

How can efforts to alleviate homelessness contribute to reducing reoffending rates and addressing interconnected support needs?

Word count: 13,611 | Student ID: 105889



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

Contents

Chapter 1: Introduction	4
Chapter 2: Literature Review	8
Introduction	8
Methods	8
Theme 1: What is the housing situation like in Wales?	9
Social and Affordable Housing Shortages	9
Local Housing Allowance Shortfalls and the Private Sector	11
The Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016	12
Theme 2: Wales' Approach to Homelessness	13
The Implementation of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014	14
No-One Left Out and Priority Need	16
Theme 3: What are the Key Challenges Facing Prison Leavers Upon Discharge? ...	17
Understanding the Relationship: Homelessness and Offending	17
No ID and Benefit Delays	18
Unmet Support Needs	21
Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation	22
Conclusion	24
Chapter 3: Research Methodology	25
Introduction	25
The Research Methods	26
Surveys indirectly completed by prison leavers who have experienced or are experiencing homelessness	28
The Recruitment Process	29
Ethical Considerations	30
Chapter 4: Findings and Discussion	31
Introduction	31
The Participants	31
Prisoner Pathways and Approved Premises	32
Temporary Accommodation and Homelessness Upon Release	35
Revolving Door Homelessness and Offending	39
Addressing Support Needs	45
Legislative Changes and Provisions	49
Conclusion	53
Chapter 5: Limitations and Recommendations	55
Introduction	55

Summary of Research.....	56
Recommendations	59
Clarification and Simplification of Legislation	59
Support Services and Interventions.....	59
Collaborative Strategies	60
Continuous Monitoring and Evaluation.....	60
Reference List	62

Chapter 1: Introduction

Homelessness among individuals leaving prison is a multifaceted issue with profound implications for both the individuals affected and society at large. In Wales, as in many parts of the world, the intersection of the criminal justice system and homelessness presents significant challenges that demand careful examination and targeted interventions. This dissertation seeks to explore the complex dynamics surrounding prison leavers facing homelessness in Wales, shedding light on the contributing factors, consequences, and potential solutions to this pressing social problem.

The link between incarceration and homelessness is a critical concern within the broader context of criminal justice and social welfare. The experiences of individuals transitioning from prison to the community are often marked by a myriad of challenges, including limited access to housing, employment, and support services. According to the Ministry of Justice (2019), over 60% of individuals leaving prison across England and Wales face homelessness or unstable housing within one year of release. This statistic underscores the urgency of understanding the dynamics that lead to homelessness among prison leavers, especially in the distinct Welsh context. The deinstitutionalisation of mental health facilities, changes in criminal justice policies, and economic shifts have contributed to the overrepresentation of individuals with a history of incarceration in the homeless population (Farrall et al., 2019). Dennison et al. (2021) acknowledge that there are several interconnected factors that contribute to the vulnerability of individuals leaving prison to homelessness. These factors include, but are not limited to, limited access to stable housing, the stigma associated with a criminal record, substance abuse issues, and mental health challenges. The intersectionality of these issues creates a complex web that impedes successful reintegration into society, perpetuating a cycle of homelessness and criminal justice

involvement. Substance abuse and mental health issues are prevalent among individuals in the criminal justice system and significantly contribute to the risk of homelessness post-release (Plugge et al., 2018). The lack of adequate support and treatment programmes during incarceration and in the community amplifies the challenges faced by those trying to overcome these issues, further increasing their susceptibility to homelessness.

Access to stable housing serves as a linchpin for the successful reintegration of individuals leaving prison back into society. This fundamental need, however, is severely challenged by the dearth of affordable and supportive housing options available to prison leavers, often propelling them towards the precipice of homelessness (Fitzgerald et al., 2020). The intersection between housing policies, pervasive landlord discrimination, and the formidable hurdle of securing gainful employment post-release constitutes a triad of challenges exacerbating the housing crisis faced by individuals exiting the prison system. Housing policies, though designed to address societal housing needs, frequently lack the tailored support necessary for the unique circumstances of prison leavers (Pager, 2003). The intricate web of regulations, eligibility criteria, and limited resources presents a labyrinthine challenge for those seeking housing post-incarceration. Eligibility restrictions and bureaucratic hurdles often impede access to affordable housing, leaving prisoners with few viable options upon re-entry into society (Fitzgerald et al., 2020). Moreover, the inadequacy of transitional housing programmes and the absence of tailored support exacerbate the difficulties faced by this vulnerable population, perpetuating their vulnerability to homelessness.

Discrimination in housing markets compounds the predicament faced by individuals with a criminal record, amplifying the already daunting challenges of securing stable accommodation (Pager, 2003). Landlords, influenced by societal biases and stereotypes, frequently discriminate against applicants with a criminal record, depriving them of housing opportunities and perpetuating a cycle of instability. The reluctance of landlords to lease properties to individuals with a criminal record creates a systemic barrier, severely restricting housing choices and reinforcing the vulnerabilities faced by prison leavers. Addressing the entrenched stigma associated with a criminal record is paramount to dismantling systemic barriers and fostering a more inclusive society for prison leavers. This demands a multifaceted approach involving legislative reforms, awareness campaigns, and targeted interventions aimed at challenging societal perceptions and fostering greater understanding and empathy (Pager, 2003). Legislative measures that prohibit discrimination based on criminal records in housing applications are crucial steps towards creating a more equitable housing market. Additionally, education campaigns aimed at dispelling misconceptions and prejudices about individuals with a criminal history are imperative to challenge societal attitudes and promote inclusivity.

Integration of supportive programmes that facilitate access to housing for prison leavers is equally imperative (Welsh Government, 2021). Initiatives such as Housing First, characterised by immediate access to stable housing without preconditions, coupled with tailored support services, have shown promising results in various contexts. These programmes not only address the immediate housing needs but also provide comprehensive support to navigate the challenges of reintegration, including employment assistance, mental health support, and substance abuse treatment. By implementing such initiatives, prisoners are given a solid foundation upon which they

can rebuild their lives and reduce their chances of reoffending. Additionally, these programmes recognise the importance of addressing underlying issues that may have contributed to their incarceration and promoting long-term rehabilitation and successful reintegration into society (Pager, 2003).

Furthermore, fostering collaboration between housing providers, community organisations, and governmental agencies is pivotal in developing holistic solutions that cater to the multifaceted needs of prison leavers. This collaboration can facilitate the provision of wraparound services, ensuring that housing assistance is complemented by necessary support systems, thereby enhancing the chances of successful reintegration and reducing the risk of homelessness among prison leavers. In addition, it is important to address the underlying factors that contribute to homelessness among prison-leavers, such as unemployment, substance abuse, and mental health issues. By offering comprehensive programmes that tackle these issues alongside housing assistance, we can further improve the outcomes for individuals transitioning from incarceration to society. Additionally, ongoing monitoring and support should be provided to ensure the long-term stability and success of prison leavers in their reintegration process.

Chapter 2: Literature Review

Introduction

Grimshaw (2002) asserts that the interlaced relationship between offending behaviour and homelessness is multifaceted. According to a report by Williams, Poyser, and Hopkins (2012), over 79% of prisoners who participated in a study, reporting homelessness before custody (and therefore anticipated homelessness upon release), were more likely to be reconvicted following release than prisoners who did not report being homeless. This chapter aims to discuss the topic of homelessness in Wales, specific legislation introduced in Wales, perceptions of the relevance of homelessness to prison leavers, and efforts to reduce reoffending by exploring relevant literature.

Methods

To write this chapter, thorough research was conducted centred around the primary research aim of “how can efforts to alleviate homelessness contribute to reducing reoffending rates and addressing interconnected support needs?”. The research conducted led to the identification of the following three distinct themes:

1. What is the housing situation like in Wales?
2. What is Wales’ approach to homelessness?
3. What are the key challenges facing prison leavers upon discharge?

Academic databases, the UWTSD online library resource, and Google were used to identify relevant literature, and keywords such as offending behaviour, prison-leavers, and homelessness were utilised as part of the research process.

Theme 1: What is the housing situation like in Wales?

Social and Affordable Housing Shortages

The housing crisis in Wales is a multifaceted challenge, with data highlighting the stark realities faced by households in need. Simkins (2021) underscores the magnitude of the issue, revealing that 67,000 households are currently on housing registers for social housing properties, while thousands more grapple with homelessness or the imminent threat of homelessness. To address the current demand, an ambitious construction target of over 14,000 new homes annually for 15 years is posited as a necessary endeavour (Baxter, 2021).

As an illustrative example of the acute shortage of housing, the Bridgend County Borough Council's (2023) online Waiting Time Calculator provides insights into the challenges faced by homeless households. If a single household experiencing homelessness were to register on the Common Housing Register for general needs housing on 14/09/2023, they would face a staggering waiting time exceeding five years for over 21 areas within the borough before being likely to secure a property. This vividly portrays the pressing need for not only increasing housing supply but also addressing the efficiency and accessibility of housing allocation systems. However, despite the imperative for accelerated homebuilding rates, Watson, MacKenzie, et al. (2019) lament a descending trajectory in social and affordable home construction in Wales. Budget cuts, underfunding, and resource limitations have been significant contributors to this decline. Beyond these commonly acknowledged challenges, environmental issues have emerged as formidable obstacles. Delahunty (2022) sheds light on a less-explored aspect of the crisis, reporting that heightened levels of phosphate have jeopardised the development of over 1,000 planned affordable social homes in Wales by the end of 2022.

Phosphate levels have become a critical concern due to their adverse impact on water quality. Over 60% of rivers within Special Areas of Conservation in Wales exhibit elevated phosphate levels, posing significant environmental risks (Welsh Government, 2023). This environmental issue has become a central factor in the decline of social housing construction, as stringent planning rules within Special Areas of Conservation have led to the suspension of numerous developments. Consequently, this hindrance jeopardises the Welsh Government's ambitious plan to build 20,000 new social homes (Welsh Government, 2023).

One of the regions significantly affected by the phosphate predicament is Powys County Council, where the south-east falls within the catchment area of the River Wye and River Usk. This area grapples with both elevated phosphate levels and a pronounced shortage of affordable housing for single households and couples. The high demand for such housing exacerbates the urgency of the situation, creating a conundrum for Powys County Council as it navigates the delicate balance between environmental conservation and meeting the housing needs of its residents.

In conclusion, the housing crisis in Wales is characterised by a multifaceted interplay of factors, including a shortage of social housing, prolonged waiting times, budget constraints, and, notably, environmental challenges linked to phosphate levels. The intricate web of issues calls for a comprehensive and nuanced approach, acknowledging not only the need for increased housing supply but also the necessity of addressing environmental concerns to ensure sustainable and equitable solutions.

Local Housing Allowance Shortfalls and the Private Sector

According to research by Clarke, Jones, and Muir (2017), the demand for affordable housing within the private sector surpasses the accessible supply, which has partially contributed to the significant increase in rental prices and a limit in the number of options available to households searching for accommodation. In the past year, rental figures have increased by 10.1%, with the average cost of a private rental property being let at £842 per calendar month, according to data presented by HomeLet (2023). With rents increasing and demand also growing for properties within the sector, prospective tenants are said to be feeling frustrations due to the lack of affordable properties that are available, and with the few that are affordable, having over 30 viewings a day (Palmer, 2023). Additionally, Dempsey (2023) acknowledges that around 140,000 landlords who bought properties in the 1990s sold them in the past 12 years, and new landlords were failing to subsidise the sudden reduction in private rental properties available in the sector. The Bevan Foundation (2022) adds that the shortage of accommodation within the sector is additionally compounded by the increase in property owners moving away from long-term to short-term rentals by converting properties into holiday lets.

The increase in average rental rates has created a larger shortfall between rent and Local Housing Allowance (LHA), the scheme used to calculate the total a household that is low-income or receiving Universal Credit can receive towards their rent costs. Reeve et al. (2016) provide that the unaffordable rates and shortfalls due to low LHAs are creating a barrier for many households to access the private sector due to issues around affordability, therefore placing further demand on social housing. According to statistics, in 2021, only 4.8% of the properties advertised for private renting in Wales were completely covered by LHAs, and there is an average shortfall of around £133.53

per month (Bevan Foundation, 2021). Nationwide (2022) reports that although over 70% of landlords claim to feel that they have a duty to support their tenants during times of financial hardship, over 40% say that if they do not increase their rents to align with the cost-of-living crisis and increase in mortgage interest rates, they would be left with no choice but to sell their properties, leading to even fewer options within the private sector to choose from. Homeless charity 'Crisis' is continuing to lead a petition, amongst many others, to encourage the UK Government and devolved governments to take action by increasing LHAs and other funding available to assist with covering rent costs in light of the current housing shortage (McGregor, 2023).

The Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016

In December 2022, the way that properties are rented in Wales dramatically changed as a result of the introduction of the Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016. As James (2022) describes, the implementation of this legislation is considered to have caused the most significant changes in housing legislation in Wales since the devolution, both within the social and private housing sectors.

The legislation places an increased onus on landlords and agents to ensure that all rental properties meet the Fitness for Human Habitation test; extends the notice period from two months to six months for no-fault evictions, giving households more time to try and find alternative accommodation; and sets out to provide contract holders with a better understanding of their obligations and rights (Huws, 2019).

With the legislation still relatively new, a lack of case law, and no published code of guidance, the effectiveness of the legislation is still unknown. However, it has been raised that the change in law has caused hundreds of landlords to leave the sector or

plan on no longer using their properties as rental properties due to the implemented changes (Geraghty, 2018; Hunter, 2023). As reported in the media, it appears that the primary reason for landlords departing the private rental sector is due to a large consensus that the newly introduced legislation has been written to be mainly in favour of the tenant and against the landlord, causing hostility within the sector (ITV, 2022). Consequently, with the sharp increase in rental rates and disproportionate Local Housing Allowances, landlords are selling up, and there are insufficient affordable and suitable housing options available.

