

Assessment Two

Student name:	Ronke Olomola
Student ID:	1916047
Module name:	Community Care and Development
Module code:	BMHP6022
Lecturer name:	Jolly Nwankwo
Submission Date:	December 15 th , 2023
Word Count	2,169

Table of Content

	Page Number
Introduction	3
Interventions In Solving the Issue of Homelessness and Rough Sleeping in The London Borough of Harrow	4
Stake Holders in Eradicating Homelessness and Rough Sleeping	5
Barriers and Obstacles in Eradicating Homelessness ad Rough Sleepers in London Borough of Harrow	5
Theories Related to Homelessness and Rough Sleepers	6
Policies and Legislations Underpinning Homelessness and Rough Sleeping	7
Conclusion	8

Introduction

There are various communities that come together for various reasons, purposes, and agendas. These communities often work with their local authorities to achieve a goal or to achieve a desired result. Homelessness and rough sleeping are a problem that is affecting the whole of London, however for the purpose of this report the focus will be on The London borough of Harrow. A short overview of the homeless and rough sleepers' community in the London borough of Harrow main characteristics will be highlighted. This report will discuss and identify the health and social care needs in the homeless community. The actions and interventions needed to make the homeless community to having an improved health and social care will be expressed and identified. This report will discuss expended inclusive campaigns and detailing the use of media and social communications to promote to the homeless community the intervention suggested. Lastly constructive recommendations will be given to address the issue in the London Borough of Harrow.

A community is a group of people who come together for a cause or for an agenda which they all agree is important and worth standing for. Rayan (2020) defines a community as a group of individuals living in the same area or having a distinctive active characteristic in common. Community can sometimes be virtual for example apps such as club house, in this instance the community do not see each other face to face but they are still a community as they meet regularly virtually and discuss issues that are pressing, and feel are relevant to them. Business lab (2021) agrees with this line of thought and state that communities do not have to reside in the same area and gives the example of individuals that have the same professions coming together virtually to form a community.

The London borough of Harrow is situated in Northwest London and is under the Middlesex area. It has neighbouring borough such as Brent and Ealing close to it. The population of Harrow is 216,200. According to Census (2021) there has been a 9.3% increase in population. Asians have the highest population in the London Borough of Harrow. ONS (2023) state that Harrow borough have the following statistics: Asians 45%, Whites 36.5%, Blacks 7.3%. Other 7.2%, Mixed 3.8%. Varbes (2023) state that the life expectancy of individuals who live in The Harrow borough is 84 years, which is quite high.

Harrow is known to be one of the most ethnically diverse in London, with 130 languages are spoken and more than 70 different religions. Harrow is described to have a strong sense of community (Donaghy 2023). The rough sleepers in Harrow have increased over the years hence it is an issue that does need to be investigated, statistics shows 61 families lost their homes in the year 2011/12 and in the year 2015/16 363 families lost their homes. (Harrow council, 2016). Rough sleepers are individuals that, do not have fixed addresses and sleep at bus stops, in front of shops and those who live in front of underground stations. Public Health England (2020) agree with this line of thought and state that rough sleepers sleep outside in tents, doorways, and parks. It is important for individuals to have safe homes to live. Homeless and rough sleepers are often at risk of having poor health mentally and physically. Sleet and Francesutti (2021) explain that individuals who are rough sleepers are often at risk of having health issues such as HIV and AIDS.

Interventions In Solving the Issue of Homelessness and Rough Sleeping in The London Borough of Harrow

To solve the issue of homelessness and rough sleeping in Harrow, it is important for new homes that are affordable and accessible to be built. However, the council will need to provide these homes by investing in building these homes or by getting housing associations to provide these highly subsidised. Mitchell (2023) highlights that Harrow Council in conjunction with city hall have recently secured a £1.5 million funding for building affordable homes for the populace of Harrow Council. This shows that Harrow Borough needs to invest in more homes for its populaces. However, there is still room for improvement and this project needs to be a continuous intervention and not to be a one off. As statistics shows that the Firm foundation which is a local charity based in Harrow reports that the number of those using winter shelter in the year 2011 have increased to 47 in the year 2019. (Firm foundation, 2023). The provision of policies and legislations that are applicable and can assist in lessening the occurrence of homelessness and rough sleeping would be a great step. There are policies and legislations that have been put in place, but these have not been as effective as they should be as each year there has been an increase in the number of individuals who are rough sleepers and those who are homeless.

