

Housing First England

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## Newsletter - May 2016



Dear <<First Name>>,

Welcome to the Housing First England newsletter for May. In this edition..

- [What you say about Housing First in England](#)
- [Upcoming practice networks](#)
- [Client ambassadors](#)
- [Other news](#)

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## Housing First in England - the 2016 survey

A couple of weeks ago we asked current commissioners and providers of Housing First, and those making plans to develop a Housing First project, to let us know what you're up to. Thanks to all that have responded so far. We asked you to let us know what Housing First means in your area. This is what you said:

*'It is a potential/opportunity for clients whom other services have often written off or failed. A chance to have pride & independence, a home of their own. An opportunity to showcase a cost effective, innovative user-centred model & to encourage others to adopt it'.*

*'I am a firm believer in Housing First model and that a home is a basic human right'*

*'It provides another option for working with the most marginalised - delivering*

*outcomes that positively change people's lives'.*

*'It's a unique opportunity for clients to leave supported housing and recover via their own platform'.*

*'It has reduced rough sleeping and begging; sustainable tenancies where otherwise the revolving door scenario would have perpetuated; demonstrably changed lives in a number of cases'.*

We haven't had a chance to collate all the information so if you've not yet completed the survey please do so. We'll use the feedback to understand the different ways in which people are designing and delivering Housing First and develop tools and guidance to support others. We'll also get a clearer picture of how many people are currently housed via Housing First in England and what support you want from us at Homeless Link.

- For providers and commissioners of Housing First projects that have been in operation for over 1 month (or that have ended) please complete this survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WMGFFH5>
- For providers or commissioners that are designing a new project, or where the project has been operational for less than a month, please complete this survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WXZXKP6>



## Upcoming Practice Networks

In the next few months we'll be inviting some of you to join regional practice networks to meet other people in your area doing or planning Housing First. The first is taking place in the North West in May and there will be another in London soon after.

We hope that there will be one in each region by the end of the year, and that these will be shaped and sustained by the members. If you know of anyone that is providing, commissioning or designing a Housing First scheme and who may not be registered on the mailing list please do encourage them to register or email [joanne.prestidge@homelesslink.org.uk](mailto:joanne.prestidge@homelesslink.org.uk) so that we can invite them too.

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## Client ambassadors - update

Sadly we have not yet received any responses from Housing First residents or their workers. If you have a client who you think may be willing to talk about their experiences to us at Homeless Link, or get involved in a more in-depth way, please email [joanne.prestidge@homelesslink.org.uk](mailto:joanne.prestidge@homelesslink.org.uk). Jo will make arrangements with you to meet with the resident and find out how they would like to be involved.

- [Click here to download more information about the client ambassador role \(PDF\)](#)

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## In other news...

- In 2015 we conducted a scoping review of the use of Housing First in England. This informed how we designed the Housing First England project. The scoping report was not published but you can now find it on our [website](#).
- 2016 Transatlantic Practice Exchange participant, Jonny Goldsmith, will soon be making his way to Washington DC to spend two weeks with Pathway to Housing. Jonny works for P3 in Lincolnshire and is going to the US to learn about the use of Housing First for people with mental illness. You can follow his exchange on his [blog](#) and on twitter [@JonnyGoldsmith1](#)
- Housing First made it into international news last week as the BBC World Service Inquiry [programme](#) interviewed four experts for a short radio feature. The following day BBC news live streamed an interview with Wayne, a Housing First resident, and his worker Laura who works for SHP in Camden. It was great that they were able to showcase their work so do take a look to find out more. We've added it to our new Housing First England facebook page [here](#).



Wayne and Laura (thanks to SHP for the image)

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With support, guidance, lobbying, news, training and events, Homeless Link keeps you right at the heart of a national network of over 500 homelessness organisations.

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## Newsletter - June 2016



Dear <<First Name>>,

Welcome to the Housing First England newsletter for June. In this edition.

