

Homelessness and substance abuse: designing services that work

2022 What Works Community

We're delighted to share with you the third iteration of CHI's What Works Community, the Centre for Homelessness Impact programme designed to provide expertise, technical assistance and peer connections to local authorities. We're looking for leaders who want to use evidence and data to join the programme and accelerate their impact towards ending homelessness within their communities.

Homelessness and substance abuse: designing services that work

In this evidence sprint, we will highlight the evidence from around the world on substance use and homelessness, highlighting what we know about how well common interventions work and grounding this in how services are experienced by people who need them. We'll also lead you through a support need and services mapping exercise for your area to help shed light on any gaps. You will leave with a greater understanding of the evidence behind different interventions and start to develop a plan to design and deliver a mix of effective, evidence backed services that people need, when they need them. We'd particularly like to work with commissioners in homelessness and substance use in both Health and Social Care.

What the sprint will cover:

Session one: what do we know about the relationship between homelessness and substance use and what do we know about interventions that work?

We'll look at an overview of the available evidence about what works for people experiencing homelessness and substance use. We'll hear from the frontline, someone with lived experience of homelessness, about what services feel like to them. Participants will be encouraged to think critically about the types of services available in their area and about the people they are serving.

Session two: Mapping support needs and services

We'll ask participants to prepare for this session by gathering data about support needs and services in their area. We'll use a simple, standardised framework to map your current interventions, and look at the data about what the needs in your community are to start identifying opportunities to improve outcomes in your area.

Session three: Are we asking the right questions?

In the session we'll talk about what data is gathered nationally and locally, and we'll support you to develop a plan to fill in any gaps in information and services. We'll also talk about gathering information about outcomes for individuals.

This evidence sprint will be held on MTeams on 10th March, 17th March, 24th March at 14:00 for 2 hrs each session.

There will be some activities for you to complete between each session.

Join us by filling out the **registration form**.

We would love for you to join us. If you have any questions, please email heather@homelessnessimpact.org If you can't make the dates listed above, you can join the waiting list.