Theme 2: Wales' Approach to Homelessness

As supported by Mackie (2015), the way that the developed world advances, introduces, and enforces homelessness policy has been reconceptualised to embrace the ideology and practice of prevention rather than operating on a 'reactive' model. In particular, Wales has been hailed as leading the approach to progressive homelessness policies and legislation by placing statutory duties on local authorities to work with households at risk or already experiencing homelessness to respectively prevent, relieve, and minimise the disruption of homelessness (BBC News, 2016; Bibbings et al., 2017) following the enactment of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014. Additionally, the most recent legislative advancement in Wales has been the implementation of the Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016, which strives to improve the quality of privately rented homes in Wales and aligns the relationship between landlords and occupants to ensure a better understanding of rights, responsibilities, and conduct (Huws, 2019). However, there is concern about whether the over-regulation of homelessness and the private sector is contributing to increased pressures on local authorities, public service provisions, and a decrease in housing

availability, which may have greater implications (Local Government Association, 2020).

The Implementation of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014

Part 2 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 (hereinafter referred to as HWA 2014) provides legislation relating to homelessness in Wales. Within this part, the HWA 2014 elaborates on the meaning of homelessness and places legislative duties on local authorities to try to prevent or relieve homelessness for those at risk of homelessness or already experiencing homelessness.

At the core of the legislation is:

- Section 62: The duty to assess households that approach a local authority as being potentially threatened with or already experiencing homelessness;
- Section 66: The duty to prevent an applicant from becoming homeless when threatened with homelessness;
- Section 68: The duty to provide temporary accommodation to households in priority need;
- Section 73: the duty to help secure accommodation for homeless households (with a 56-day time limit);
- Section 75: The duty to secure accommodation for households in priority once the 56-day period ends under Section 73

(Housing (Wales) Act 2014).

Rogers et al. (2019) acknowledge the structural change that legislation brought about as a result of its enactment, particularly in relation to the subsequent implementation of a prevention approach to homelessness (referring to Section 66 of the HWA 2014),

which replaced a frequently reactive approach by local authorities (Brown et al., 2021). Research conducted prior to the implementation of the HWA 2014 identified that homelessness prevention and response provisions were inconsistently, unequally, and often unpredictably applied at a local authority level when enforced (Public Ombudsman for Wales, 2021).

However, data supports the effectiveness of the HWA 2014, as in the first year of implementation alone, over 65% of households threatened with homelessness were prevented from becoming homeless with assistance from local authorities across Wales (Brandon 2018). The Senedd Research (2023) has also published more recent statistics, which show a continuation in the effectiveness of the legislation as over 33,600 households were supported by local authorities to secure temporary accommodation in accordance with Section 68 of the HWA 2014 between February 2020 and 2023, therefore preventing the number of households potentially becoming street homeless or making arrangements to access potentially hazardous, unsafe, and unsuitable forms of accommodation.

Despite the HWA 2014's apparent effectiveness, Dean (2002), Neubeck (2006), and Segal (2006) contest the idea of statutory homeless duties out of concern that statutory enforceable rights can result in over-regulation and legislation, forcing homelessness practitioners to adopt self-protective and defensive dispositions in a desperate attempt to preserve resources and the abuse of systems by service users. Additionally, concerns have been raised that local authorities are spending too much time and directing too many provisions towards tackling homelessness presentations rather than establishing provisions designed to prevent homelessness—and the threat of it—from occurring in the first place (Local Government Association, 2020).

No-One Left Out and Priority Need

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Welsh Government introduced the 'no-one left out' policy as a temporary approach to overrule priority need tests and instead apply a blanket policy to those experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness in response to the public health crisis (Local Government and Housing Committee, 2023).

Priority need categories prior to the pandemic:

- If a household member is pregnant
- If a household has a dependent child or children who form part of the household
- If a household was made homeless by a fire, flood, or similar emergency
- Aged 16 or 17
- Aged 18, 19, or 20 and were 'looked after' by social services
- A 'vulnerable' person, including those who are elderly, diagnosed with learning difficulties, or have health issues

Housing (Wales) Act 2014.

Data presented by Statistics for Wales (2022) show that from March 2021 until the end of March 2022 (from the beginning of the pandemic to when pandemic restrictions and rules were largely over), over 21,000 people were supported into temporary accommodation provisions. However, the approach was purely introduced in response to the pandemic as a temporary measure, similar to the rules of social distancing and the prevention of household mixing.

In October 2022, the Welsh Government introduced a new priority need category following an undivided agreement made by Senedd Members on The Homelessness

(Priority Need and Intentionality) (Wales) Regulations 2022, which established that a person facing street homelessness and anyone with whom the person may reside will be deemed to be in priority need (Shelter, 2022). Leading homelessness charity, The Wallich, has supported the expansion of the priority needs category by claiming that the change reflects legal developments that recognise the importance of rough sleepers receiving the support that they were often unable to access prior to the pandemic, while also raising concerns about the concept of priority needs entirely (The Wallich, 2022).

The continued use of priority need categories is perceived by organisations such as Platform as a method to prevent a Wales-wide housing first policy while ensuring that Local Authorities operate in a way that re-traumatises vulnerable people rather than embracing trauma-informed practice (Radcliffe, 2022). Research gathered shows that frontline workers within the homelessness sector are in support of the eradication of priority need tests, but only if there were significantly more resources, budgets, and services to prevent current services and provisions from becoming further overwhelmed than they already are (Rees, 2023).

Theme 3: What are the Key Challenges Facing Prison Leavers Upon Discharge?

Understanding the Relationship: Homelessness and Offending

Research demonstrates that there is a recognisable link between homelessness and offending behaviour, with data showing that such interlinking factors often lead to a cycle that becomes difficult to break (Moschion and Johnson, 2019). Due to criminal justice not being a devolved matter, statistics on criminal justice and homelessness exclusive to Wales appear limited. However, according to data from the Ministry of

Justice (2021), over 20,191 prison leavers were released without access to settled accommodation, and over 3,194 were street homeless upon release. Data also reveals that prison leavers who experience homelessness are 66% more likely to reoffend than those who are released to settled accommodation (Prison Reform Trust, 2010). Of those who were homeless prior to incarceration, statistics reveal that 79% were reconvicted in less than 12 months after being released (Prison Reform Trust, 2010).

Parsell (2012) notes that where there is a lack of settled accommodation, there is an increased likelihood that individuals will engage in criminal activities such as drug-related offences and theft. The risk of reoffending upon discharge from prison is connected to the prevalence of criminal behaviour in environments that individuals may be exposed to as a result of their homelessness (Polcin, 2016). It is understood amongst services that addressing the interplay between offending behaviour and homelessness by addressing interlinking support needs such as housing, mental health, and substance misuse support can contribute to breaking cycles of homelessness and offending (Gibbs et al., 2023).

No ID and Benefit Delays

The challenge faced by released prisoners without access to formal proof of identification documents is a multifaceted issue with profound implications for their successful reintegration into society. As emphasized by Edgar, Harris, and Webster (2020), the absence of such documentation places significant restrictions on their ability to access fundamental elements of societal reintegration, such as housing, social welfare benefits, and employment. This predicament not only hampers the individual's prospects but also poses broader societal concerns.

A critical consequence of the lack of identification for prison-leavers is the delay they encounter when attempting to access social welfare benefits, notably Universal Credit. The importance of accessing these benefits promptly upon release cannot be overstated, as they constitute a vital lifeline for individuals seeking financial stability during the transition from incarceration to the community. Despite the availability of pre-release assistance to facilitate Universal Credit applications, HM Chief Inspector of Prisons (2021) highlights a significant gap in the provision of support in many prisons. The lack of assistance with Universal Credit claims before release contributes to delays in accessing crucial welfare benefits, with the average waiting time for the first payment extending to approximately 5 weeks.

The implications of such delays are far-reaching. The prolonged waiting period can act as a catalyst for released prisoners to experience financial hardship, creating a precarious situation that heightens the risk of resorting to criminal activities for survival (Edgar, Harris, and Webster, 2020). Financial instability is a potent stressor that can exacerbate the challenges faced by individuals reentering society after incarceration. The need for immediate financial support during this transitional phase is evident, and any impediment to accessing these welfare benefits can contribute to a cycle of economic vulnerability and potential reoffending.

The nexus between delayed access to social welfare benefits and an increased likelihood of reoffending aligns with broader research on the importance of post-release support. Studies by Morgan and Wood (2019) emphasise the pivotal role of comprehensive post-release support, including access to financial assistance, in reducing recidivism rates. The findings underscore the interconnectedness of economic stability and successful reintegration, urging the recognition of identification-related challenges as a systemic issue that necessitates attention and reform.

Moreover, the predicament faced by released prisoners in accessing social welfare benefits due to identification-related delays highlights systemic inefficiencies in the criminal justice and welfare systems. It prompts a critical examination of the coordination and collaboration between these systems to ensure a seamless transition for individuals leaving prison. Addressing these issues requires a holistic approach that involves the integration of services, policies, and procedures to facilitate the timely provision of identification documents and the subsequent access to welfare benefits.

Efforts to mitigate the challenges faced by released prisoners should encompass policy reforms and improved collaboration between prison authorities, welfare agencies, and relevant government departments. Initiatives that streamline identification processes and ensure comprehensive pre-release support for accessing welfare benefits can contribute significantly to reducing the risks associated with delayed financial assistance. The successful implementation of such reforms demands a collective commitment to the principles of rehabilitation, reintegration, and social inclusion.

In conclusion, the identification-related challenges faced by released prisoners pose a significant barrier to their successful reintegration into society, particularly in terms of accessing social welfare benefits such as Universal Credit. The delays encountered in this process not only hinder financial stability but also increase the likelihood of individuals resorting to criminal activities as a means of coping with economic hardship. The implications extend beyond individual circumstances, highlighting systemic inefficiencies in the coordination between the criminal justice and welfare systems. Addressing these challenges necessitates comprehensive reforms that prioritise the timely provision of identification documents, pre-release support for

benefit applications, and a collaborative approach to ensure a smoother transition for individuals leaving prison.

Unmet Support Needs

It has been identified that many prisoners are not receiving sufficient effective support to address unmet support needs, despite these needs acting as underlying causations of their offending behaviour (Laursen, 2022). Multiple sources have highlighted the shortcomings of the support offered while in prison and, therefore, an exacerbation of the challenges faced when released from prison.

According to Glorney, Ullah, and Brooker (2020), the inadequacy of mental health services within the prison systems of England and Wales represents a significant challenge that hinders the effective rehabilitation of incarcerated individuals and their subsequent reintegration into society. Georgiou et al. (2021) emphasise that there are insufficient provisions of support available for prisoners with co-occurring mental health conditions and substance addiction. This absence of services hinders the effective resolution of the interconnected and multifaceted needs of prisoners, resulting in their release without addressing the underlying causes of their criminal behaviour. According to existing research, it has been found that approximately 70% of incarcerated individuals exhibit a requirement for mental health care, which is frequently aggravated by their prolonged confinement within the prison system (House of Commons Justice Committee, 2021). Despite this, only around 10% of the prison population is recorded to have access to mental health support provisions (National Audit Office, 2017). According to Canda et al. (2023), there are various obstacles to accessing mental health services in prisons. These barriers are associated with systemic deficiencies that contribute to dehumanising and stigmatising behaviours

exhibited by staff members and permeate prison-based healthcare environments, resulting in detrimental effects on the accessibility and quality of medical and psychiatric care (Canda et al., 2023). Browne et al. (2022) add that access to services upon release is also inconsistent and low, despite the period of societal reintegration being high-risk. Individuals who experience frequent and rapid cycles of incarceration face limited chances to address their mental health issues and identify and address their support requirements, which may contribute to their involvement in criminal activities (Browne et al., 2022).

Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation

As previously mentioned, Williams, Poyser, and Hopkins (2012) published a report in which they found that prisoners who participated in a study and reported being homeless prior to custody (and consequently anticipated becoming homeless upon release) were more likely to face re-trial after release than prisoners who did not report being homeless.

For those who experience homelessness upon release (and therefore are owed a Section 73 'relief' duty of the HWA 2014) or those who appear to be experiencing homelessness, but inquiries are still being undertaken by the Local Authority to confirm their circumstances (Section 62 of the HWA 2014) and require temporary accommodation, provisions will be made available under Section 68 of the HWA 2014.

Delahunty (2023) reports that local authorities across Wales have seen significant increases in temporary accommodation spending due to socio-economic factors linked to the cost-of-living crisis, the reminiscence of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the shortage of affordable housing available to households, thus causing an increase in the number of homelessness presentations and temporary accommodation

placements. For example, in June 2023, over 1,631 new households were placed into temporary accommodation provisions throughout Wales (Welsh Government, 2023). In May, there were 1,680 new households and 1,376 in April (Welsh Government, 2023). Besides the concern regarding spending, there is also substantial worry about the shortage of suitable temporary accommodation provisions available, with an emphasis on suitable. According to data published in June 2023, over 10,000 people were living in temporary accommodation, with many living in B&Bs and hotels due to the shortage of self-contained provisions, particularly for non-stock-bearing local authorities (Welsh Government, 2023). In circumstances where accommodation such as hotels are used, there is a risk of a 'hub' of criminal behaviour and anti-social behaviour being established as these provisions of temporary accommodation are not staffed with 24/7 specialist homelessness support on site like specially designed homeless projects are. Lantz (2019) raises concerns about grouping individuals who are vulnerable and at risk of exploitation or coercion and/or predisposed to offending and/or have a history of offending behaviour, as groups offenders are more likely to commit violent offences than individually, and there is a greater risk of peer-learning when it comes to offending behaviour when largely unsupervised and living in close proximity. Lantz's concerns are supported by the criminological theory of differential association as proposed by Sutherland (2010), who proposed that criminals learn through interactions with others.

However, it should be noted that not all temporary accommodation provisions raise concern regarding whether they are truly suitable for the individuals who are accessing them. Homelessness organisations such as The Wallich have various supported accommodation projects across Wales with 24/7 support on-site, which allows

residents to access support to address identified support needs that may act as root causes for their offending behaviour and homelessness (The Wallich, 2023).

