

Capacity Building Project in Argyll & Bute

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Project work streams originate from evidence and information given by support organisations and homeless families.

The aim is to increase the capacity of organisations to deliver support services to homeless families.



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Work streams last year included:

- Money advice
- Referrals to support
- Assessment of support needs
- Furniture
- Training
- Service-user surveys

Surveys

Families met had become homeless due to:

domestic abuse, violence, eviction, repossession, other debt problems, alcoholism and overcrowding

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Homeless families said that access to physical health care/support wasn't a problem...

Access to mental health support was

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Statistics suggest that the prevalence of mental health problems within the homeless client group can be as high as 57%



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Of nine families interviewed, and a further six met (total: 15 families) only three are engaged with professional MH support of any kind.

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For those families that volunteered information about their depression or other mental health problems in the surveys, all described difficulties in engaging on a basis that provided them with regular support, or to be able to engage in ways that they felt were appropriate for them.

Statutory services advise:

“Access to mental health support is through the GP”

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Of the nine homeless families interviewed, who had features of MH problems in their lives, one was engaged with MH support. Reasons included: Concerns about future job prospects, stigma, lack of knowledge or insight, or severely reduced motivation for everyday tasks



Health is everyone's
business.....



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Figures suggest that unsecured lending is at its highest since 2002.

In July 2007: 15,599 mortgage products available.

Now: just 3,939

1.4m fixed-term mortgages due to end this year

Most are not favourable



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What has money got to do
with health?

...The stress of over-indebtedness is associated with relationship conflict and breakdown, and with a wide range of physical and mental health problems. Evidence suggest that adults in arrears are twice as likely to leave their job due to the effect of problem debt on their health.

(Reaching out: think family – Cabinet Office 2007 Social Exclusion Task Force).

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