Digital Technology is one of the tools that are very important in solving the problem of homelessness and rough sleeping in the London borough of Harrow. This is because communication is important for the affected community which is the homeless and rough sleepers' community to be aware of the steps needed to eradicate this problem, this would be

carried out via Twitter, Facebook and instagram. Say (2020) Highlights that Harrow council has successfully transformed to digital services, which involves its populaces to utilise online services as it is much more cost effective. Hence the need for homeless individuals and rough sleepers to gain access to information as regards them been able to acquire new homes or assistance in getting back on their feet. The increase of food bank and soups kitchens will assist in feeding the homeless and the rough sleepers, as it is not uncommon for such individuals not to have hot cooked meals for days. Not only should soup kitchens be available during the winter months but all year around,

Stake Holders in Eradicating Homelessness and Rough Sleeping

The stake holders in the eradication of homelessness and rough sleepers are the following: The rough sleepers and homeless community as these are the individuals that are directly affected, and it is only fair for them to have an input in the decisions made. Another important stake holder is The London Borough of Harrow who approve new implementations or changes to the situation as the borough must give their go ahead also it is the borough that will finance the building of affordable homes. The next stakeholder is The National Health Service find it difficult to provide care to the homeless and rough sleepers that other individuals of Harrow borough can receive such as screenings, immunisations, and vaccinations. Cream et al (2020) explain that people who sleep rough face barriers to accessing health and care. Another important stake holder is the Housing Associations who work closely with London borough of Harrow to provide homes that are affordable by the council giving subsidy for the rent for the Harrow populaces who are finding it difficult to pay their rent. Lastly Non-governmental Organisations and Homeless Charity Organisations are also stake holders in this project as they will be able to sign post individuals who approach them for help. For example, giving useful phone numbers, email addresses or websites that can assist these individuals in getting their accommodation.

Barriers and Obstacles in Eradicating Homelessness ad Rough Sleepers in London Borough of Harrow

There are some barriers and obstacles in tackling the eradication of homelessness and rough sleepers. Firstly, lack of funding once London Harrow borough does not provide the funding it will only be a plan and it will not be executed. Secondly Poor communication and the lack of communication. The community that are been addressed are the homeless and rough sleepers. Some of these individuals may be sleeping in their cars and still have access to

their phones and have laptops hence they are able to have access to Facebook, instagram and twitter where most of the information or updates as regards new developments can be seen. Andrews and Botting (2020) highlight that the speech, language, and communication needs of rough sleepers in London could be an uphill task. Rough sleepers may not be computer literate and not having access to digital technology hence this becomes a barrier. If the information given to Harrow borough populations is only communicated in English Language those who cannot read or write in this language will be left out. Statistics show that in Harrow 1% of the population cannot speak English Language (Harrow Council, 2013). Another obstacle could be the issue of lack of continuous funding, Harrow borough may decide to provide funding for building affordable homes for a few years, and then decide that the borough can no longer fund this project as it is expensive and the borough has more pressing issues for example the need to prioritise other projects like the prevention of crime, in that case the problem of homelessness and rough sleeping becomes an issue.

Theories Related to Homelessness and Rough Sleepers

In appendix 1 a diagram of the Abraham Maslow Theory Mcleod (2023) demonstrates that this theory is very relevant to the homeless and rough sleepers' community as housing and shelter is one of the basic needs of an individual in the Maslow theory the lowest level of the pyramid which is the psychological level. The Conflict Theory is also a relevant theory as it highlights that there is a conflict between economic classes, those who are rich and well to do and those who are poor such as the homeless and the rough sleepers. Ultis (2014) explain that the conflict theory suggests that there are two types of people the owners who exploit the second type of people that are the workers by denying them of basic amenities such as food and shelter. The homeless and rough sleepers are denied safe shelter and sometimes decent feeding. Finally, in appendix 2 a diagram of the Bronfenbrenner Ecological Theory which stipulates that an individual is in the centre of five rings the last ring which is the chronosystem focuses on the experiences that individuals encounter in life such as loss of jobs or losing one's home has a direct influence on an individual. Cherry and Susman (2023) agree with this line of thought and highlight that the chronosystem is the ring which refers to the challenges that individuals pass through in life.