Conclusion

In summary, this chapter establishes the groundwork for the research question through the utilisation of several sources of literature and the identification of three key themes. The objective of the literature review is to facilitate an improved understanding of the housing situation in Wales, the functioning of the homelessness process, the legislation specific to Wales pertaining to homelessness and housing, and an overview of the primary challenges encountered by individuals released from prison. The provided information aims to offer an introduction to the subject matter and the interconnected nature of homelessness and criminal behaviour. The forthcoming chapter titled Methodology will deepen the reader's comprehension of the research process, including the nature and execution of the study, in order to delve further into the research question and expand upon the subjects briefly addressed in the preceding chapter.

Chapter 3: Research Methodology

Introduction

The purpose of this dissertation is to discuss the research question, “How can efforts to alleviate homelessness contribute to reducing reoffending rates and addressing interconnected support needs?”. To answer the research question, the following objectives will be discussed:

1. To assess the current housing situation in Wales – both within the private and social housing sectors.
2. To understand Wales’ approach to homelessness.
3. To understand the key challenges facing prison leavers upon discharge and how these challenges act as root causations for reoffending.

As noted by Saunders and Thornhill (2007), the enforcement of the most appropriate research approaches is vital when striving to answer chosen research questions. To discuss the research question and objections, the research methods will be utilised: interviews (direct and indirect) and surveys. The mixed-methods approach will also allow for cross-sectional data collection, which will consist of both quantitative and qualitative elements, incorporating interviews direct with housing professionals, indirect interviews with homeless households and surveys incorporating yes/no answers, rating scales, free-entry text and boxes allowing participants to present their own perspectives. This chapter will provide an analysis of the rationale for the use of various research methodologies, the way they were implemented, the ethical issues involved, as well as the limitations and obstacles encountered during the research process.

The Research Methods

To be able to discuss the research question, qualitative research in the form of direct interviews with housing professionals and indirect interviews with households experiencing homelessness was conducted. As part of the quantitative research component, housing professionals also completed surveys based on their professional perspectives and experiences with vulnerable households.

The utilisation of qualitative research methods is deemed suitable for this particular study, as these approaches are designed to delve into, depict, and elucidate a given subject matter (Morse and Field, 1996). Auerbach and Silverstein (2003) propose that qualitative research methods yield qualitative research data, which consists of non-numerical information in the form of words and images. The research data obtained from the interviews consists of responses provided in the form of verbal descriptions.

In addition to the use of qualitative research methods, quantitative methods have also been utilised to allow for statistical research analysis to identify trends and relationships between identified trends (Busetto, Wick, and Gumbinger, 2020). Additionally, quantitative research facilitates objective and unbiased data interpretation due to the numerical information presented, in direct contrast to qualitative research, which allows for a balanced research approach due to the concurrent implementation of both research methods (Guttermann, Fetter, and Creswell, 2015).

Interviews with Professionals Working Within Social Housing, Homelessness and Offender Management

According to Flick (2014), interviews possess an interactive quality that enables researchers to engage in probing, clarifying, and exploring responses. This interactive aspect facilitates a deeper comprehension of phenomena and yields more comprehensive data for subsequent analysis. Scholars, such as Silverman (2013), claim that interviews provide a means of gathering qualitative data that may not be accessible through alternative research methodologies. Interviews offer a unique opportunity to access and comprehend individuals' experiences and perspectives.

Furthermore, Rubin and Rubin (2005) assert that the participatory nature of interviews facilitates the establishment of rapport between the interviewer and respondent, hence enabling the sharing of personal experiences. Consequently, this fosters the creation of a more thorough and authentic dataset. In situations where interviewees provide more comprehensive responses or engage in reflective discussions, interviews provide researchers the opportunity to adjust their questioning strategies and methodologies in response to developing insights, ensuring the continued relevance and responsiveness of data collection. Flick (2014) asserts that the capacity for flexibility enables researchers to iteratively adjust their research inquiries and methodologies throughout the course of the study, ultimately augmenting the overall quality of the collected data.

The interviews conducted for this dissertation followed a semi-structured framework, which allowed for the exploration of additional topics beyond the predetermined list of inquiries as set out by Appendix A and were carried out via Microsoft Teams to allow for interviewees to attend when suitable for them without the issue of finding suitable locations to conduct the interviews. This approach facilitated in-depth discussions

pertaining to the research topic and significant themes. According to Wengraf (2001), this strategy for studying collections is endorsed due to its capacity to facilitate the exploration of novel concepts and provide researchers with the ability to go further into various issues during interviews.

Surveys indirectly completed by prison leavers who have experienced or are experiencing homelessness

Primarily, surveys provide researchers with the benefit of effectively collecting data from a substantial and varied sample of individuals. This methodology facilitates the creation of extensive datasets that may be examined to derive significant findings and formulate generalisations pertaining to a wider demographic (Babbie, 2016). Surveys are a data collection strategy that offers cost-effectiveness by eliminating the requirement for substantial fieldwork, travel, and face-to-face interviews (Mathers, Fox, and Hunn, 2007). In addition, the organised format of surveys enables the use of a standardised approach to gathering data, guaranteeing that all participants are presented with identical sets of questions and response choices. This practice serves to mitigate bias and enhance the dependability of the collected data (Mathers, Fox, and Hunn, 2007). Furthermore, surveys offer a level of anonymity to participants, thereby fostering an environment conducive to providing truthful and sincere responses, even when addressing sensitive subjects (Tourangeau, Rips, & Rasinski, 2000).

In addition, surveys facilitate the acquisition of quantitative data, enabling statistical examination and the detection of trends, associations, and patterns within the dataset (Tourangeau, Rips, & Rasinski, 2000). In addition to the aforementioned methodologies, researchers have the option to employ diverse survey administration techniques, such as online surveys, paper-and-pencil surveys, or phone interviews.

These methods offer a degree of flexibility and adaptation, allowing researchers to tailor their approach to varied study situations (Babbie, 2016). Hence, the advantages associated with surveys as a means of gathering data, such as their efficiency, cost-effectiveness, reliability, and adaptability, render them a viable instrument for scholarly investigations across diverse disciplines.

The Recruitment Process

The recruitment process was initiated by the researcher, leveraging their professional experience in the social housing and homelessness sectors in Wales. This involved contacting professional connections with whom the researcher has past and ongoing associations, as well as reaching out to acquaintances in the sector through the professional networking platform LinkedIn. The professionals who were contacted encompass a range of roles, such as Housing Officers, Housing Options Officers, Housing Solutions Advisors, Homelessness Support Officers, Probation Officers, Offender Managers, and Police Community Support Officers. The professionals that were contacted operate within the geographical areas of Powys, Swansea Valley, Carmarthenshire, and Bridgend in Wales.

Upon reaching out to these individuals, they were extended an invitation to partake in a semi-structured interview (Appendix A) conducted either through the Microsoft Teams platform or via a telephone conversation. The participants were additionally given access to the survey (Appendix B) and encouraged to distribute the survey to individuals they worked with and considered pertinent to the research. They were also informed that they had the option to complete the survey by employing a "case review" methodology.

Ethical Considerations

As part of the University policy, an Ethics Form was submitted for approval.

Throughout the course of the research project, the principle of maintaining anonymity has consistently been upheld. The preservation of participant anonymity has been rigorously maintained throughout the entirety of the research endeavour. To ensure the protection of participant identities, individuals included in the survey have been anonymized and labelled as "Professional 1, 2, 3, etc." or "Household 1, 2, 3, etc.".

Furthermore, the principle of voluntary participation and the opportunity to resign from the study were actively emphasised and encouraged throughout the entire research endeavour. The primary objective of this study was to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of their prerogative to voluntarily withdraw from the research. The provision for the freedom to withdraw was clearly delineated both at the commencement and conclusion of the interview, as well as in the summary section of the survey form.

As a component of the research procedure, the researcher conducted a debriefing session with the participants subsequent to the completion of the interviews, with the aim of mitigating any unforeseen emotional repercussions that might have arisen from the interviews, so as to safeguard the psychological well-being of the interviewees.

Chapter 4: Findings and Discussion

Introduction

To discuss the research question effectively and thoroughly, this chapter explores the research question of “how can efforts to alleviate homelessness contribute to reducing reoffending rates and addressing interconnected support needs?” by exploring the key themes by:

1. Identifying trends by gathering data directly from prison leavers who have experienced homelessness or threatened with homelessness.
2. Gathering experiences and perspectives of professionals working within housing and offender management.

The Participants

The individuals who were involved in the interview (Appendix A) and will be identified as Participants 1-8 for the remainder of this study. The participants include:

- Professional 1: A housing officer employed by a Local Authority.
- Professional 2: A homelessness officer employed by a Local Authority.
- Professional 3: A Homelessness Officer employed by a Local Authority.
- Professional 4: A homelessness support officer employed by a non-profit organisation dedicated to addressing homelessness.
- Professional 5: A Probation Officer.
- Professional 6: A Probation Officer.
- Professional 7: A Police Constable.
- Professional 8: A nurse who works within a substance misuse service.

In the survey (Appendix B), participants' identities remain undisclosed due to the absence of any recorded personal information. The survey was completed by individuals who were granted direct access to it by one of the professionals who were interviewed. Alternatively, some participants had the survey completed on their behalf by one of the aforementioned professionals. When analysing the data obtained from the survey, those who participated will be identified as Household 1 to Household 33, representing the complete sample size of participants.

Prisoner Pathways and Approved Premises

During the course of this study, it was announced that the central UK Government would allow the potential early release of certain prisoners in England and Wales, up to a maximum of 18 days prior to their scheduled release, as a measure to address issues related to overcrowding (Beard, 2023). This development has subsequently imposed extra pressure on various services. The interview responses obtained were collected prior to the official announcement made on the 16th of October. Therefore, it is essential to recognise that the policy change, although not explicitly discussed, should be taken into consideration.

“Often, we are given very short notice of individuals being released from prison. We are already experiencing substantial pressures due to the shortage of suitable settled and temporary accommodation available, so the short notice further reinforces that we are simply ‘fighting fire’” Professional 2.

Professionals 1, 2, 3, and 4 all raised concerns about the often-short notice received from the Probation service about a prisoner's release, sometimes less than 48 hours. As set out within the Code of Guidance for Local Authorities on the Allocation of

Accommodation and Homelessness (Welsh Government, 2023), to prevent homelessness among individuals leaving prison, local authorities can use the National Pathway for Homelessness Services to Young People and Adults. By doing so, there is collaboration between various partners, including the Prison Service, the National Probation Service in Wales, the Wales Community Rehabilitation Company, local health boards, third-sector organisations, local authority social services, and private landlords (Welsh Government, 2023). The aim is to assist prisoners in either finding accommodation upon release or maintaining their current housing situation. Professionals 1 and 2 expounded upon the Pathway Process by emphasising its advantageous nature, particularly in facilitating collaboration and promoting clear communication across various services. This attribute assumes the utmost significance when dealing with individuals classified as high-risk offenders. Nonetheless, both professionals expressed apprehension regarding the potential redundancy of the process if ample notification is not provided to entities like Housing, which must take measures to avert homelessness and mitigate risks to others when housing the prison leaver or in instances where the prison leaver is going to be homeless or temporarily staying with family or friends.

“What doesn’t help is that often the short notice is regarding prison leavers who have been deemed to pose significant risk to groups such as the public, staff, children, females, and known individuals. We also often have to deal with prisoners who are subject to restraining orders. Between managing risk and ensuring that restraining orders, both to people and geographically, while also competing with a lack of temporary accommodation, when we are given very little notice of a release [from prison], we don’t have enough time to properly exhaust options that allow for risk

management and to ensure we're placing people in suitable provisions as per our legislative duties." Professional 3.

Professional 1 presented statistical data that substantiated the claim that their corresponding local authority received more than 15 Pathways between January 2021 and 2022, resulting in their housing service being notified with less than 72 hours' advance notice regarding the imminent release of a prison leaver categorised as medium to high risk. Consequently, the housing service was required to promptly arrange temporary accommodation in accordance with homelessness legislation.

Professional 5 admitted that often pathways are submitted at the last moment due to the pressures that probation officers are currently subject to, which means that work is being carried out reactively rather than proactively. According to Professional 5, it is common for preparations to secure an 'Approved Premises' placement—a temporary accommodation placement managed and secured by Probation—to unexpectedly be unsuccessful at the final moment. As a result, Pathways was submitted on very short notice, placing pressure on other organisations to intervene and provide assistance in situations where probation has been unsuccessful.

It is worth mentioning that there is also a scarcity of accessible provisions in the form of approved premises. In a report published in 2017, the HM Inspectorate of Probation conducted an inspection and highlighted concerns regarding the insufficient number of approved premises in England and Wales. Additionally, the report emphasised the significant consequences resulting from the absence of female-specific approved premises in Wales (HM Inspectorate of Probation, 2017).

Professional 4 emphasised the increasing prevalence of medium- and high-risk prison inmates being released without being able to secure placement in approved premises

by probation. Consequently, these individuals face the risk of homelessness as they are unable to find suitable accommodation either due to risk management concerns, licence conditions, or a lack of readily available options. Consequently, it is evident from the collected replies that individuals who are released from prison encounter substantial instability, and their unmet support requirements are further intensified. Professionals 2 and 4 also explained that where Pathways are submitted with short notice, they are left to try and identify suitable placements in an environment where there is a shortage of options, with the added pressure of a 'last minute deadline' to not only manage the risk of the offender but also the risk to the general public, including any potential or known victims.

