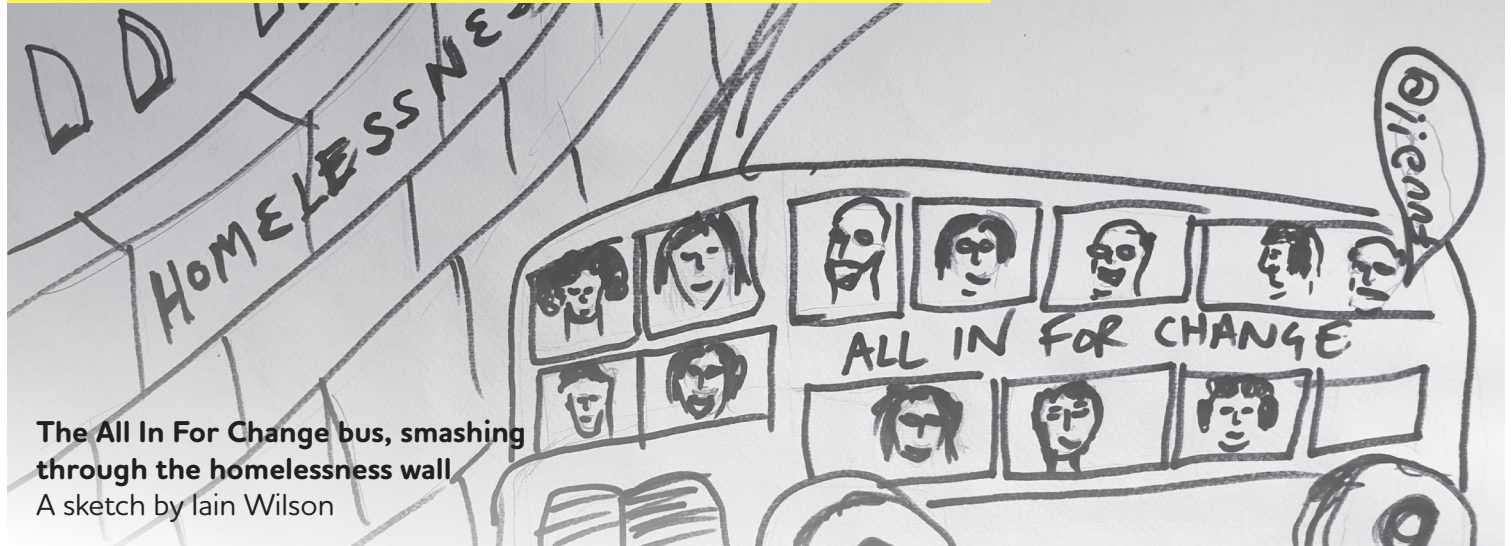


WELCOME! to the All In For Change monthly bulletin. It was brilliant to see 24 Change Leads tuning in to the remote retreat last week! Here is a summary of what was discussed.



The All In For Change bus, smashing through the homelessness wall
A sketch by Iain Wilson

NO WRONG DOOR | A NEW DIRECTION TO END HOMELESSNESS

After making sure everyone was connected, Beth Watts introduced another insightful presentation on the third New Direction to End Homelessness: No Wrong Door.

Beth highlighted that when it comes to No Wrong Door, available research evidence tells us that our history of building our responses around a single type of need or social issue (e.g. homelessness, unemployment, addictions, education) does not reflect the realities of people's lives and means we continue to miss opportunities for early intervention to prevent or end people's experiences of homelessness. We routinely see this with people navigating complex systems to get what they need, and the differing priorities of different service providers.

But, the research evidence also points us in the right direction:

The Change Team discussed how we still routinely see examples of our responses not aligning with No Wrong Door.

For example, someone moving into a secure tenancy isn't always the end of homelessness as they can often end up living far away from family connections and becoming isolated, or into areas with high drug use which puts their recovery at risk. In any of these situations we are increasing the risk of repeat homelessness and need to ensure a No Wrong Door approach to ensure we don't make short-sighted decisions that create additional risk.

The Change Team advocate the importance of everyone being able to access the support they need when they need it, learning from brilliant support workers who are delivering personalised, flexible support across the country.

1. National legal change to prevent homelessness, looking at learning from England and Wales about their approaches to cooperation and referrals (currently being considered by the Prevention Review Group and the Prevention Commission)
2. Changes to governance and commissioning structures such as integrating homelessness responses within Health and Social Care Partnerships and thinking about how we commission services to avoid silos
3. Local partnership working including developments such as colocation of services and staff, multi-disciplinary teams, data sharing agreements, and joint working protocols

CHANGE ON THE GROUND

Because of the current situation brought on by COVID-19, we are seeing changes at the margins where we are realising that it is no longer effective to throw money at a broken system.

The Change Team want to see people with experience of interacting with this system involved in its redesign.

Poverty has become difficult to ignore as community responses to the pandemic generally revolve around providing food and other essentials to people experiencing poverty, or people who are destitute. People are no longer accepting the status-quo.

The Change Team want to make sure infrastructures are put in place to support this.

Some small changes have potentially huge impact. Services have pulled together to action changes that a couple of months ago were unthinkable.