Policies and Legislations Underpinning Homelessness and Rough Sleeping

The homeless reduction act (2017) This is a legislation passed in England to assist in preventing homelessness and to assist in making sure that individuals stay in their homes as much as possible and not lose their homes. (Wilson and Barton, 2022) Human Rights Act (1998) - Every human being has a right to shelter and security and should feel secured and safe. This is not a want but a need. Equality Act (2010) Individuals that are homeless should not be negatively discriminated against in society, hence it is important that individuals do not feel socially isolated due to not having a roof over their head. Mental Health Act (1983) Individuals who become homeless and are rough sleepers may get to the point that they become depressed or having other mental issues such as anxiety and this act is in place to make sure that such vulnerable individuals are given the assistance and support that they need.

Recommendation and Conclusion

Homelessness and rough sleeping are an issue that affects the whole of Harrow borough. The fact that individuals are not able to walk freely around the borough without been disturbed by the rough sleepers begging for money and food could be quite uncomfortable hence the need for them to be ways in putting a stop to this. Harrow Borough did at some point issue fines to individuals who were giving problems to other individuals. Mitchell (2023) explain that various fines were issued to individuals disturbing the peace of the borough including rough sleepers. This would not work as the rough sleepers do not have money to pay the fines.

In conclusion this report has discussed the community of the homeless and rough sleepers in the London borough of Harrow. The demography of Harrow has been highlighted. The report has also discussed the interventions that could be implemented to address the issue of homelessness and rough sleeping. The Abraham Maslow Theory, Conflict Theory and Bronfenbrenner Ecological Theory have also been related to the issue of homelessness. The policies and legislations that underpin homelessness and rough sleeping have also been explored. The obstacles and barriers of implementing the eradication of rough sleeping and homelessness were also discussed. The issue of homelessness and rough sleeping has been a problem for years in Harrow and it appears that the problem is increasing, even though the borough has provided various ways in tackling the problem. There is still a lot of work that needs to be done, for the problem to be solved permanently.

Reference

- Andrews, L., Botting, N., (2020). *The speech, language, and communication needs of rough sleepers in London* <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32909664/> (Accessed on 23/10/2023)
- Business Lab,. (2021). *What do you mean by the community?* <https://www.businesslab.co.nz/insights/what-is-community> (Accessed on 23/10/2023)
- Census (2021),. *How life has changed in Harrow The population passed a quarter of a million* <https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censusareachanges/E09000015/> (Accessed on 23/10/2023)
- Cherry, K., Susman, D,. (2023). *A comprehensive guide to the Bronfenbrenner Ecological model* <https://www.verywellmind.com/bronfenbrenner-ecological-model-7643403> (Accessed on 12/12/2023)
- Cream, J., Fenney, D., Williams, E., Baylis, A., Dahir, S., Wyatt, (2020). *Delivering health and care for people who sleep rough going above and beyond* <https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-02/Delivering-health-care-people-sleep-rough.pdf> (Accessed on 23/10/2023)
- Donaghy, S,. (2023). *Harrow's population passed a quarter of a million-harrow* online <https://harrowonline.org/2023/04/03/harrows-population-passed-a-quarter-of-a-million/> (Accessed on 23/10/2023)
- Equality Act (2010). *legislation .gov.uk* <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents> (Accessed on 23/10/2023)
- Firm Foundation (2023). <https://www.harrowtowncentre.co.uk/retailer/firm-foundation/> (Accessed on 23/11/2023)
- Harrow Council,. (2016). *Homelessness drivers and land and supply issues in harrow a report by the homelessness scrutiny review challenge panel* <https://www.harrow.gov.uk/downloads/file/23501/scrutiny-homelessness-drivers-and-land-and-supply-issues-in-harrow-report+@oct-2016-.pdf> (Accessed on 23/10/2023)
- Harrow Council (2013). *Main language and proficiency in English 2011 census second release* <https://www.harrow.gov.uk/downloads/file/23435/2011-census-second-release-main-language-and-proficiency-in-english> (Accessed on 23/10/2023)

Harrow Council Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019 – 2024
<https://www.harrow.gov.uk/downloads/file/26994/homelessness-and-rough-sleeping-strategy-2019-with-title.pdf> (Accessed on 23/10/2023)

Human Rights Act (1998) *Legislation.gov.uk*
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/42/contents> (Accessed on 23/10/2023)

McLeod, S., (2023). *Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs*
<https://www.simplypsychology.org/maslow.html> (Accessed on 23/10/2023)

Mental Health Act (1983) *MIND* <https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/legal-rights/mental-health-act-1983/about-the-mha-1983/> (Accessed on 23/10/2023)