Temporary Accommodation and Homelessness Upon Release

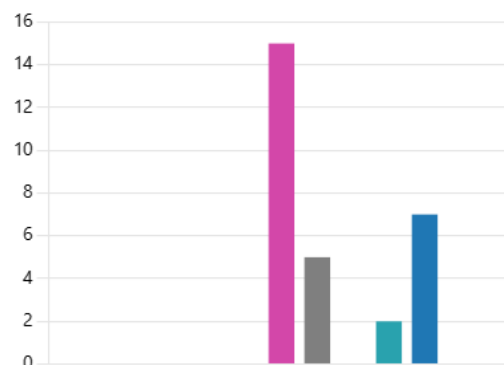
Research by The Centre for Social Justice (2022) underscores how policy and funding constraints within the housing sector are a fundamental contributor to the shortage. The Housing (Wales) Act 2014, a pivotal legislative move, has faced challenges due to budget limitations and austerity measures. Consequently, due to the shortage of affordable housing options and lack of emergency provisions, local authorities struggle are having to rely on utilising provisions that were not designed to be used as temporary accommodation. According to Delahunty's (2023) findings, there has been a significant surge in expenditure on temporary accommodation by Welsh authorities. The collective cost that Welsh councils have witnessed is by minimum, a twofold increase, reaching £40 million over the course of the last five years. Notably, Bridgend County Borough Council had an astounding 7000% rise in spending during the same timeframe (Delahunty, 2023).

“We are working within a really difficult time right now. The lack of affordable accommodation within both the social and private sectors has increased the demand for temporary accommodation. The issue is that we lack temporary provisions and have to resort to less-than-ideal provisions such as Premier Inns, AirBNBs, and alternatives to rough sleeping provisions like glamping pods and 'floor spaces'. Shamefully, in some cases, we're unable to provide anything due to the lack of suitable options available, which means we are failing to fulfil our legislative duties" Professional 2.

11. What is your current housing situation?

[More Details](#) [Insights](#)

Owner occupier	0
Private rent: self-contained	0
Private rent: House of Multiple ...	0
Private rent: lodging	0
Living with friends	0
Living with family	0
Temporary accommodation	15
Bail hostel	5
Homeless shelter	0
Social housing	2
No Fixed Abode: sofa surfing	7
No Fixed Abode: rough sleeping	0
Other	0



Appendix B, Question 11: Results depicting answers from survey results regarding participants' current housing situation.

According to the survey results (Appendix B), 15 out of 33 participants confirmed that since being released from prison, they are living in temporary accommodation

provided by their local authority. Five participants disclosed that they are living in a bail hostel, a form of temporary accommodation provided by Probation. The data, therefore, shows that 52% of participants are currently in temporary accommodation following their release from prison.

“I am working with prison leavers who have been forced to reside in B&Bs for prolonged periods because there’s nothing else available. Because of the limited options available, often we will have several prisoners in one B&B at a time – which creates a risk that they will form unhealthy and potentially negative friendships built open criminal behaviours that contribute to the risk of reoffending”. Professional 4.

According to Rokven et al. (2016), when individuals with similar criminal tendencies establish friendships, there is a higher likelihood of mutual influence and learning. Consequently, residing in close proximity and facing comparable societal challenges, such as homelessness and poverty, significantly amplifies the risk of engaging in criminal behaviour again (Rokven et al., 2016).

“The mitigation of risk is significantly harder when like-minded offenders are being placed in the same temporary accommodation. A lot of provisions, even projects with support on-site, have shared facilities and communal spaces. It’s only normal that when people live in close proximity, friendships form. The issue is that these friendships can be extremely negative as they are likely to learn from one another, share illicit substance and partake in offending behaviour together” Professional 5.

A substantial body of research, exemplified by the works of McGrath et al. (2023) and Sanders et al. (2019), has demonstrated a strong association between street homelessness, sofa surfing, and heightened engagement in criminal activities. The

lack of secure housing gives rise to an unstable setting, which exposes individuals to increased levels of stress and pressures related to survival. Consequently, individuals may be compelled to engage in criminal behaviour as a means of fulfilling essential necessities or adapting to the challenging circumstances associated with their homeless status. The absence of a stable residential arrangement further adds to social disengagement and estrangement, variables that have been empirically linked to an elevated propensity for involvement in unlawful activities (McGrath *et al.*, 2023). It is imperative to consider the intersectionality of homelessness and criminality in order to effectively execute focused interventions that not only mitigate housing instability but also tackle the underlying factors contributing to the increased likelihood of engaging in criminal behaviour within this marginalised group.

According to the findings of the survey, it has been observed that a total of seven participants are presently sofa surfing subsequent to their release from prison. According to Sanders, Boobis, and Albanese (2019), sofa surfing is a form of concealed homelessness characterised by persons frequently transitioning between temporary accommodations with friends and family members.

Professionals 1, 2, 3, and 4 collectively emphasised the scarcity of temporary accommodation, which has resulted in a dependence on hotels and bed and breakfast establishments within the public sphere as emergency alternatives. The individuals elucidated that while there are supported projects, such as hostels with on-site assistance, operating in their respective regions, there is an insufficient number of available placements for those in need. Consequently, waiting lists for vacancies exist, necessitating individuals to either temporarily reside with friends or family, commonly

known as sofa surfing, or, in cases where risks can be appropriately mitigated, relocate to various bed and breakfast establishments and hotels.

Revolving Door Homelessness and Offending

The relationship between recurring homelessness and offending is intricate and interconnected. According to Jacobs and Gottlieb (2020), empirical evidence suggests a strong correlation between homelessness and an elevated likelihood of engaging in criminal behaviour. This association can be attributed to the precarious circumstances faced by individuals lacking secure housing, which may compel them to resort to criminal activity as a means of survival. Moreover, those who have been previously incarcerated and possess criminal records frequently encounter job bias and have obstacles in securing housing, rendering them more vulnerable to experiencing homelessness and leading to a vicious cycle of homelessness and offending behaviour (Pager, 2003).

8. How many times have you been to prison in the past 12 months?

[More Details](#)

 [Insights](#)

0 times	9
1-2 times	16
2-3 times	3
4-5 times	1
More than 5 times	0



Appendix B, Question 8: Results depicting answers from survey results regarding participants' number of times in prison in the past 12 months.

According to the data gathered from question 8 of Appendix B, 55% of participants have been to prison between 1-2 time in the past 12 months, 10.4% between 2-3 times and only 1 participant between 4-5 times.

9. How many times have you been to prison in the past 5 years?

[More Details](#)

 Insights

 0 times	2
 1-2 times	11
 2-3 times	11
 4-5 times	1
 More than 5 times	4



Appendix B, Question 9: Results depicting answers from survey results regarding participants' number of times in prison in the past 12 months.

Additionally, when asked about the number of times that participants have been to prison in the past 5 years, most notably, 38% have been to prison 1-2 times, 38% 2-3 times, and 13.8% more than 5 times.

“Once someone has been to prison and is released, their lives are dramatically changed. They cannot work in certain sectors; they may have lost the employment that they had before incarceration; their income has been impacted; relationships have been lost; and their housing stability may have also been affected, all in all, making it very difficult to reintegrate into society” Professional 5.

According to data, between October and December 2021, the overall proven reoffending rate in England and Wales was 25.4% among adult offenders, 32.5% among juveniles, and 55.3% among those who had custodial sentences of less than

12 months (Ministry of Justice, 2023). The phenomenon commonly referred to as the "revolving door" inside the criminal justice system serves to underscore the proclivity of several individuals to find themselves ensnared in a recurring pattern of engaging in criminal behaviour and then being incarcerated once again.

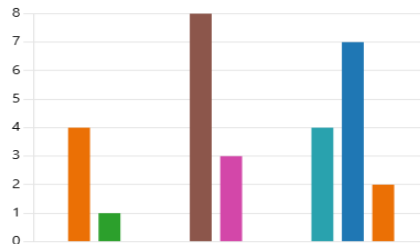
"...the impact of going to prison is extremely detrimental. There are only so many who manage to rehabilitate whereas the majority are released, and you suddenly become much more familiar with their names due to reoccurring offending" Professional 6.

The study conducted by Nagin and Paternoster (1991) sheds light on the criminal trajectories of individuals, revealing a pattern of persistent criminal behaviour that spans over their lifetimes and frequently results in repeated spells of imprisonment. Furthermore, the life-course view proposed by Sampson and Laub (1993) underscores the significance of pivotal events and turning points in an individual's life trajectory, which can potentially result in either the cessation of criminal behaviour or the persistence of offending. Various factors, including substance addiction, inadequate education, and restricted availability of economic options, contribute to the perpetuation of this cycle (Farrington, 2003). The aforementioned findings emphasise the necessity of implementing comprehensive treatments that are grounded in empirical research. These interventions should target the underlying factors contributing to criminal behaviour and strive to disrupt this detrimental cycle by means of rehabilitation and reintegration initiatives Farrington (2003).

10. What was your housing situation before going to prison most recently?

[More Details](#)

Owner occupier	0
Private rent: self-contained	4
Private rent: House of Multiple ...	1
Private rent: lodging	0
Living with friends	0
Living with family	8
Temporary accommodation	3
Bail hostel	0
Homeless shelter	0
Social housing	4
No Fixed Abode: sofa surfing	7
No Fixed Abode: rough sleeping	2
Other	0



Appendix B, Question 10: Results depicting answers from survey results regarding the housing situation of prisoners prior to going to prison.

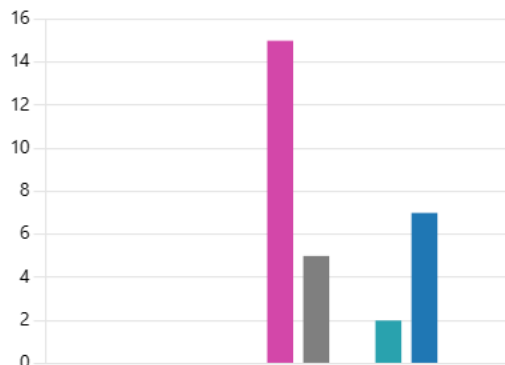
The results from Appendix B, Question 10 show that participants' housing situation included temporary accommodation, living with family, bail hostels, social housing and rough sleeping.

11. What is your current housing situation?

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

Owner occupier	0
Private rent: self-contained	0
Private rent: House of Multiple ...	0
Private rent: lodging	0
Living with friends	0
Living with family	0
Temporary accommodation	15
Bail hostel	5
Homeless shelter	0
Social housing	2
No Fixed Abode: sofa surfing	7
No Fixed Abode: rough sleeping	0
Other	0



Appendix B, Question 11: Results depicting answers from survey results regarding the housing situation of prisoners since being released from prison.

In comparison to the results from Question 10, the results from Appendix B, Question 11, show that upon release from prison, 52% of prison leavers are living in temporary accommodation, and the remaining are either in bail hostels, rough sleeping, or have access to social housing. The data comparison indicates that following release from prison, there was a 42% increase in the number of individuals living in temporary accommodation as a result of being released from prison.

“The issue is that when people go to prison, if they are renting, their properties are often claimed back by landlords on abandonment grounds. If they were staying with family, they are often not allowed to return due to licence conditions, or their family will not let them return due to relationship breakdowns, meaning that many have no choice but to request assistance from the Council” Professional 6.

Webster (2023) provides that between 2022 and 2023, the number of people living in bail or probationary accommodation increased by 46.2% compared to the previous 12-month period. Additionally, the data also shows that there was a 20.8% surge in the number of people in unsettled accommodation, and the overall number of prison leavers who were rough sleeping surged by 51.3% (Webster, 2023).

“The relationship between housing and repeat offending is undeniable. If a prison leaver does not have access to stable accommodation, then any support in place to address interlinking support needs such as mental health, substance misuse, and a lack of employment is going to be made redundant” Professional 3.

The matter of homelessness and reoffending is characterised by a multifaceted and mutually reinforcing connection, which sustains a cycle of deprivation. The homeless population is particularly susceptible to criminal actions as a result of their exposure to adverse environments and constrained access to resources (Metraux & Culhane,

2004). Consequently, the presence of a criminal record might be a substantial obstacle to securing accommodation, thereby intensifying the likelihood of experiencing homelessness or housing instability (Kushel et al., 2005). One significant aspect that contributes to the recurrence of criminal behaviour is the absence of secure housing upon release, which poses a barrier to the proper reintegration of individuals into society (Hipp, Petersilia, & Turner, 2010). Therefore, it is imperative to comprehend and tackle the interrelated challenges of homelessness and recidivism in order to implement successful interventions within the realms of criminal justice and social policy.

“The system needs to be made better for prison leavers. More work needs to be completed to ensure that when a release date is planned, prison leavers have support to access settled accommodation rather than the expectation of being placed on emergency temporary accommodation provisions, which are often unsuitable and in high demand” Professional 3.

“This way of operating is not sustainable. The system needs to be reviewed and adjusted to work better for prison leavers to reduce the number of prison leavers reoffending and finding themselves stuck in a never-ending cycle. Public resources are under pressure and the prison system is breaking; the efforts taken to promote rehabilitation are being made redundant due to the lack of settled, stable, and suitable accommodation being available that promotes productive and law-abiding lives”. Professional 5.

Addressing Support Needs

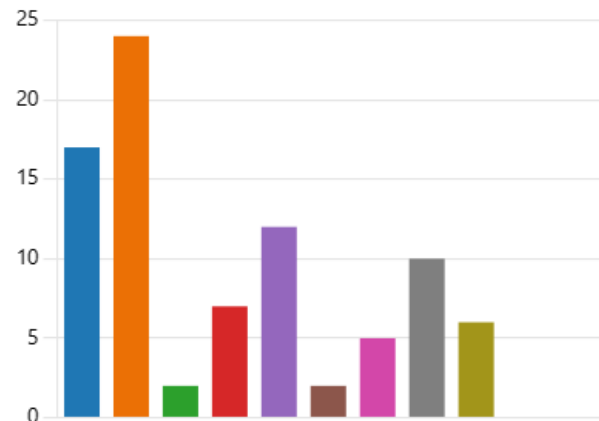
It is of utmost importance to consider the intricate relationship among homelessness, criminal behaviour, and the interlinking support needs in order to facilitate successful rehabilitation and reintegration into the community from prison, while reducing the risk of or time spent as homelessness (Turner et al., 2018). The reintegration of individuals into society after their release from prison can potentially worsen their vulnerabilities, leading to an increased risk of experiencing protracted homelessness and engaging in criminal activities again. This risk is particularly heightened when their support requirements, such as addressing substance misuse, mental health issues, and learning difficulties, are not adequately addressed (Turner et al., 2018). According to Parsell et al., (2019) the implementation of comprehensive interventions that integrate evidence-based practices is effective in mitigating the likelihood of reoffending and promoting stable housing outcomes. Therefore, it is crucial to prioritise the provision of customised support services in order to disrupt the recurring pattern of individuals being incarcerated and experiencing homelessness (Parsell et al., 2019).