AIFC Change Leads believe actions like moving towards early prison release for certain groups can change how society views people with experience of criminal justice more positively and empathically.

A good example of positive change is shown in the reflection being made on how many people receive duplicate support and how effective this is. Working more closely with other services has meant saving time trying to engage people in the support they need, as well as ensuring better communication between these services.

Support is now largely delivered on the phone to avoid face-to-face interaction, and while this works for many it has created a big change in dynamics for some very vulnerable people that are difficult to manage.

The Change Team is curious about what steps we can take to ensure that the very vulnerable people we are working with aren't further disadvantaged by the changes in service provision.

#BACKTOBETTER

Through the Change Team we have an opportunity to advocate for a more positive future but must bear in mind the very real danger of further austerity measures as a means to recover from lockdown.

The Team advocates the efforts being made across the sector to support those effected by homelessness during this time. With the example of people who were rough sleeping now being accommodated in hotels in cities like Glasgow and Edinburgh, these actions demonstrate that with enough will, we can support people.

There is general consensus amongst the Team to start thinking about how we want the future to look like; considering what changes made in the past month that we want to be made permanent, how can we ensure that people are properly supported, and we avoid a further rise of homelessness.

To achieve these things we need changes in how services are commissioned to ensure sustainable investment that reduces competition and barriers between services.

BEING CREATIVE

We explored creative ways of sharing our experiences during lockdown. We introduced a simple pen and paper exercise and shared some examples of how creativity is being used as an outlet during the pandemic. Although this was not everyone's cup of tea, it is lovely to have so many creative people in the Change Team!

IMAGINE (IF YOU CAN)

A poem by Viki Fox

Imagine you live in a single room
Share a toilet and shower
with ten others
Imagine people knock on your door
10pm, 2am, 5am, whenever
Keep banging until you're awake

Imagine this scares you
After you escaped
from a violent partner to here
Each bang tightening your chest
Making your heart race

Imagine your only respite
Is getting through the day
Going to classes, walking
Visiting family,
mum and dad, children

Imagine how important
these things would be to you
The only reasons to keep you going
The only things
to get you through the nights
The point of being alive

Imagine this was
all taken away from you
No respite
No walking, no family
Children getting bigger
every day without mum

Now, can you imagine
This being your reality?
This being your life?
You are staying in a homeless
B&B when covid19 strikes.

You are now stuck in your room
Can't bear to leave for exercise
Isolated, depressed
What's the point?

Imagine you don't need to imagine
Imagine this is your life.

YOUR SHOUT!

Viki Fox headlined the Your Shout! section at this month's retreat with some valuable insights from her experience starring alongside Dr Neil Hamlet, in a webinar hosted by the Centre for Homelessness Impact.

The series focuses on how we are responding to homelessness amid the crisis and has over 100 attendees! This webinar covered topics such as: support for those with No Recourse to Public Funds; reflections on how quickly strategies have been mobilised; and how we can properly frame the issues that are arising. Homelessness has always been a public health emergency however it is now being addressed with the urgency it merits.

Viki used the opportunity to promote All in for Change and the 4 New Directions to End Homelessness. She shared with us some useful tips on how to use webinars as a platform to spread messages.

You can watch the webinar by going to the Centre for Homelessness Impact website or following this link: vimeo.com/409426005

If you would like a shot at hosting the 'Your Shout!' slot at future retreats, please let the AIFC facilitators know! We would love to hear what it is you want to SHOUT about!

1. When participating in webinars run by other organisations make yourself known by asking questions and leaving comments in the chat box. That's how she got an invite to be a speaker.
2. Prepare in advance and be open about what you do and don't know.
3. Check to most updated news stories and facts – especially as information is currently changing so fast!
4. Don't look at the attendees list before you go live so that you are not influenced or put off. Ignorance is bliss!
5. Be open minded! You might find it easier to speak at a webinar than in a room full of people. If you don't usually volunteer for public speaking, maybe a webinar is the perfect environment to give it a try!
6. Ask for feedback from the webinar hosts and make sure you are happy with what they are publishing.

DATE OF NEXT ONLINE RETREAT:

28 May 2020

THE CHANGE TEAM | KEEP IN TOUCH

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Homeless Network Scotland is a charity registered in Scotland (SC0 03453) and company limited by guarantee (SC112361). Registered Office: Adelphi Centre, 12 Commercial Road, Glasgow G5 0PQ. CEO: Margaret-Ann Brunjes

LEARN TO LIVE

A song by Fran Cawkwell

Click here to listen on Soundcloud

MEASURING WHAT MATTERS

We end each retreat with a short evaluation and this month we focused on the positive steps we could take to ensure we accurately reflect and understand the realities of the lockdown and what new tools we can make use of so that the Change Leads can still work as and feel like a team while working remotely.

Important considerations for the work of the Change Team going forward include:

- Creating more contact time between monthly Change Team retreats
- More opportunities for Change Leads to support and contribute to the planning of monthly retreats
- Complementing the existing online retreats with smaller breakout spaces for specific discussions, and thinking more about how people's voices can continue to be heard if they are unable to join online meetings
- Thinking more about how conversations across wider networks, and not just within the Change Team, can be supported and prioritised.

The team will take all of these ideas forward and continue to make it as easy as possible for everyone to participate.