

# Homeless among trans people in Wales

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# Key points

- Homelessness for trans people is complex, often protracted, and often hidden, often falling between the cracks of services.
- It is often part of a much wider, traumatic, life-situation.
- Service disengagement/ non-engagement is significant.
- Temporary accommodation is often unwelcoming
- We need to directly involve the trans community in solutions.



# Study methodology

- “Storytelling” (person centred) interviews with 28 trans people who had experienced homelessness and 8 service providers.
- Included trans women, trans men and non- binary people.
- Participants were paid for their time at the NLW.
- Included those who had not engaged/disengaged from services.





# Pathways into homelessness

- Complicates “family rejection” narrative: total breakdown of support.
- Relationship breakdown and/or domestic abuse often final straw.
- Tends to occur early in transition.
- Sometimes complicated by other factors- mental ill health, substance use.
- Structural issues *not* personal “torment” seen as real obstacles.





# Service under-engagement

- Belief that system *wasn't for them*.
- Expectation of microaggressions and deprioritisation.
- Where staff were well trained this was noted and appreciated.
- Seek training from the local trans community.



# Temporary accommodation

- Some excellent practice- assisting with bureaucracy around early transition, facilitating homelessness bureaucracy, signposting.
- Hidden messages about *who* can do *what* in the space.
- *How* issues are addressed matters. *Whose homelessness matters?*
- High rate of disengagement into hidden homelessness.
- LGBTQ specific hostels? Visible “welcoming”? Trans staff?





# Solutions? Involve trans people!

- Politicised, resistive, creative community.
- Casestudy- “Homes for Queers”.
- Co-living arrangements- how can councils help?
- Ask local trans community what they need!





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Thank you!

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