"If individuals are dependent on illicit substances, which is very common, they are more likely to lead chaotic lives. Without the right support in place to assist them in managing their addictions and interlinking support needs, these individuals are prone to reoffending and will lack the ability to manage a tenancy properly. Therefore, they are going to be in and out of the homelessness and criminal justice system until they either eventually get the right support or, sadly, their addiction results in a fatality. The support that's available is limited, but unless someone is prepared to accept the support that is available, then the provisions put into place are made redundant until the individual is prepared to accept and engage with the support offered" Professional

12. Do you feel that you have any of the following support needs?

[More Details](#)

● Drugs	17
● Mental health	24
● Victim of abuse	2
● Perpetrator of abuse	7
● Alcohol misuse	12
● Physical health	2
● Reoccurring homelessness	5
● Poverty	10
● Lack of education/employment	6
● None	0
● Other	0



Appendix B, Question 12: Results depicting answers from survey results regarding support needs.

According to the results from Question 12 of Appendix B, which was a multiple-choice question:

- 2 participants disclosed that they require support with their physical health.
- 2 participants disclosed that they require support with being a victim of abuse.
- 5 participants disclosed that they require support with reoccurring homelessness.
- 6 participants disclosed that they require support with accessing education and/or employment opportunities.
- 7 participants identified that they require support with being a perpetrator of abuse.
- 12 participants disclosed that they require support with alcohol misuse.
- 17 participants disclosed that they require support with substance misuse.
- 24 participants disclosed that they require support with mental health.

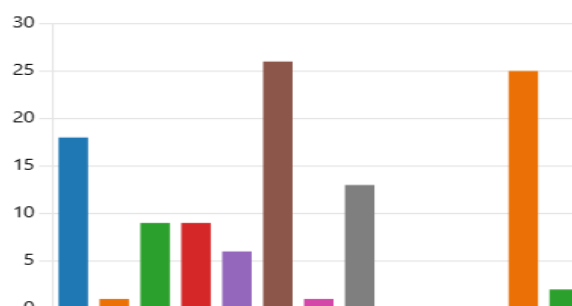
"The majority of the clients that we work with have various unmet support needs, mainly relating to mental health and substance misuse. They often present as extremely chaotic, and their decision-making is negatively impacted. We see people getting in trouble with the criminal justice system for making poor decisions. We also see people losing tenancies and failing to secure suitable accommodation because of their chaotic behaviour. Despite offering support, not everyone is prepared to accept that they need help, and some support needs are so deep-rooted that a lot of intensive support is needed, and this takes time which isn't always on the individual's side."

Professional 4.

13. Are you receiving support from any of the following services?

[More Details](#)

Floating support	18
Tenancy support	1
Mental health	9
Community drug teams	9
Community alcohol teams	6
Housing department - Council	26
Social services	1
Police - IOM	13
Police - general	0
Financial	0
Independent housing advice (Sh...	0
Probation	25
Other	2



Appendix B, Question 13: Results depicting answers from survey results regarding support being received.

"As soon as we begin working with a household, from the point of assessment, we make referrals to relevant support services to ensure that the right support is in place, as we acknowledge that housing is not a matter that is disconnected from other support areas such as mental health, substance misuse, tenancy support, and other areas."

Professional 1.

According to the survey results of Appendix B, Question 13:

- 26 out of 29 participants are working with the Council's Housing department
- 25 out of 29 participants are working with Probation
- 18 out of 29 participants are accessing floating support
- 13 out of 29 participants are working with the Police's Integrated Offender Management
- 9 out of 29 participants are working with mental health, community drug or alcohol teams

"We have seen a significant decrease in the number of repeat homeless presentations where clients have adequate support in place, and we are also aware from discussions with Probation Officers that the number of repeat offenders is also less" Professional 2.

When the participating professionals were asked, 'From your perspective, what kinds of rehabilitation and reintegration programmes are needed to address the housing and homelessness issues faced by individuals with offending behaviour backgrounds in Wales?' all of the professionals made reference to the need for an increase in the resources available to ensure that adequate support provisions are available for those in need.

"We are facing budget cuts, but the number of homeless presentations and the number of prison-leavers facing homelessness are increasing due to the shortage of affordable housing. Without an increase in budgets and resources, we will soon become overwhelmed and unable to support people at the level that they require" Professional 4

Legislative Changes and Provisions

The enactment and implementation of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 aimed to enhance and strengthen the services designed to prevent homelessness where possible and to assist households experiencing homelessness (Ahmed et al. 2018). A key advancement that the legislation has provided is improving cultures within homelessness services that were often previously described as being static and plagued by inconsistencies and inequality (Mackie, 2015). However, Dean (2002) has previously highlighted concerns that imposed legislative rights can allow for policy to become over-legalised and lead to services naturally adopting a defensive-oriented mindset. According to Gwilym-Taylor (2020), significant endeavours have been undertaken by local authorities in Wales to assist individuals experiencing homelessness in obtaining temporary or even permanent housing, with prompt turnaround times from the initial presentation of homelessness to temporary housing. According to Brandon (2018), during the initial year of implementation of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014, Welsh local authorities successfully averted homelessness for 65% of individuals who were at risk of experiencing homelessness. Nevertheless, it has been argued that the legislation has not yielded the desired outcomes as anticipated by entities like Shelter Cymru, since councils seem to be allocating a greater portion of their resources towards addressing homelessness rather than proactively averting it (Brandon, 2018). However, a preliminary study released by the Welsh Government indicates that the implemented obligations have yielded favourable outcomes despite facing criticism. In general, local authorities express their endorsement of these modifications and assert that they have resulted in beneficial effects (Brandon, 2018). Notably, Professionals 1, 2, 3, and 4 all agreed that the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 provides generally clear legislative duties that are bestowed on housing

professionals working within local authorities. However, they all acknowledged that the specifics regarding the application of the legislative duties are subjective and unclear, which still allows for inconsistencies during the application of specific duties.

"The legislative duties that we operate under have been in play for several years now, so the legislation has had sufficient time to settle in. This has also meant that people are more aware of their rights but are also often incorrect about their entitlements and, therefore, have unrealistic expectations about what we [housing] can provide when working with them. A lot of people are also quite well versed in the homeless process now that people try abusing the system to secure social housing quicker than those deemed to have a less urgent housing need" Professional 2.

The Welsh Government (2023) has acknowledged that homelessness legislation needs to be simplified, consistency in application needs to be improved, and legislation needs to be reformed to better represent the Government's ambitious goal of ending homelessness in Wales. This is reflected in the proposed amendments set out within the recently published White Paper. However, there is also a considerable amount of concern raised by professionals about the proposed amendments about removing useful tools to filter what households they have a statutory duty to assist.

According to data published by Statistics for Wales (2023) for 2022-2023:

Over 9,246 households were threatened with homelessness in Wales and were accepted onto what is known as the Prevention duty (Section 68 duty)

12,537 households were assessed as homeless and owed a Relief duty (Section 73 duty), and 258 households were subject to the Intentionally Homeless test.

"Although the Welsh Government wants to end homelessness, some of the amendments that they are proposing will be detrimental to housing services that are

battling the pressures of operating with a lack of resources and unprecedented demand for homelessness advice and assistance.” Professional 1.

“Removing the ‘Intentionally Homeless’ test will be detrimental to services as there are instances where people purposely act in a way that leads to eviction, or in some cases, people do choose to leave accommodation that is reasonable and suitable to occupy as they believe that by presenting homeless, they will skip the queue for a social housing property, which often works in their favour as people who are homeless tend to be placed in a higher band group on housing registers than those who are not in an urgent housing need. The test is not used on a daily basis, but it is used as a warning to households that may be trying to find a way to expedite the process of securing social housing. The intentionality test is used to refuse or limit how much we will work with clients who have acted in a way, knowingly and wilfully, that has caused their homelessness.” Professional 2.

The insufficiency of homelessness provisions in Wales presents a significant obstacle, intensifying the susceptibility of those facing homelessness and perpetuating a pattern of criminal conduct. The disparity between the need for assistance and the limited availability of shelters, temporary housing, and support services is a notable concern. According to a study conducted by Fitzpatrick et al. (2019), the challenges experienced by homeless individuals are exacerbated by the restricted availability of emergency shelter and lengthy waiting periods for social housing. The Welsh Government's dedication to tackling homelessness is evident in its adoption of the Housing First approach (Fitzpatrick et al., 2019). However, the effective execution and scaling of these initiatives encounter challenges arising from limited financial resources and administrative intricacies (Mackie, 2017). The scarcity of resources not only impedes prompt assistance for individuals lacking secure shelter but also

exacerbates the likelihood of engaging in criminal conduct as a means of survival. In order to disrupt this recurring pattern, it is crucial for policymakers to place emphasis on and allocate resources towards comprehensive interventions aimed at addressing homelessness. These interventions should comprise both immediate relief measures and long-term housing alternatives.

As touched upon in an earlier chapter, the Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016 was implemented on the 1st of December 2022 and significantly changed the legislation in Wales for landlords and renters. From the interviews carried out, all of the housing and homelessness professionals agreed that although the change in legislation has strengthened renter's rights, it has also created an influx of landlords leaving the private sector.

"We have seen a notable increase in the number of no-fault evictions since the implementation of the [Housing (Wales)] Act, as many landlords are put off by the additional rights that contract-holders have been given—many claim that is an anti-landlord piece of legislation." Professional 3.

"Landlords are selling up in droves. Between the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, mortgage rate increases, and the change in legislation, landlords are deciding to leave the market. This has meant that the number of private sector options is reduced, therefore only worsening the prospects that many individuals have when trying to secure settled accommodation". Professional 1.

According to Hunter (2023), data suggests that the number of landlords intending to sell their rental properties has reached its highest rate, with over 33% of landlords looking to sell up and leave the sector.

"Because the private sector is largely unaffordable to many and the number of properties within the sector is reducing, it is making it significantly harder for services to support individuals into settled accommodation that does not entail social housing provisions. Many landlords also have hesitations about renting to people with criminal convictions or relying solely on benefits. As a result, prison-leavers and low-income households are facing unjust discrimination and have very few options available, which is causing increased demand for social housing and emergency accommodation provisions." Professional 1.

Conclusion

This chapter has delved into the complex interplay between homelessness, reoffending rates, and interconnected support needs among prison leavers in Wales. The data gathered has provided a comprehensive exploration of the current housing landscape, challenges faced by prison leavers, and the perspectives of professionals in the housing and offender management sectors, valuable insights have been gained.

The research methodology, employing a combination of interviews and surveys, facilitated a nuanced understanding of the multifaceted issues at hand. Qualitative methods, including direct interviews with housing professionals and indirect interviews with households experiencing homelessness, provided rich, context-specific data. Complementing these, quantitative methods enabled statistical analyses to identify trends and relationships, offering a broader perspective on the challenges.

The findings underscore a critical link between housing instability and an increased risk of reoffending. Shortages in suitable settled and temporary accommodation, exacerbated by policy and funding constraints, contribute to the reliance on emergency alternatives like bed and breakfast establishments. This situation not only

fails to address the root causes of reoffending but may also lead to the formation of negative social connections, further amplifying the risks.

The revolving door phenomenon within the criminal justice system is evident, with a substantial percentage of participants experiencing repeated incarcerations. Factors such as substance addiction, education deficits, and limited economic opportunities contribute to this cycle. The challenges faced by prison leavers, including difficulty securing stable accommodation, hinder their ability to successfully reintegrate into society.

The Housing (Wales) Act 2014 and subsequent legislative changes, while providing clear duties for housing professionals, face challenges related to budget limitations and inconsistent application. The Housing First approach and the Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016, though impactful, have unintended consequences, such as an increase in no-fault evictions and landlords leaving the market.

The professionals interviewed unanimously emphasise the need for increased resources to support rehabilitation and reintegration programs. Budget cuts, combined with rising homelessness, create an imminent crisis where support services may be overwhelmed, jeopardising the goal of ending homelessness in Wales.

In conclusion, this dissertation advocates for a holistic approach that integrates evidence-based practices, increased resources, and legislative reforms to address the complex intersection of homelessness and reoffending. The insights generated can inform policymakers, practitioners, and researchers in developing effective strategies to break the cycle of homelessness and reoffending, ultimately fostering the successful reintegration of prison leavers into society.

Chapter 5: Limitations and Recommendations

Introduction

This dissertation has explored the intricate dynamics of homelessness, reoffending rates, and the interconnected support needs among prison leavers in Wales. The following chapter serves as a pivotal point of reflection and forward-looking consideration. The previous chapters have presented theoretical and academic data along with primary quantitative and qualitative data collected from Appendices A and B. The chapters have unravelled the complexities surrounding the current housing situation, challenges faced by prison leavers, and the perspectives of professionals engaged in the housing and offender management sectors. In this concluding chapter, reflections on the chapters and recommendations are presented.

The purpose of this research was to contribute to the growing literature on the relationship between homelessness and prison leavers, as well as the literature available regarding homelessness in Wales and the Housing (Wales) Act 2014. This was done by carrying out research by speaking directly with key professionals who work within the homeless and offender management sectors, as well as gathering data

directly from prison leavers to understand the contemporary challenges and trends experienced from first-hand accounts.

