

Cardiff Multi-Agency Strategy & Advisory Planning Group for Homelessness

Report for Supporting People Planning Group – Community Care meeting

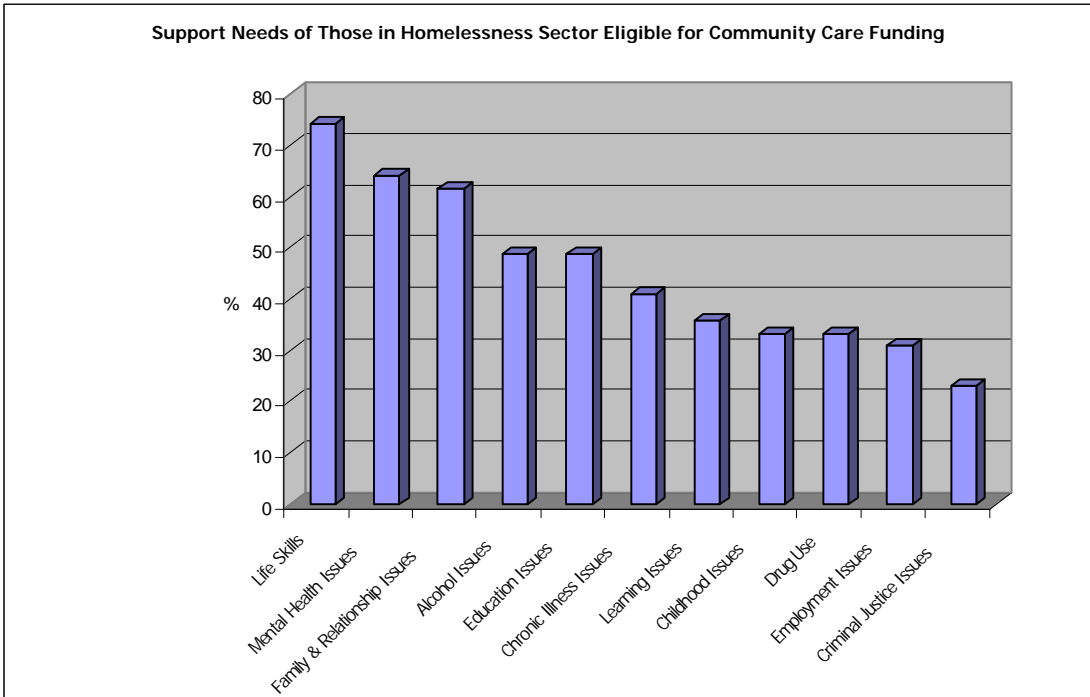
Individuals with complicated needs which often meet the criteria for community care regularly find themselves in homelessness services by default. For example elderly people left in hostels for many years who are now institutionalised may be better placed in residential care, but currently block homelessness beds in frontline hostels. Mental health issues and learning difficulties are also frequent among people. Existing community teams can help some of these clients but others do not meet their criteria and end up putting a strain on homelessness services.

One particular group is characterised by having chronic, longstanding alcohol abuse problems and an inability or a lack of commitment to give up drinking. Most have severe alcohol-related illnesses and would have a limited life expectancy. Giving up this life style would be physically impossible for them. When a community care assessment is undertaken the results show very high levels of need and vulnerability, clearly meeting the community care threshold. Existing services are of limited use to them. Members of this group find themselves living for long periods in hostel accommodation or supported housing projects. They become a severe strain on services as their care needs are simply too high and should be met by Social Services and Health.

Existing projects such as Shoreline provide an adequate service for many in the group but cannot and should not be expected to meet those with very high needs. They need a level of service equivalent to registered residential care homes or even nursing homes. This would be funded and registered in the normal way but would provide a service that met their needs by ensuring alcohol as well as care was available to them. At present few homes can cope with such individuals and none routinely provide alcohol. There is a gap in the care market and this needs to be explored and perhaps the market stimulated.

There are currently six service users with community care packages in frontline provision, and 20 in secondary provision.

According to information collated by the Homelessness Strategy & Monitoring Unit, 39 service users are in receipt of Community Care funding, and 333 have had assessments but were unsuccessful. A breakdown of their needs is shown below:



Over half of Community Care grants are given to people in secondary accommodation, with only 8% of people receiving grants living in frontline accommodation.

3 service users have been transferred from Tresillian House to Hillcrest Residential Care home as it has the means to cope with alcohol use.