

Portsmouth Safeguarding Adult Board Conference 2022

Homelessness, drugs &
alcohol.

Safeguarding, practice
and resilience.



- The average age of death for people experiencing homelessness is 46 for men and 42 for women.
- People sleeping on the street are almost 17 times more likely to have been victims of violence. More than one in three people sleeping rough have been deliberately hit or kicked or experienced some other form of violence whilst homeless.
- Homeless people are over nine times more likely to take their own life than the general population.

Scale

On any given night, tens of thousands of families and individuals are experiencing the worst forms of homelessness across Great Britain.

- 207,600 in 2018
- 219,000 in 2019
- 227,000 in 2021



Practice

- Prejudice
- Trauma – Psychological distress – Self-medication - homelessness
Lack of social capital
- Hierarchy of needs, lack of compassion
- Revolving door, absence of hope,
- Suicide, self-harm and self prescription

PUSHING CHANGE

- We are a thriving recovery community providing service user involvement, peer led advocacy, training courses, one-to-one peer support/mentoring and a range of recovery focused groups.
- We welcome anyone who is willing to seek help around their substance misuse, regardless of substance.



Safeguarding

- Deeper levels of professional curiosity
- Hostels & lessons
- Hearts and minds of public and professionals
- **Optimism and hope on their behalf**
- Accessibility & availability at the point of need
- Compassion

*‘Pessimism of
the intellect
and optimism
of the will’*

Gramsci