



# Housing First in Wales

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**Pobl**

# A brief history of Housing First

**Dr Sam Tsemberis** founded Pathways to Housing in New York City in 1992 based on the belief that housing is a human right.

Housing First was developed to help people with mental health problems who were living on the streets; many of whom experienced frequent stays in psychiatric hospitals.

Housing First has developed around the five founding principles –

- **HOUSING** – Immediate access to housing with no readiness conditions
- **CHOICE** – Consumer choice and self-determination
- **RECOVER** – Recovery orientation
- **SUPPORT** – Individualized and person-driven supports
- **COMMUNITY** – Social and community integration

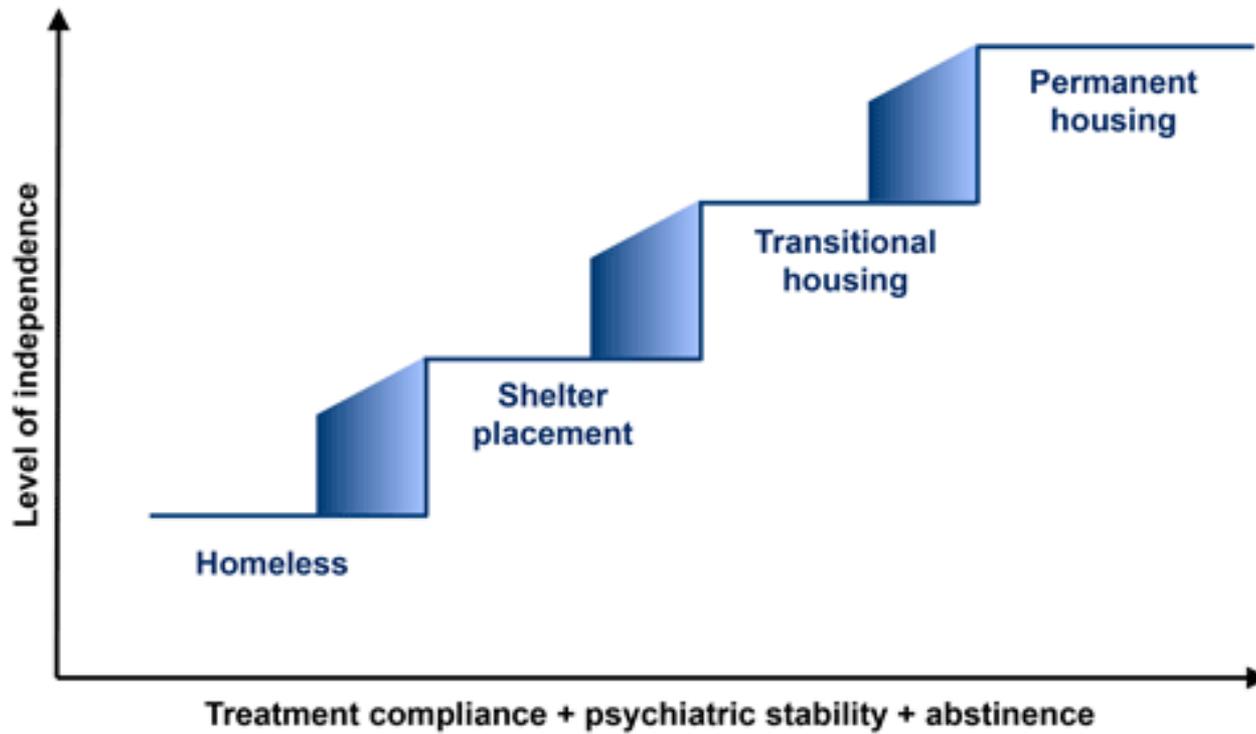


Shelter  
Cymru

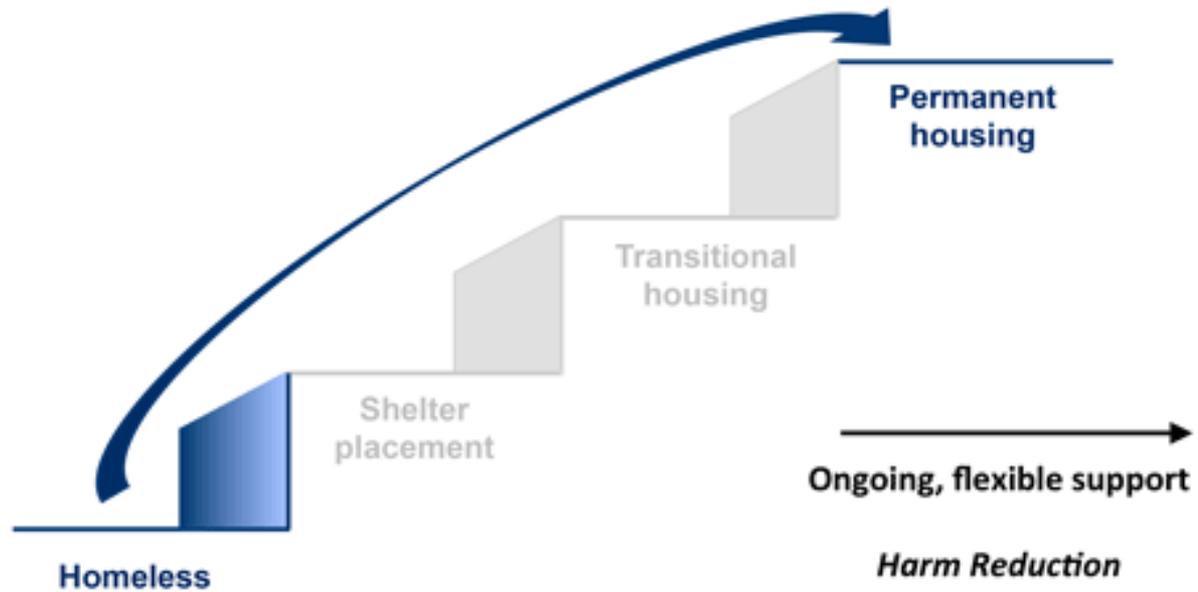
1. **People have a right to a home** that is affordable, secure, habitable, adequate both physically and culturally, and with availability of services (as per UN International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights).
2. **Flexible support is provided for as long as it is needed**
3. **Housing and support are separated**
4. **The service is targeted** at Individual/s who demonstrate a repeat pattern of failing to maintain hostel accommodation and/or, individual/s accessing rough sleeping or accessing EOS (Emergency Overnight Stay) at the point when the referral is made.
5. **Individuals have choice and control**
6. **A harm reduction approach is used**
7. **The service is delivered in a psychologically-informed, trauma-informed, gender-informed way that is sensitive and aware of protected characteristics**
8. **An active engagement approach is used**
9. **The service is based on people's strengths**, goals and aspirations, and as such has an explicit commitment to a small caseload
10. **The widest range of services are involved from the outset** (health, substance misuse, mental health, police)

## Housing First Principles in Wales

## Traditional system approach



## Housing First approach



# Housing First in Wales



**Housing First Network Wales** started in December 2017

Brought together representatives from homelessness and support organisations, Local Authorities and Welsh Government to act as a forum to

