007)

• Accommodation and employment combined are both important (May, Sharma, & Stewart, 2008)

• Different types of accommodation can have different effects:
  - Transitional facilities and short term shelters 😞
  - Private tenancies and work shelters 😊

(Clark, 2015)
Sex offence convictions

- Additional barriers for those with previous convictions for a sexual offence
- License restrictions (prohibits certain locations, internet access etc.)
- Difficult to foster both public and political support (Stojkovic & Farkas, 2014)
- Counter-intuitive risk management procedures?
  - Exemplified problem within the US (Levenson, 2016)
  - Similar considerations within the UK (McAlinden, 2009)

- Sub-populations within this subpopulation
  - People with autism & dementia (Vinter, personal communication, 25th April, 2017)
  - People with mental health issues and physical impairments (Kitson-Boyce, personal communication, 25th April 2017)
Approved Premises

• Probation run or private
• Accommodate people on license
• Manage those deemed to be high risk

• Should not be viewed as an accommodation provider
• Part of an agreed resettlement plan
• No fixed tenancy
• Main function: manage offenders for public protection purposes
  (MoJ, 2013; Feather, personal communication, 2nd May 2017)

• 48 hours notice given by AP
Approved Premises: Functions

• Protect public
• Assess offenders using approved tools
• Deliver risk management plans
• ‘Enhanced supervision’
• Deliver interventions
• Reduce risk of further offending
• Safe and secure environment
• Enforce court orders and licences
• Deliver effective treatment
• Coordinate delivery of a range of services (e.g. health, education…)

(MoJ, 2013)
Third Sector Organisations

- Free from government control
- Charities, independent businesses

- Prisons usually have links with TSOs
- Might sometimes be unknown to prisoners
- Viewed positively by staff and prisoners
- Face barriers
  (Mills, Gojkovic, Meek & Mullins, 2013)

- Clinks reports
Current research

- Approved premises (Reeves, 2013)
  - Experiences of those living within an AP who had previous convictions for a sexual offence
  - Interviewed staff and residents
  - Residents perceived being grouped under the “sex offender” label
  - A them versus us mentality

- Bridge House report (Mills & Grimshaw, 2012)
  - Charitable initiative specifically for those with sex offence convictions
  - Viewed favourably by residents
  - Partner agencies expressed concerns
SLF Accommodation Project

• The SLF want to develop their own accommodation project suitable for individuals with previous convictions for a sexual offence
• For people released from APs – where after?
• Hopefully aims to effectively balance risk and rehabilitation

Future steps:
• More information about what is already out there
• More information on methods of best practice
• Developing links, partnerships and multi-agency working
• Poster outlines research projects that aim to help inform this


References