Mitchell, C., (2023). *Harrow Council secures £1.5 million funding for groundbreaking housing programme* <https://harrowonline.org/2023/06/02/harrow-council-secures-1-5m-funding-for-groundbreaking-housing-programme/> (Accessed on 23/10/2023)

Mitchell, C., (2023). *Over 12 fines issued in Harrow Town Centre* <https://harrowonline.org/2023/06/05/over-12-fines-issued-in-harrow-town-centre/> (Accessed on 12/12/2023)

Office for National Statistics, (2022). *How the population changed in Harrow: census 2021* <https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censuspopulationchange/E09000015/> Accessed on 23/10/2023)

Public Health England (2020). *Health matters : rough sleeping*
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-matters-rough-sleeping/health-matters-rough-sleeping> (Accessed on 26/11/2023)

ResearchGate (2023). An adapted illustrated model of a Bronfenbrenner ecological model (Accessed on 12/12/2023)
<https://www.google.com/search?q=picture+of+bronfenbrenner%27s+ecological+model&rlz=>

Rayan, C., (2020),. *What does community mean to you* Evanta a garner company
<https://www.evanta.com/resources/cxo/blog/what-does-community-mean-to-you-> (Accessed on 23/10/2023)

Say, M., (2020). Harrow Council takes version 1 for ICT support UK Authority digital data technology for the public <https://www.ukauthority.com/articles/harrow-council-takes-on-version-1-for-ict-support/> (Accessed on 23/10/2023)

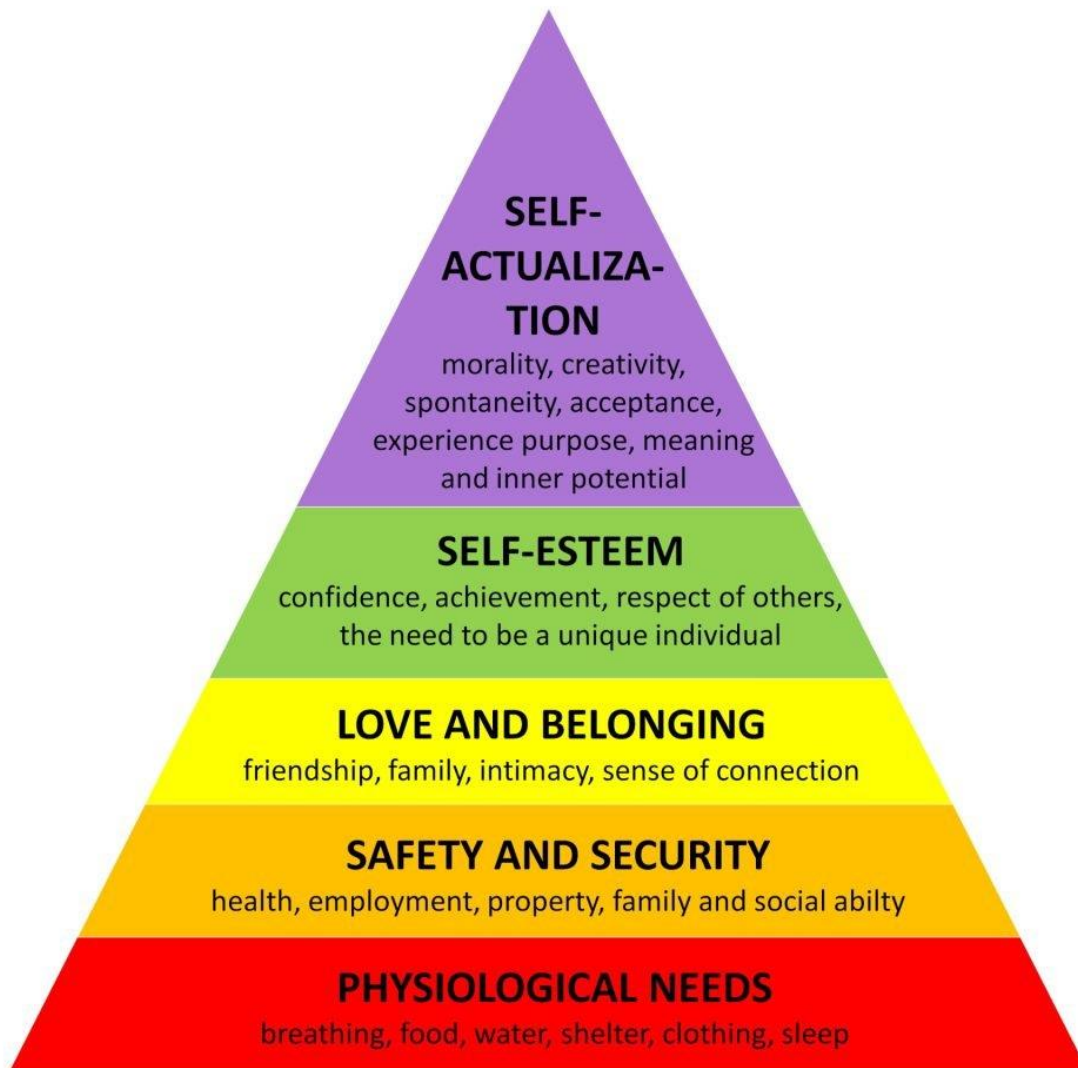
Sleet, A. D., Francesutti, H. L., (2021). *Homelessness and public health a focus on strategies and solutions* <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8583397/> (Accessed on 23/10/2023)