- Exchange information, best practice and experiences
- Provide a definition and approach for Housing First projects and principles
- Promote consistent methodologies of reviewing outputs, outcomes and the overall efficacy of HF services

## **Sub-groups –**

- **Evaluation** – created an underpinning for external evaluation framework for service delivery and impact
- **Registration (closed)** created the amended Housing First Wales Principles
- **Communications (new)** – to manage the Housing First message in Wales
- **Housing Management (new)** – to promote involvement of RSLs in developing Housing First in Wales

# Housing First in Wales

## **New Ministerial group to tackle homelessness in Wales launched**

**A new group to tackle youth homelessness and oversee the innovative Housing First approach has been announced by the Welsh Government.**

Tuesday 19 June 2018



### **Anglesey Project**

Started from pilot in 2012.  
Housing provided through PRS  
119 service users between 2012-2017  
78% retained accommodation



### **Cardiff Project**

Started from pilot in 2017  
Housing provided through RSLs  
5 service users housed  
100% retained accommodation

## **Housing Led projects – 2017/18 In-Year Transitional Funding**

# Housing First in Wales

## What have been the barriers or commonly voiced concerns?

- Availability, expertise and depth of support available – e.g. is it just another Floating Support service?
- Availability of properties –
  - Housing Needs Register \*Golden Ticket\*
- What happens if the funding is not available long-term?
- How do we involve Health strategically?
  - Health and Housing Symposium ABMU
  - Housing representation on Regional Partnership Boards (RPBs) statutory – consultation

# Housing First in Wales

## What do we need?

- RSLs to commit to providing HOUSING (first...)
- Support from Health
- Inclusion within LA's Homelessness Strategy
- Youth Homelessness Housing First approach – Enhanced Support Team (EST)?

**Diolch**