- Using Housing First to support vulnerable women
- Thinking strategically
- Sharing triumphs, trials and tribulations
- Other news

### Threshold's Housing First service

Staff at [Threshold](#), a housing association in Greater Manchester, have been delivering Housing First across Oldham, Stockport and Thameside for just over a year. They work with up to 12 vulnerable women with complex needs, the majority of whom are also victims of domestic violence.

Their successful scheme has enabled 11 women to sustain accommodation in addition to being able to place them in refuge accommodation for their safety when necessary. They made this wonderful film to highlight the real impact of their work.





Watch this film about Threshold's Housing First project

We would like to showcase the work of other Housing First schemes across the country. If you have a case study or something else you want us to share please email [joanne.prestidge@homelesslink.org.uk](mailto:joanne.prestidge@homelesslink.org.uk).

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### **Our Strategic Advisory Group**

A key part of the Housing First England project is to undertake strategic work on a national level to ensure that Housing First becomes a viable and sustainable housing option in England.

Earlier this month we brought together a range of people for our first Strategic Advisory Group meeting. These included representatives from local and central government and the housing and voluntary sectors.

The Strategic Advisory Group will meet twice a year to look at some of the wider challenges and opportunities which could impact the design and development of Housing First schemes across England.

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### **Regional Practice Networks**

You've told us that you'd be keen to have opportunities to meet other Housing First providers to share successes and troubleshoot challenges. To enable you to do this we are in the process of setting up regional practice networks.

On the 18th May we facilitated the first meeting of the North West network which saw a passionate group of people coming together to learn about each other's work.

They've decided to meet quarterly to discuss different topics relating to Housing First provision including monitoring of outcomes, improving wrap around support and creating sustainable services.

The next network to meet will be in London in June. Please note that these are invitation only until each group establishes the purpose of their network.



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### In other news...

Thanks to everyone that has joined the [Housing First England](#) movement. We have 250 of you signed up so far! Please encourage your colleagues and other contacts to register to receive this information too.

Join us at Homeless Link's [annual conference](#) where we'll be providing more information about Housing First England, showcasing two different Housing First schemes and sharing our current thinking on the principles of Housing First for this country.

On July 15th we'll be holding a free webinar showcasing more great Housing First work. Please make a note in your diary as booking information will be sent around in July's newsletter.

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## Newsletter - July 2016



Dear <<First Name>>,

In this newsletter....

- [Sign up for a free webinar](#)
- [London regional practice network](#)
- [FEANTSA Housing First Europe guide](#)
- [A case study from Oxford](#)

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### Housing First In Conversation - Free Webinar July 15th

Later this month we're holding a free webinar where we'll be joined by Two Saints who provide Housing First in Poole, Bournemouth and Weymouth.

You'll hear from a resident about the impact this service has had on his life and from a support worker who will share practical information and stories from the frontline. You will also hear from a senior manager about the strategic and systematic side of providing Housing First.

There'll be plenty of opportunities for you to get involved and join the conversation so book your place [here](#).

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## London Regional Practice Network

Last month a range of agencies from across the London region came together to share knowledge, experience and ideas related to providing Housing First in the capital.

Like the North West network, this group has agreed to meet quarterly. They want to focus on the specific challenges faced in providing Housing First in London, and come up with shared solutions to take forward.

We will facilitate a network in every region of the country so keep an eye on your inbox for an invite!

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## FEANTSA Housing First Europe Guide

**FEANTSA**, the European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless, launched their guide in Brussels in early June.

The guide provides information about the principles of delivering and evaluating Housing First and gives examples of how the approach has been used across Europe. The guide also includes a set of principles for providing Housing First in Europe which we have aligned our Housing First England principles to.

You can [access the guide online](#) so make sure you take a look.

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## A Case Study From Oxford

Thanks to everyone who has sent a case study so far - it's great to hear about the amazing work that's being done. [Click here to download a case study \(PDF\)](#) on how Oxhop have worked with one individual to provide him with the opportunity to make tremendous changes in his life.

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