

CAPITAL CITY PARTNERSHIP



HOMELESS SUMMARY (2008)

Compiled by Stephen McMurray

Introduction

This summary updates information presented in ‘The Position of Joined up for Jobs Target Groups’ report in 2005. This report considered each target group and in addition to the categories below included; overlaps between the different target groups, perceived gaps in service provision, information gaps, and conclusions and recommendations. This report is available from CCP.

Scope

The number of service users reporting on the Edinburgh Common Homeless Outcomes (ECHO) database in the period between 01/04/06 and 31/03/07 was **4,058**.

<u>TARGET GROUP</u>	<u>NUMBER IN EDINBURGH</u>	<u>NOT WORKING</u>	<u>SOURCES</u>
Homeless	Likely to be around 5,000	Likely to be around 4,000	CEC ECHO system, Randell and Brown

Definition

Persons defined in current legislation as homeless persons and persons threatened with homelessness, i.e. those:-

- without any accommodation in which they can live with their families.
- who can't gain access to their accommodation or would risk domestic violence by living there.
- whose accommodation is “unreasonable”; or is overcrowded and a danger to health.
- whose accommodation is a caravan or boat and they have nowhere to park it.
- those persons experiencing one or more of the following situations, even if these situations are not covered by the legislation: Roofless, Houseless, Insecure Accommodation, Involuntary Sharing of Housing in Unreasonable Circumstances.

Employment

There is an estimation that **90%** of people who are homeless are unemployed. The City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) ECHO system reports that in 2006/07 **671** service users were accessing employment, education and training.

Barriers to Employment

- Many people who are homeless have poor experiences of education and lack motivation to engage in training.
- Lack of confidence.
- Lack of a stable address.
- Employer discrimination.
- Service provision around dangers in creating dependency culture, greater employability focus required in hostels.
- Inadequate job information.
- Housing benefit rules act as disincentive to work.
- Tend to have poor levels of physical and mental health.

Employability Services

There are a large number of services in the city. The most relevant are likely to be:

- **Bethany** – Provides training in English, Maths, IT, life skills and job seeking skills. Also provides volunteer opportunities.
- **Edinburgh Cyrenians** – Runs "People with Potential" preparation for work courses (PWP).
- **Passport** – Programme of personal support for those moving out of care, prison, drug use and homelessness. Clients will be supported, challenged and motivated to move on into training, education and employment within 4-6 months.
- **The Rock Trust** – Provides accommodation, support and education.
- **Salvation Army** - Runs resettlement courses which include a range of activities, workshops and training sessions.
- **Spectrum** - Integrated service of guidance, learning and progression support for vulnerable people with complex needs.
- **Streetwork** - Works in the city centre of Edinburgh with young people at risk and rough sleepers to provide education, support and prevention around homelessness, drugs and crime.

Further Reading

OSW (2006) The costs and benefits of formal work for homeless people, London, Crises.

Randell, G. and Brown, S. (1999) Prevention is Better than Cure, London, Crises.

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