The symbiotic relationship between homelessness and reoffending demands strategic interventions that transcend disciplinary boundaries. Drawing from the insights gleaned from qualitative interviews and quantitative surveys, this chapter ventures into proposing recommendations that not only bridge gaps in the current support structures but also lay the foundation for a more sustainable and equitable system. Embedded within these recommendations is an acknowledgement of the existing legislative framework and a critical examination of its strengths and limitations. Budget constraints, policy ambiguities, and the unintended consequences of recent legislative changes emerge as key areas requiring nuanced consideration. The goal is not only to identify shortcomings but, more importantly, to propose pragmatic solutions that align with the overarching objective of mitigating the risk of reoffending through stable housing.

Furthermore, this chapter delves into a reflective analysis of the implications of the findings, both for the academic community and for practitioners in the field. What lessons can be drawn from the challenges faced by professionals in housing and offender management? How can our insights inform future research endeavours in the broader context of criminal justice and social welfare?

Summary of Research

The dissertation focuses on the intersection of temporary accommodation, homelessness, and reoffending among individuals released from prison in Wales. The research highlights the challenges stemming from policy and funding constraints in the housing sector, particularly examining the impact of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.

The study emphasises the surge in expenditure on temporary accommodation by Welsh authorities, leading to a twofold increase, with specific councils witnessing alarming spikes.

The findings from a survey reveal that 52% of participants released from prison are currently in temporary accommodation, including bail hostels and unconventional options like B&Bs, Premier Inns, and glamping pods. Professionals express concerns about the lack of suitable temporary provisions, leading to individuals forming negative friendships that may contribute to reoffending. The research emphasises the negative correlation between street homelessness, sofa surfing, and criminal activities, linking unstable housing to increased stress and engagement in criminal behaviour.

The study delves into the concept of "revolving door" homelessness and offending, highlighting the complex relationship between recurring homelessness and criminal behaviour. Survey data indicates a significant proportion of participants experiencing multiple incarcerations within a short timeframe, leading to profound life changes, employment loss, and housing instability. The research cites the impact of criminal trajectories on individuals' lives, emphasising the need for comprehensive interventions targeting underlying factors contributing to repeated offences.

The dissertation sheds light on the challenges faced by prison leavers in securing stable accommodation, leading to increased reliance on temporary options. Professionals stress the undeniable link between housing stability and repeat offences, calling for a review and adjustment of the system to break the cycle. The research advocates for a better understanding of the interconnected challenges of homelessness and criminality to implement effective interventions.

Addressing support needs is identified as a crucial aspect of rehabilitation. The study underscores the importance of considering the relationship between homelessness, criminal behaviour, and support needs, especially concerning substance misuse, mental health, and education. Survey results reveal varied support needs among participants, emphasising the necessity of tailored interventions to disrupt the cycle of homelessness and offending.

Additionally, this dissertation explores legislative changes and provisions, focusing on the Housing (Wales) Act 2014. While acknowledging its positive impact in preventing homelessness, professionals express concerns about subjective application, unclear specifics, and potential amendments that could negatively affect housing services. The research calls for a balance between simplifying legislation and ensuring consistency in its application to effectively address homelessness.

The study also highlights the challenges posed by the Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016, leading to an increase in no-fault evictions and landlords leaving the private sector. The data collected supports the idea that professionals have concerns about reduced private sector options, exacerbating difficulties for individuals seeking settled accommodation and contributing to discrimination against those with criminal convictions or relying on benefits.

Overall, this dissertation provides a comprehensive examination of the intricate connections between temporary accommodation, homelessness, and reoffending among individuals released from prison in Wales. It emphasises the need for targeted interventions, legislative clarity, and resource allocation to address the multifaceted challenges faced by this vulnerable population.

Recommendations

Clarification and Simplification of Legislation

Given concerns about the subjective application and unclear specifics of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014, it is recommended that the Welsh Government work towards clarifying and simplifying legislative duties (Brandon, 2018). This involves providing clear guidelines for the application of duties, ensuring consistency across local authorities, and eliminating potential ambiguities (Gwilym-Taylor, 2020).

To mitigate challenges associated with the Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016, there is a need for a balanced approach that protects the rights of renters while addressing the concerns of landlords (Hunter, 2023). The Welsh Government should consider engaging with stakeholders, including landlords, tenants, and housing professionals, to identify amendments that maintain tenant rights without discouraging landlords from participating in the private sector.

In response to proposed amendments aiming to remove the 'Intentionally Homeless' test, it is recommended that the Welsh Government conduct a thorough review, taking into account the concerns raised by professionals. A careful evaluation of the potential consequences and alternative approaches is essential before implementing such changes.

Support Services and Interventions

Given the identified support needs of individuals released from prison, especially in areas of mental health, substance misuse, education, and employment opportunities, there is a pressing need to strengthen support services (Sanders et al., 2019). Local authorities, in collaboration with relevant agencies, should prioritise the provision of comprehensive support tailored to individual needs.

To break the cycle of homelessness and reoffending, it is recommended that the Welsh Government invest in early intervention programmes targeting at-risk individuals before release from prison (McGrath et al., 2023). These programmes should focus on providing housing support, employment training, and mental health services to enhance the likelihood of successful reintegration into society.

There is a need to expand and scale up this initiative, building on the Housing First strategy that the Welsh Government has adopted (Fitzpatrick et al., 2019). This involves allocating sufficient resources to ensure the effective execution of Housing First programmes, which prioritise providing stable housing as a foundational step towards addressing other support needs.

Collaborative Strategies

To create a holistic approach to the complex issues identified in this research, there should be a focus on fostering multi-agency collaboration (Professional 2, Personal Communication, 2023). Local authorities, probation services, mental health agencies, and housing providers must work collaboratively to develop integrated strategies.

To combat negative stereotypes and discrimination faced by individuals with criminal records, it is recommended that the Welsh Government initiate public awareness campaigns (Professional 3, Personal Communication, 2023). These campaigns should aim to educate the public about the challenges faced by prison leavers in securing accommodation and employment.

Continuous Monitoring and Evaluation

To gauge the effectiveness of legislative changes and interventions, it is essential to conduct regular impact assessments (Brandon, 2018). These assessments should

involve collaboration between policymakers, housing professionals, and academic researchers to evaluate the outcomes of implemented strategies.

Given the cyclical nature of homelessness and reoffending, there is a need for longitudinal studies to track the long-term outcomes of individuals who have experienced both incarceration and homelessness (McGrath et al., 2023). Longitudinal data can inform evidence-based policymaking and contribute to the development of sustainable solutions.

In conclusion, these recommendations collectively address the multifaceted challenges faced by individuals released from prison in Wales, offering a comprehensive framework for legislative changes, support services, and collaborative strategies. Implementing these recommendations requires a concerted effort from policymakers, service providers, and the wider community to break the cycle of homelessness and reoffending and foster successful reintegration into society.

Legislation

Housing (Wales) Act 2014

Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016

Reference List

Ahmed, A., Wilding, M., Gibbons, A., Jones, K., Rogers, M. and Madoc-Jones, I. (2018). *Post-implementation evaluation of Part 2 of the Housing Act (Wales) 2014: Final Report*. Available at:

https://www.salford.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/1979766/Ahmed-et-al.-2018-Post-implementation-evaluation-of-Part-2-of-the-Ho.pdf (Accessed: 20/11/2023).

Auerbach, C. and Silverstein, L. (2003). *Qualitative Data: An Introduction to Coding and Analysis*. New York University Press. Available at:

<https://psycnet.apa.org/record/2003-88052-000> (Accessed: 23/10/2023).

Babbie, E.R. (2016) *The Practice of Social Research*. 14th Edn. Cengage Learning; Belmont.

Baxter, J. (2021). Is Wales Facing a Housing Crisis? Available at:

<https://senedd.wales/NAfW%20Documents/ki-021.pdf%20-%2003112011/ki-021-English.pdf> (Accessed: 14/09/2023).

BBC News. (2016). Wales 'Leading Way' Tackling Homeless, Expert Says. Available at: <https://bit.ly/3sGcV1a> (Accessed: 04/09/2023).

Beard, J. (2023). What is the Government doing to reduce pressure on prison capacity? Available at: <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/what-is-the-government-doing-to-reduce-pressure-on-prison-capacity/> (Accessed: 04/11/2023).

Bevan Foundation (2021). Wales Housing Crisis: The Role of LHA. Available at:

<https://www.bevanfoundation.org/resources/wales-housing-crisis-the-role-of-lha/> (Accessed: 17/09/2023).

Bevan Foundation. (2022). Holiday Lets and the Private Rental Sector. Available at:

<https://www.bevanfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Holiday-lets-and-the-private-rental-sector.pdf> (Accessed: 17/09/2023).

Bibbings, J., Mackie, P., and Thomas, I. (2017). 'Homelessness Prevention: Reflecting on a Year of Pioneering Welsh Legislation in Practice', *European Journal of Homelessness*, 11(1), pp. 81-106. Available at:

<https://www.feantsaresearch.org/download/article-4592410342917616893.pdf> (Accessed: 04/09/2023).

Brandon, S. (2018). Welsh Lessons on Halting Homelessness. Available at:

<https://www.insidehousing.co.uk/insight/welsh-lessons-on-halting-homelessness-55832> (Accessed: 05/09/2023).

Brandon, S. (2018). *Welsh lessons on halting homelessness*. Available at: <https://www.insidehousing.co.uk/insight/insight/welsh-lessons-on-halting-homelessness-55832> (Accessed: 20/11/2023).

Bridgend County Borough Council (2023). Waiting Time Calculator. Available at: <https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/residents/housing/waiting-time-calculator/> (Accessed: 14/09/2023).

Brown, D., Jaccarini, C., Kumar, C., Madge, C. and Powell, E. (2021). Financial Wales' Housing Decarbonisation. Available at: <https://neweconomics.org/uploads/files/Financing-Wales-Housing-Decarbonisation.pdf> (Accessed: 05/09/2023).

Busetto, L., Wick, W. and Gumbinger, C. (2020). 'How to Use and Assess Qualitative Research Methods', *Neurological Research and Practice*, 2(14). Available at: <https://neurolrespract.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s42466-020-00059-z#citeas> (Accessed: 23/10/2023).

Butzin, C. A., Martin, S. S., & Inciardi, J. A. (2005). 'Treatment during transition from prison to community and subsequent illicit drug use', *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*, 28(4), pp. 351-358. Available at: <https://psycnet.apa.org/record/2005-07458-007> (Accessed: 04/11/2023).

Canada, K., Barrenger, S., Bohrman, C., Banks, A., and Peketi, P. (2023). 'Multi-Level Barriers to Prison Mental and Physical Health Care for Individuals with Mental Illnesses', *Front Psychiatry*. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9203858/> (Accessed: 30/09/2023).

Clarke, A., Jones, M. and Muir, K. (2017). Research into Letting Agent Fees to Tenants. Available at: https://www.cchpr.landecon.cam.ac.uk/system/files/documents/welsh_letting_agents_fees_summary_0.pdf (Accessed: 17/09/2023).

Dack, C., Ross, J., Ross, J., & Papadopoulos, C. (2012). 'A review and meta-analysis of the patient factors associated with psychiatric in-patient admission', *BMC Psychiatry*, 127(4), pp. 255-268. Available at: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/23289890/> (Accessed: 04/11/2023).

Dean, H. (2002). *Welfare Rights and Social Policy*. Available at: <https://www.taylorfrancis.com/books/mono/10.4324/9781315847726/welfare-rights-social-policy-hartley-dean> (Accessed: 05/09/2023).

Dean, Hartley (2002) *Welfare rights and social policy*. Pearson Education/Prentice Hall, Harlow, UK. ISBN 0130404624

Delahunty, S. (2023). Welsh Council Sees More than 7,000% Rise in Temporary Accommodation Costs as Total Spending Doubles. Available at: <https://www.insidehousing.co.uk/news/welsh-council-sees-more-than-7000-rise-in-temporary-accommodation-costs-as-total-spending-doubles-80599> (Accessed: 25/09/2023).

Delahunty, S. (2023). Welsh council sees more than 7,000% rise in temporary accommodation costs as total spending doubles. Available at: <https://www.insidehousing.co.uk/news/welsh-council-sees-more-than-7000-rise-in-temporary-accommodation-costs-as-total-spending-doubles-80599> (Accessed: 04/11/2023).

Dempsey, J. (2023). Retiring landlords risk fuelling rental shortage. Available at: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-65298662> (Accessed: 17/09/2023).

Dennison, S. M., Dwyer, A., & Morgan, A. (2021). Homelessness, prison leavers, and the struggle for housing. *Critical Social Policy*, 41(3), 467–488.

Edgar, K., Harris, M. and Webster, R. (2020). No Life, No Freedom, No Future. The experiences of Prisoners Recalled Under the Sentence of Imprisonment for Public Protection. Available at: http://www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/old_files/Documents/no%20freedom_final_web.pdf (Accessed: 29/09/2023).

Farrall, S., Hunter, B., Sharpe, G., & Calverley, A. (2019). Criminal careers in transition: The social context of desistance from crime. *European Journal of Criminology*, 16(6), 671–689.

Fitzgerald, N., Thom, B., & Herring, R. (2020). Alcohol and substance use among ex-prisoners. *Health & Justice*, 8(1), 1–11.

Fitzgerald, N., Thom, B., & Herring, R. (2020). Alcohol and substance use among ex-prisoners. *Health & Justice*, 8(1), 1–11.

Fitzpatrick, S., Pawson, H., Bramley, G., Pawson, H., Watts, B and Wood, J. (2019). The homelessness monitor: Wales. Crisis. Available at: <https://www.crisis.org.uk/media/246434/the-homelessness-monitor-wales-2021.pdf> (Accessed: 21/11/2023)

Flick, U. (2014). *An Introduction to Qualitative Research*. 5th edn. Sage Publications; London.

Georgiou, M., Morison, G., Smith, N., Tieges, Z. and Chastin, S. (2021). 'Mechanisms of Impact of Blue Spaces on Human Health: A Systematic Literature Review and Meta-Analysis', *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 18(5), pp. 2486. Available at: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33802522/> (Accessed: 30/09/2023).