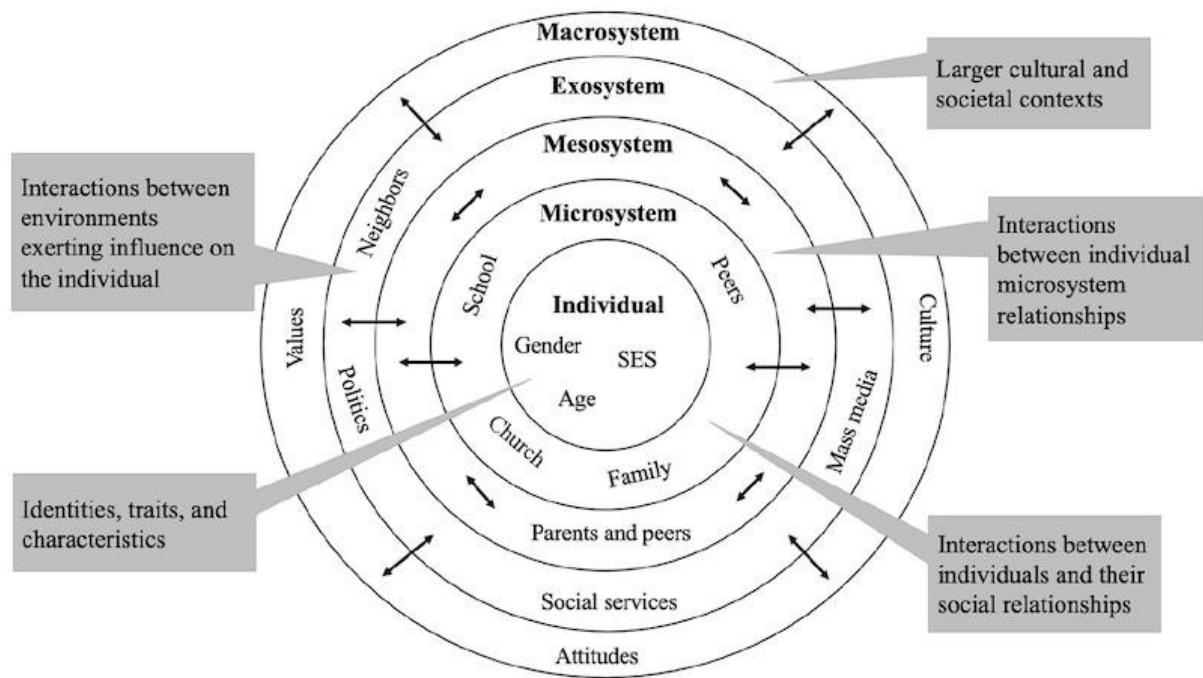
Ultis., (2014). *An analysis of homelessness using the conflict theory* <https://www.ultius.com/ultius-blog/entry/an-analysis-of-homelessness-using-the-conflict-theory.html> (Accessed on 12/12/2023)

Varbes, (2023),. *Demographics of Harrow* <https://www.varbes.com/demographics/harrow-demographics> (Accessed on 23/10/2023)

Wilson, W., Barton, C., (2022) *Statutory homelessness England* <https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN01164/SN01164.pdf> Accessed on 23/10/2023)

Abraham Maslow Theory of Needs Mcleod (2023) appendix 1





An adapted illustrated model of a Bronfenbrenner ecological model ResearchGate (2023)

Appendix 2

