Homeless Health Peer Advocacy

Dr Angela Burnett- Greenhouse Practice

Athol Hallé – CEO, Groundswell

David Blair – Senior Advocate, Groundswell

Overview

- **Introduce partners**

The Greenhouse, Health E1 & Groundswell

- **The problem:**

Homeless people have unmet health needs

They under-use planned health care

but overuse emergency health resources

- **The solution:**

Homeless Health Peer Advocacy!

The Partners

groundswell
inclusive solutions to homelessness

The Problem

Health & Homelessness

"Homeless people experience worse health outcomes, but costs are greater."

DoH 2010 Report:

- Use of acute services: x 4
- Inpatient services x 8
- Hospital stay: x 3
- Health spend: x 8

The Solution

Homelessness Health Peer Advocacy

Practical 1:1 support to homeless people

Peer Advocates

- Personal experience of homelessness
- Volunteers
- Fully Trained, fully supported , CRBs

Support

- Make and attend appointments with clients
- Pay travel fares
- Help client engage with staff

Peer Advocates Completing Training!

Peer Advocates in Action!

Benefits

- **Health services:** Attendance ↑to: 86%
  A& E usage ↓by: 45%
  Unplanned admissions ↓by: 89%
  Staff helped with chaotic clients
- **Homeless people:** Health improved
  Independence increased
- **Peer Advocates** : 8/15 → employment
- **Public purse:** £1.75 saved for £1 spent

Young Foundation

The Future of HHPA

GPs:

‘Prescribe’ Peer Advocates to homeless patients

‘Prescribe’ Peer Advocates to any vulnerable patients

Enables people to utilise existing services.

Contact

Any Qs?

Dr Angela Burnett a.c.burnett@qmul.ac.uk

Athol Hallé athol@groundswell.org.uk

David Blair david@groundswell.org.uk