Geraghty, L. (2023). Will the Renters Reform Bill Cause a Landlord Exodus? Does it matter? Available at: <https://www.bigissue.com/news/housing/will-the-renters-reform-bill-cause-a-landlord-exodus-does-it-matter/> (Accessed: 12/09/2023).

Gibbs, D., Stockings, E., Larney, S., Bromberg, D., Shakeshaft, A. and Farnbach S. (2023). 'The Impact of Support Accommodation on Health and Criminal Justice Outcomes of People Released from Prison: A Systematic Literature Review' *Harm Reduction Journal*, 20(91). Available at: <https://harmreductionjournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12954-023-00832-8#citeas> (Accessed: 21/09/2023).

Glorney, E., Ullah, H., and Brooker, C. (2020). 'Standards of Mental Health Care in Prisons in England and Wales: A Qualitative Study of Reports from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons', *International Journal of Forensic Mental Health*, pp. 283-296. Available at:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/14999013.2020.1743389> (Accessed: 30/09/2023).

GOV.UK (2023). Universal Credit. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit/how-youre-paid> (Accessed: 30/09/2023).

Grimshaw, R. (2002). 'A Place to Call Your Own – Does Housing Need Make a Difference to Crime?', *Criminal Justice Matters*, 50(1), pp.8-9. Available at: <https://bit.ly/45WtN27> (Accessed: 01/09/2023).

Gutterman, T., Fetters, M. and Creswell, J. (2015). 'Integrating Quantitative and Qualitative Results in Health Science Mixed Methods Research Through Joint Display', *Annals of Family Medicine*, 13(6), pp.554-561. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4639381/> (Accessed: 23/10/2023).

Gwilym-Taylor, R. (2020). *How changes to the law can help end homelessness in Wales*. Available at: <https://www.crisis.org.uk/about-us/the-crisis-blog/priority-need-review-wales/> (Accessed: 20/11/2023).

Hipp, J. R., Petersilia, J., & Turner, S. (2010). Parolee recidivism in California: The effect of neighborhood context and social service agency characteristics. *Criminology*, 48(4), pp. 947-979. Available at: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1745-9125.2010.00209.x> (Accessed: 04/11/2023).

HM Chief Inspect of Prisons. (2021). Report on an Unannounced Inspection of HMP Send. Available at: <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprisons/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2021/08/Send-web-2021.pdf> (Accessed: 30/09/2023).

HM Inspectorate of Probation (2017). Probation Hostels' (Approved Premises) Contribution to Public Protection, Rehabilitation and Resettlement. Available at: <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprobation/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2017/07/Probation-Hostels-2017-report.pdf> (Accessed: 04/11/2023).

HomeLet (2023). Average Rents Wales Index for the Last 12 Months. Available at: <https://homelet.co.uk/homelet-rental-index/wales> (Accessed: 17/09/2023).

House of Commons Justice Committee (2021). Mental Health in Prison. Available at: <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/7455/documents/78054/default/> (Accessed: 30/09/2023).

Hunter, S. (2023). Landlords Plan to Sell Properties at Record Rate According to New Research. Available at: <https://www.nrla.org.uk/news-landlords-plan-to-sell-properties-at-record-rate-according-to-new-research#:~:text=The%20number%20of%20landlords%20planning,of%20properties%20they%20rent%20out.> (Accessed: 12/09/2023).

Hunter, S. (2023). Welsh Government Announces Amends to Renting Homes Wales Act. Available at: <https://www.nrla.org.uk/news/welsh-government-announces-amends-to-renting-homes-wales-act> (Accessed: 12/09/2023).

Huws, C. (2019). 'Tenants' Rights and the Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016', *International Journal of Housing Policy*, 19(4), pp. 588-598. Available at: https://pure.aber.ac.uk/ws/portalfiles/portal/42788041/RHWA_IJHP.pdf (Accessed: 04/09/2023).

Huws, C. (2019). 'Tenants' Rights and the Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016', *International Journal of Housing Policy*, 19(4), pp. 588-598. Available at: https://pure.aber.ac.uk/ws/portalfiles/portal/42788041/RHWA_IJHP.pdf (Accessed: 12/09/2023).

ITV (2022). Why is the Private Rental Market in Wales in Crisis? Available at: <https://www.itv.com/news/wales/2022-10-11/why-is-the-private-rental-market-in-wales-in-crisis> (Accessed: 12/09/2023).

Jacobs, L. and Gottlieb, A. (2020). 'The Effect of Housing Circumstances on Recidivism', *Criminal Justice Behaviour*, 47(9), pp.1097-1115. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8496894/> (Accessed: 04/11/2023).

James, J. (2022). Explanatory Memorandum to the Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016 (Amendment of Schedule 12 and Consequential Amendment) Regulations 2022. Available at: <https://senedd.wales/media/whupt2p0/subld15453-em-e.pdf> (Accessed: 12/09/2023).

Kushel, M. B., Hahn, J. A., Evans, J. L., Bangsberg, D. R., & Moss, A. R. (2005). Revolving doors: imprisonment among the homeless and marginally housed population. *American Journal of Public Health*, 95(10), pp. 1747-1752. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1449431/> (Accessed: 04/11/2023).

Lantz, B. (2019). 'Co-offending Group Composition and Violence: The Impact of Sex, Age and Group Size on Co-offending Violence' *Crime and Delinquency*, 66(1), pp.93-122. Available at: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/epub/10.1177/0011128719834564> (Accessed: 29/09/2023).

Laursen, J. (2022). 'Radical hope and processes of becoming: Examining short-term prisoners' imagined futures in England & Wales and Norway', *Theoretical Criminology*, 27(1), pp.48-65. Available at: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/13624806211069545> (Accessed: 30/09/2023).

Local Government and Housing Committee. (2023). Homelessness. Available at: <https://senedd.wales/media/zs0jkb4g/cr-ld15717-e.pdf> (Accessed: 07/09/2023).

Local Government Association (2020). Re-thinking Homelessness Prevention. Available at: <https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/re-thinking-homelessness-prevention> (Accessed: 04/09/2023).

Mackie, P. (2015). 'Homelessness Prevention and the Welsh Legal Duty: Lessons for International Policies', *Housing Studies*, 30(1), pp. 40-59. Available at: <https://ideas.repec.org/a/taf/chosxx/v30y2015i1p40-59.html> (Accessed: 04/09/2023).

Mackie, P. (2015). 'Homelessness Prevention and the Welsh Legal Duty: Lessons for International Policies', *Housing Studies*, 30(1), pp. 40-59. Available at: <https://ideas.repec.org/a/taf/chosxx/v30y2015i1p40-59.html> (Accessed: 20/11/2023).

Mathers N, Fox N. and Hunn A. S (2007). Surveys and Questionnaires. Available at: https://www.rds-yh.nihr.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/12_Surveys_and_Questionnaires_Revision_2009.pdf (Accessed: 26/10/2023).

McGrath, J., Crossley, S., Lhussier, M. and Forster, N. (2023). 'Social capital and women's narratives of homelessness and multiple exclusion in northern England', *International Journal for Equity in Health*, 22(31). Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9999566/> (Accessed: 04/11/2023).

McGregor, C. (2023) Why the UK Government must increase housing benefit. Available at: <https://www.crisis.org.uk/about-us/the-crisis-blog/why-the-uk-government-must-increase-housing-benefit/> (Accessed: 17/09/2023).

Metraux, S., & Culhane, D. P. (2004). Homeless shelter use and reincarceration following prison release. *Criminology & Public Policy*, 3(2), pp. 139-160. Available at: <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/76359741.pdf> (Accessed: 04/11/2023).

Ministry of Justice (2023). Proven Reoffending Statistics Quarterly Bulletin. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6538e59180884d0013f71a82/PRSQ_Bulletin_October_to_December_2021.pdf (Accessed: 04/11/2023).

Ministry of Justice. (2019). *Proven reoffending statistics: July 2016 to June 2017*. Retrieved from <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/proven-reoffending-statistics-july-2016-to-june-2017>

Ministry of Justice. (2021). £70 Million to Keep Prison Leavers Off the Streets and Cut Crime. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/70-million-to-keep-prison-leavers-off-the-streets-and-cut-crime> (Accessed: 21/09/2023).

Morse, J.M. and Field, P.A. (1996). Available at: https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-1-4899-4471-9_1#citeas (Accessed: 23/10/2023).

Moschion, J. and Johnson, G. (2019). 'Homelessness and Incarceration', *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, 35(4), pp. 855-887. Available at: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/48701021> (Accessed: 21/09/2023).

Nagin, D. and Paternoster, R. (1993). 'Enduring Individual Differences and Rational Choice Theories of Crime', *Law and Society Review*, 27(3), pp. 467-496. Available at: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/3054102> (Accessed: 04/11/2023).

National Audit Office (2017). Mental Health in Prison. Available at: <https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Mental-health-in-prisons.pdf> (Accessed: 30/09/2023).

Nationwide (2022). Balancing Act: Landlords Torn Between Raising Rent and Helping Tenants Struggling with the Cost of Living Crisis. Available at: <https://www.nationwidemediacentre.co.uk/news/balancing-act-landlords-torn-between-raising-rent-and-helping-tenants-struggling-with-the-cost-of-living> (Accessed: 17/09/2023).

Neubeck, K.J. (2006). When Welfare Disappears. The Case for Economic Human Rights. Available at: <https://www.taylorfrancis.com/books/mono/10.4324/9780203955284/welfare-disappears-kenneth-neubeck> (Accessed: 05/09/2023).

Pager, D. (2003). 'The Mark of a Criminal Record', *American Journal of Sociology*, 108(5), pp.937-935. Available at: <https://scholar.harvard.edu/pager/publications/mark-criminal-record> (Accessed: 04/11/2023).

Pager, D. (2003). The mark of a criminal record. *American Journal of Sociology*, 108(5), 937–975.

Pager, D. (2003). The mark of a criminal record. *American Journal of Sociology*, 108(5), 937–975.

Palmer, A. (2023). Cost of Living: Housing Struggle as Rent and Demand Rise. Available at: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-65474569> (Accessed: 17/09/2023).

Parsell, C. (2012). 'Homelessness as a Choice', *Housing, Theory and Society*, 29(4), pp. 420-434. Available at: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/14036096.2012.667834> (Accessed: 21/09/2023).

Plugge, E., Fitzpatrick, S., Turner, K., & Howell, M. (2018). The health and social needs of homeless offenders: A rapid review of research. *Health & Justice*, 6(1), 1–14.

Polcin, D. L. (2016). 'Co-occurring Substance Abuse and Mental Health Problems among Homeless Persons: Suggestions for Research and Practice', *Journal of Social Distress and the Homeless*, 25(1), pp. 1-10. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4833089/> (Accessed: 21/09/2023).

Powys County Council (2023). Phosphate affecting Affordable Housing developments Available at: <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/13575/Phosphate-affecting-Affordable-Housing-developments> (Accessed: 14/09/2023).

Prison Reform Trust. (2010). Bromley Briefings Prison Factfile: December 2010. Available at: <https://prisonreformtrust.org.uk/publication/factfile-december-2010/> (Accessed: 21/09/2023).

Public Ombudsman for Wales. (2021). Homelessness Reviewed: An Open Door to Positive Change. Available at: <https://www.ombudsman.wales/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Homelessness-Reviewed-an-open-door-to-positive-change.pdf> (Accessed: 05/09/2023).

Radcliffe, J. (2022). Re: Consultation response on Homelessness Regulations. Available at: <https://platform.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Consultation-on-Homelessness-Regulations-.pdf> (Accessed: 07/09/2023).

Rees, A. (2023). Frontline Network Wales – Report to the Expert Review Panel. Available at: <https://www.frontlinenetwork.org.uk/media/2796/erp-fnw-paper-1.pdf> (Accessed: 07/09/2023).

Reeve, K., Cole, I., Batty, E., Foden, M., Green, S. and Pattison, B. (2016). No Less Will Do. Homeless People's Access to the Private Rented Sector. Available at: https://www.crisis.org.uk/media/237166/home_no_less_will_do_crisis.pdf (Accessed: 17/09/2023).

Robinson, A. (2022). Number of landlords selling up rises by nearly 13% in four months. Available at: <https://news.sky.com/story/number-of-landlords-selling-up-rises-by-nearly-13-in-four-months-12760392> (Accessed: 12/09/2023).

Rogers, M., Ahmed, A., Gibbons, A., Jones, K., and Wilding, S. (2019). 'Interrogating the Prevention Approach of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 for People with Mental Health Needs Who Are Homeless', *Social Policy and Society* (2020), 19(1), pp. 109-120. Available at: <https://www.cambridge.org/core/services/aop-cambridge-core/content/view/FF7A05315BB768268CA93DC4D486F40E/S1474746419000319a.pdf/interrogating-the-prevention-approach-of-the-housing-wales-act-2014-for-people-with-mental-health-needs-who-are-homeless.pdf> (Accessed: 05/09/2023).

Rokven, J., de Boer, G., Tolsma, J. and Ruiter, S. (2016). 'How Friend's Involvement in Crime Affects the Risk of Offending and Victimization', *European Journal of Criminology*, 14(6), pp.697-719. Available at: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1477370816684150> (Accessed: 04/11/2023).

Rubin, H. J. and Rubin, I. S. (2005). *Qualitative Interviewing: The Art of Hearing Data*. 2nd Edn. Available at: <https://methods.sagepub.com/book/qualitative-interviewing> (Accessed: 24/10/2023).

Sanders, B., Boobis, S., and Albanese, F. (2019). 'It Was Like a Nightmare' – The Reality of Sofa Surfing in Britain Today. Available at: https://www.crisis.org.uk/media/241555/it_was_like_a_nightmare_the_reality_of_sofa_surfing_in_britain_today_2019.pdf (Accessed: 04/11/2023).

