

Selby and Ainsty Area Committee

7th November 2019

Mental Health, housing and Homelessness

Background

Four out of five people who are homeless are thought to also have mental health conditions.

The potential loss of a job and income, a breakdown in family networks and loss of daily living skills due to the impact of the condition can all lead to someone becoming homeless

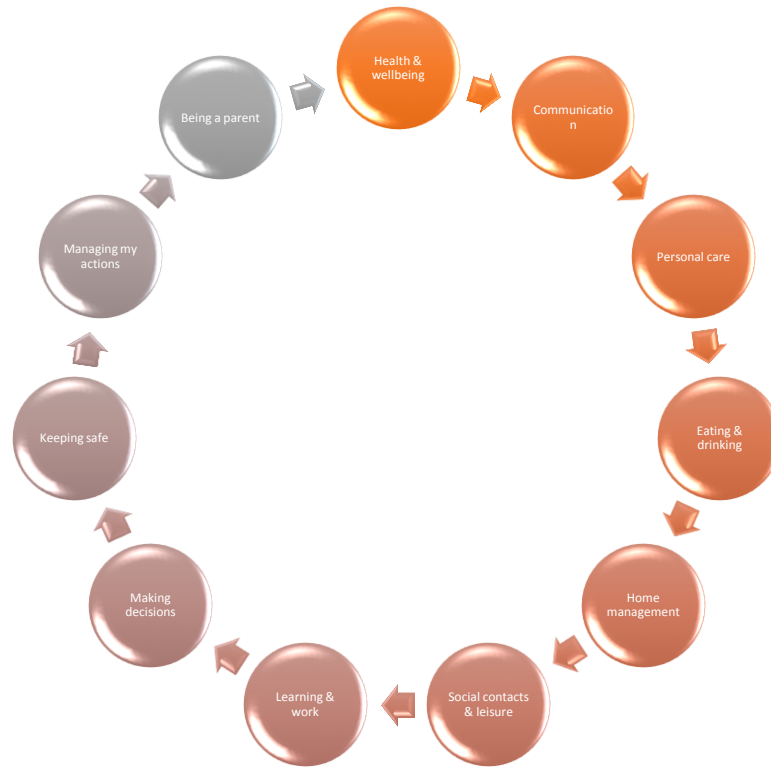
Poor housing or homelessness can also increase the chances of developing mental health conditions.

The Council's services and approach

For many people we support they have been in either one of the situations above and we aim to focus on a holistic approach to supporting people to regain skills, social networks, an income and ability to access and maintain housing for the long term.

NYCC has recently reviewed its mental health service and the nature of support we provide to people with mental health. The focus has moved from working in an integrated team with health partners often supporting by using therapy in a clinical setting, to being co-located with health teams with the purpose of having a more community based approach and looking at the wider issues that may be impacting on a person wellbeing.

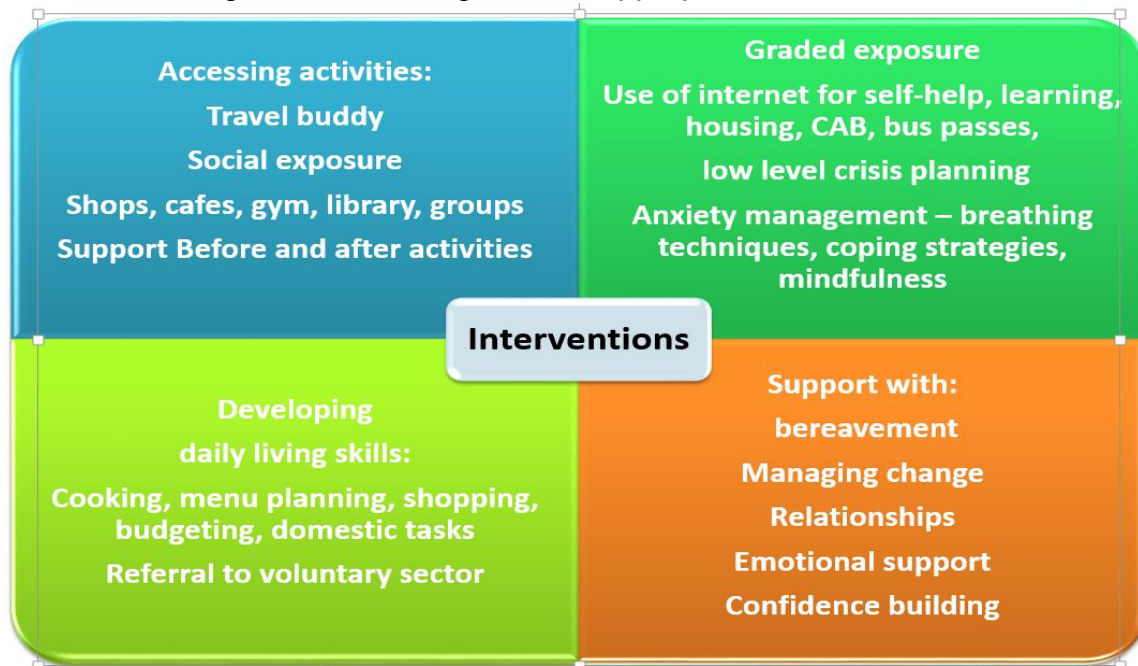
NYCC works under The Care Act and assessments are completed under the following domains, all have links to managing and maintaining a home environment:-



We will focus on a person's strengths through the assessment process, looking at what a person is able to do for themselves and outcomes they would like to achieve through any support required.

NYCC mental health offers a team of Support Time Recovery Worker who offer a range of support to people, many areas of which can prevent a person losing their

home or working towards moving to more appropriate accommodation:-



NYCC mental health teams also work closely with community and voluntary sector organisations.

The Council's Living Well team also provides support to people with mental health problems in relation to their housing circumstances.

The Council commissions Horton Housing support who provide housing support to people with mental health problems.

Homelessness is the statutory responsibility of the District Council under the Homeless Reduction Act. This Act has more emphasis on prevention than previous housing legislation. The Council however does recognise that it does continue to have responsibility to consider the needs of individuals in line with the requirements of the Care Act and support to maintain appropriate housing would apply to this legislation. It also recognises the negative impact that homelessness has which can lead to increased demands on social care services

The Council has developed a collaboration agreement with the district and Borough Councils which will see £39,000 being invested in Selby to support homeless prevention for vulnerable people.

The service will be integrated as part of the range of homeless prevention services that Housing Authorities provide, which include;

- loans/grants
- discretionary housing payments
- Housing Benefit, DWP links
- bonds, rent in advance

- Prevention Pot to assist with the prevention of homelessness
- Access to Credit Unions
- Access to affordable housing
- Private rented schemes and initiatives
- Specialist housing law advice

The service will develop more effective pathways for people by building stronger relationships between District/Borough Council officers and relevant NYCC officers such as Living Well, Care and Support, Income Maximisation team and Mental Health staff.

Suggested key line of enquiry

It would be useful to examine further the respective roles of Selby District Council with relation to their statutory duty under the Homeless Reduction Act or housing and the Council's mental health teams' roles to determine whether there are any processes that could be improved.