

PRINCIPLES: HOUSING FIRST FOR YOUTH

HOUSING
FIRST
NETWORK
WALES

Housing First for Youth is a model of housing and support likely to be effective when delivered to young people, aged between 16 and 25, who have experienced or are experiencing multiple complex issues (for example, trauma, mental health issues and/or substance use issues) and are homeless or at risk of homelessness. These are often young people for whom existing services have proved ineffective or who have been failed by established systems (it has been demonstrated within the UK to be effective when offered to care-experienced young people, for example).

THE PRINCIPLES



1. Young people have the right to a home, with no preconditions, that is affordable, habitable, adequate both physically and culturally, and from which they can access services, education and employment opportunities. Young people might choose to live alone, or in shared accommodation, or near their family or friends - young people will be accommodated according to such choices.



2. Housing and support are separated, and the support will follow the young person, regardless of which accommodation they choose, or what happens with each tenancy.



3. Flexible support is provided for as long as the young person wants it, by specialised experts in the field of supporting young people, who recognise their specific needs and the challenges that young people face. Support will take into account the fact that a young person's choices and priorities might change.



4. Support providers, recognising that transition points can be particularly difficult, will work with the young person to determine whether transitions are needed - from young person to adult services, for example. The young person will make choices about what kinds of transition they wish to make, and service providers will work to ensure that multi-agency transitions are carried out smoothly, sensitively, and effectively.



5. Individuals have choice and control over the way in which they engage with services, which will take an active engagement approach while working with the young person. Young people are expected to engage with services - but the onus must fall on the provider to find the right way of engaging, rather than on the young person.



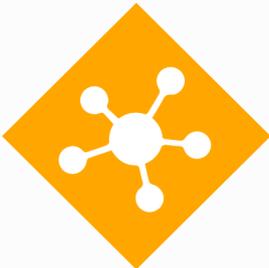
6. The service is based on the young people's strengths, goals and aspirations.



7. If a client is demonstrating behaviours that are potentially harmful to their health, mental health and well-being, services will take a harm reduction approach. If someone is at serious risk of harming themselves or others, the agencies involved will take a safeguarding approach.



8. The service is delivered in a strengths-based, psychologically-informed, trauma-informed, gender-informed way that is sensitive and aware of protected characteristics.



9. The services or support around an individual in a Housing First for Youth service will take the time to understand the young person's interests, needs and interpretation of community, so they can support the client to build links with communities of interest as well as communities of place.



10. The widest range of services are involved from the outset so there is a meaningful choice of services offered to a young person, when the client feels ready to engage with those services.