Saunders, M., Lewis, P. & Thornhill, A., 2007. *Research Methods for Business Students*. Essex:Pearson Education Ltd.

Segal, E. (2006). *The Promise of Welfare Reform. Political Rhetoric and the Reality of Poverty in the Twenty-First Century*. Available at:

<https://www.taylorfrancis.com/books/edit/10.4324/9780203820254/promise-welfare-reform-elizabeth-segal> (Accessed: 05/09/2023).

Senedd Research (2023). Tackling homelessness: “a mountain that can feel impossible to climb”. Available at: <https://research.senedd.wales/research-articles/tackling-homelessness-a-mountain-that-can-feel-impossible-to-climb/> (Accessed: 05/09/2023).

Silverman, D. (2013). *Doing Qualitative Research A Practical Handbook*. 4th Edn. Available at: <https://research.gold.ac.uk/id/eprint/13622/> (Accessed: 24/10/2023).

Simkins, R. (2021). Housing Matters. Welsh Budget 2022/23. Available at: <https://sheltercymru.org.uk/politicians-have-listened-to-our-social-housing-campaign-now-its-time-for-them-to-take-action/> (Accessed: 14/09/2023).

Statistics for Wales (2023). Homelessness. Available at: <https://statswales.gov.wales/catalogue/housing/homelessness> (Accessed: 21/11/2023)

Statistics for Wales. (2022). Statistical First Release. Homelessness in Wales, 2021-22. Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2022-07/homelessness-in-wales-2021-22-002.pdf> (Accessed: 07/09/2023).

Sutherland, E. (2010). ‘Differential Association Theory and Differential Social Organization’, *Encyclopaedia of Criminological Theory*. Available at: [https://study.sagepub.com/system/files/Sutherland%2C Edwin H. - Differential Association Theory and Differential Social Organization.pdf](https://study.sagepub.com/system/files/Sutherland%2C%20Edwin%20H.%20-%20Differential%20Association%20Theory%20and%20Differential%20Social%20Organization.pdf) (Accessed: 29/09/2023).

The Centre for Social Justice (2022). *Levying Up. Ensuring Planning Reform Delivers Affordable Homes*. Available at: https://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/CSJ-Housing_Paper.pdf (Accessed: 04/11/2023).

The Wallich. (2022). New Temporary Rough Sleeping Legislation in Wales “A Sticking Plaster on a Failing System”. Available at: <https://thewallich.com/news/new-rough-sleeping-legislation-wales-sticking-plaster-failing-system/> (Accessed: 07/09/2023).

The Wallich. (2023). What We Do. Available at: <https://thewallich.com/> (Accessed: 29/09/2023).

Tourangeau, R., Rips, L. and Rasinski, K. (2000). *The psychology of survey response*. Cambridge University Press. Available at: <https://psycnet.apa.org/record/2000-03511-000> (Accessed: 26/10/2023).

Visher, C. A., Travis, J., & Winterfield, L. (2018). Returning home: Understanding the challenges of prisoner reentry. *Justice Quarterly*, 35(5), 867–894.

Watson, I., MacKenzie, F., Woodfine, L. and Azam, S. (2019). Making a Difference. Housing and Health: A Case for Investment. Available at:

<https://phw.nhs.wales/files/housing-and-health-reports/a-case-for-investment-report/>
(Accessed: 14/09/2023).

Webster, R. (2023). Many Prison Leavers Still Homeless on Release. Available at: <https://www.russellwebster.com/many-prison-leavers-still-homeless-on-release/#:~:text=The%20number%20of%20prison%20leavers%20in%20settled%20accommodation%20increased%20by,homeless%20although%20not%20rough%20sleeping> (Accessed: 04/11/2023).

Welsh Government (2023). Action plan - Relieving pressures on SAC river catchments to support delivery of affordable housing. Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2023-05/atn17358doc9.pdf>
(Accessed: 14/09/2023).

Welsh Government (2023). Allocation of accommodation and homelessness: guidance for local authorities. Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/allocation-accommodation-and-homelessness-guidance-local-authorities> (Accessed: 04/11/2023).

Welsh Government. (2023). Consultation on the White Paper on Ending Homelessness in Wales. Available at: https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2023-10/ending-homelessness-white-paper_0_0.pdf (Accessed: 20/11/2023).

Welsh Government. (2023). Homelessness Accommodation Provision and Rough Sleeping: June 2023. Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/homelessness-accommodation-provision-and-rough-sleeping> (Accessed: 25/09/2023).

Welsh Government. (2023). Renting Homes: Bed and Breakfast Accommodation Used for Homelessness Purposes. Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/renting-homes-bed-and-breakfast-accommodation-used-homelessness-purposes-html>
(Accessed: 25/09/2023).

Wengraf, T. (2001). *Qualitative Research Interviewing: Biographic Narrative and Semi-Structured Methods*. Sage Publications; London.

Williams, K., Poyser, J., and Hopkins, K. (2012). *Accommodation, homelessness and reoffending of prisoners: Results from the Surveying Prisoner Crime Reduction (SPCR) survey*. London: Ministry of Justice. Available at: <https://bit.ly/3R34Ygw>
(Accessed: 01/09/2023).

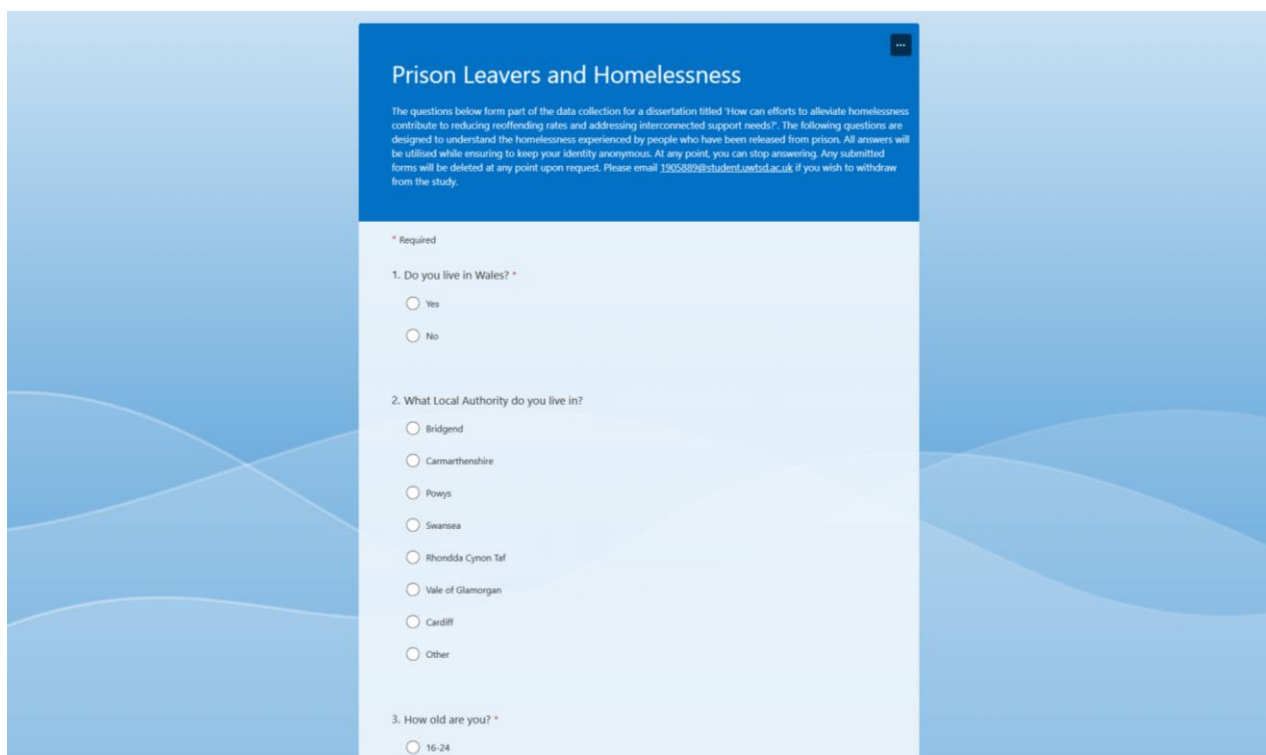
Appendices

Appendix A: Interview Questions

- What is your perspective on the ideology that offending behaviour and homelessness is interlinked?
- Please describe the key challenges of faced by prisoners when leaving prison and the challenges faced by the relevant services.
- What do you believe are the main factors contributing to homelessness and housing instability among individuals in Wales involved in offending behaviour?
- Could you share your opinion, based on your professional experience, regarding access to housing support services for people involved in the criminal justice system in Wales?
- In your opinion, what improvements could be made to the housing and homelessness support systems to reduce reoffending in Wales?
- How have local government policies and initiatives in Wales affected your experiences working within housing and offending behaviour, either positively or negatively?
- From your perspective, what kinds of rehabilitation and reintegration programs are needed to address the housing and homelessness issues faced by individuals with offending behaviour backgrounds in Wales?
- What are they key challenges that housing, homelessness and offender management services are facing at present?
- What are the key challenges that prison leavers are currently facing when they are at risk of or already experiencing homelessness? What are the trends that you have noticed?

Appendix B: Survey

Link to survey: <https://forms.office.com/e/5hy5W7wAzR>



The screenshot shows a survey form titled "Prison Leavers and Homelessness". The form is set against a blue background with white wavy lines. The title is in a dark blue box at the top. Below the title, there is a paragraph of text explaining the purpose of the survey. The form contains three questions, each with a "Required" asterisk. The first question is "1. Do you live in Wales? *", with radio button options for "Yes" and "No". The second question is "2. What Local Authority do you live in?", with radio button options for "Bridgend", "Carmarthenshire", "Powys", "Swansea", "Rhondda Cynon Taf", "Vale of Glamorgan", "Cardiff", and "Other". The third question is "3. How old are you? *", with a radio button option for "16-24".

Prison Leavers and Homelessness

The questions below form part of the data collection for a dissertation titled "How can efforts to alleviate homelessness contribute to reducing reoffending rates and addressing interconnected support needs?". The following questions are designed to understand the homelessness experienced by people who have been released from prison. All answers will be utilised while ensuring to keep your identity anonymous. At any point, you can stop answering. Any submitted forms will be deleted at any point upon request. Please email 1905889@student.uartsd.ac.uk if you wish to withdraw from the study.

* Required

1. Do you live in Wales? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

2. What Local Authority do you live in?

☐ Bridgend

☐ Carmarthenshire

☐ Powys

☐ Swansea

☐ Rhondda Cynon Taf

☐ Vale of Glamorgan

☐ Cardiff

☐ Other

3. How old are you? *

☐ 16-24

3. How old are you? *

☐ 16-24

☐ 25-30

☐ 31-40

☐ 41-50

☐ Over 50

4. Have you been to prison? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

5. When were you last convicted? *

Please input date (dd/MM/yyyy)

6. When were you last released from prison? *

Please input date (dd/MM/yyyy)

7. What was the nature of the offence(s) that you were last convicted of? *

☐ Alcohol

☐ Burglary

☐ Domestic abuse

☐ Drugs

☐ Driving offences

Please input date (dd/MM/yyyy)

7. What was the nature of the offence(s) that you were last convicted of? *

☐ Alcohol

☐ Burglary

☐ Domestic abuse

☐ Drugs

☐ Driving offences

☐ Murder

☐ Theft

☐ Manslaughter

☐ Physical harm to others (not domestic abuse)

☐ Sex offences

☐ Other

8. How many times have you been to prison in the past 12 months? *

☐ 0 times

☐ 1-2 times

☐ 2-3 times

☐ 4-5 times

☐ More than 5 times

☐ More than 5 times

9. How many times have you been to prison in the past 5 years? *

☐ 0 times

☐ 1-2 times

☐ 2-3 times

☐ 4-5 times

☐ More than 5 times

10. What was your housing situation before going to prison most recently? *

☐ Owner occupier

☐ Private rent: self-contained

☐ Private rent: House of Multiple Occupancy

☐ Private rent: lodging

☐ Living with friends

☐ Living with family

☐ Temporary accommodation

☐ Bail hostel

☐ Homeless shelter

☐ Social housing

☐ No Fixed Abode: sofa surfing

☐ No Fixed Abode: rough sleeping

☐ Other

11. What is your current housing situation? *

☐ Owner occupier

☐ Private rent: self-contained

☐ Private rent: House of Multiple Occupancy

☐ Private rent: lodging

☐ Living with friends

☐ Living with family

☐ Temporary accommodation

☐ Bail hostel

☐ Homeless shelter

☐ Social housing

☐ No Fixed Abode: sofa surfing

☐ No Fixed Abode: rough sleeping

☐ Other

12. Do you feel that you have any of the following support needs? *

☐ Drugs

☐ Mental health

☐ Victim of abuse

☐ Perpetrator of abuse

☐ Alcohol misuse

12. Do you feel that you have any of the following support needs? *

- ☐ Drugs
- ☐ Mental health
- ☐ Victim of abuse
- ☐ Perpetrator of abuse
- ☐ Alcohol misuse
- ☐ Physical health
- ☐ Reoccurring homelessness
- ☐ Poverty
- ☐ Lack of education/employment
- ☐ None
- ☐ Other

13. Are you receiving support from any of the following services? *

- ☐ Floating support
- ☐ Tenancy support
- ☐ Mental health
- ☐ Community drug teams
- ☐ Community alcohol teams
- ☐ Housing department - Council
- ☐ Social services
- ☐ Police - IOM

13. Are you receiving support from any of the following services? *

- ☐ Floating support
- ☐ Tenancy support
- ☐ Mental health
- ☐ Community drug teams
- ☐ Community alcohol teams
- ☐ Housing department - Council
- ☐ Social services
- ☐ Police - IOM
- ☐ Police - general
- ☐ Financial
- ☐ Independent housing advice (Shelter)
- ☐ Probation
- ☐ Other

14. Please feel free to write what you believe are the key reasons for your homelessness. *

Enter your answer

Submit

Never give out your password. [Report abuse](#)