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ASSESSMENT 1 (Class Presentation)

Homelessness and Rough Sleeping In The London Borough of Harrow

AIM

- This presentation will explore the issue of homelessness and rough sleeping in the borough of Harrow
- Who do Harrow borough qualify as homeless and a rough sleepers
- What are the barriers and obstacles of achieving the goal to solving homelessness and rough sleeping
- How can digital technology assist in tackling homelessness and rough sleeping in Harrow borough

under CC

Introduction

- **What is a Community** : A community is a group of individuals that come together for a common goal. They could be working together, living in the same neighbourhood. It could also mean they are virtually connected for example club house. Simon (2023) similarly defines a community as a group of people who share something in common and could have shared this in the past.

- **What is Community Development** : This is when a community team up together and identify what will bring progress and improve the status of a group of people. Birmingham Voluntary Service Council (2021) explains that community development allows individuals collectively make changes to things that are important to them.

London Borough Of Harrow Demography

Harrow online (2023

Harrow is situated in North- West

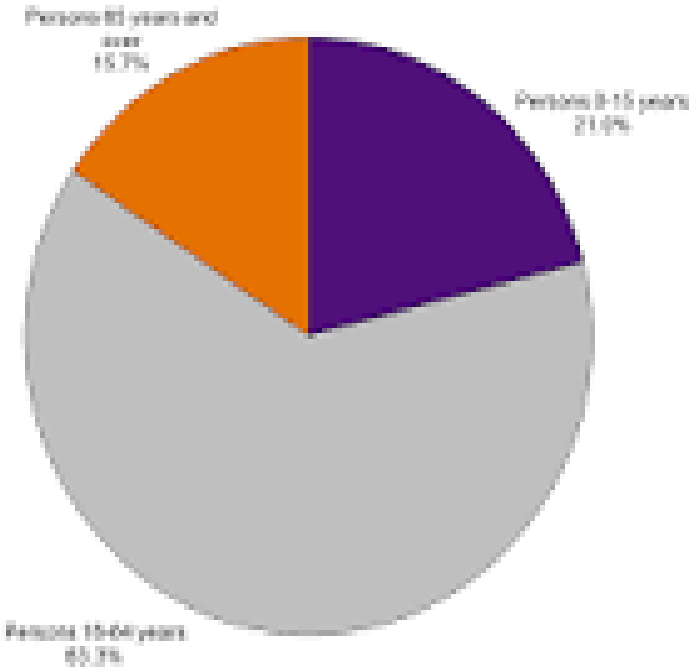
About 243,500 populaces reside in Harrow

Harrow have a high population of elderly people than young people

(ONS, 2023

Religion: Due to the fact that many nations reside in Harrow there are various religions practiced in Harrow, such as Christianity , Muslim, Judaism, Hindu and Sheik Census (2021) states that Christianity is the highest religion practiced in Harrow are 33% followed by Hindu which is 25.8%.

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW DEMOGRAPHY

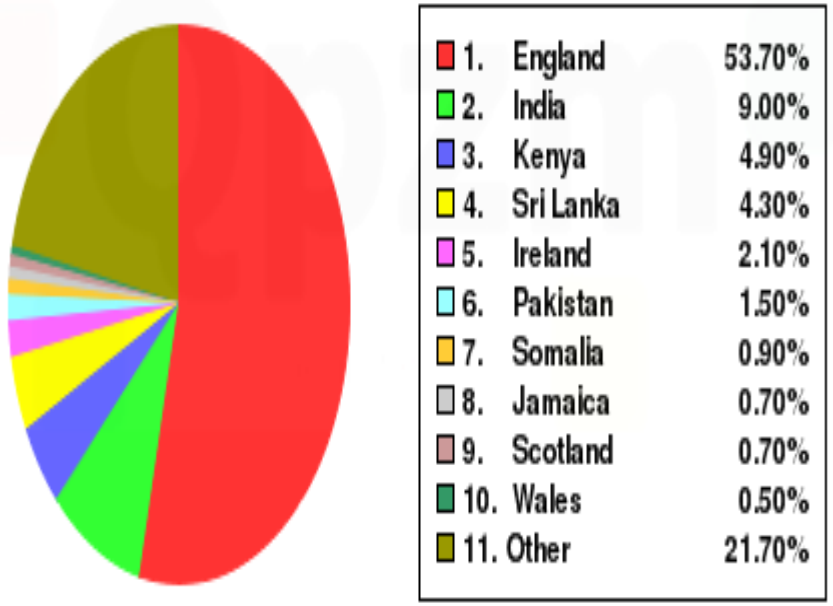


- 20.6% of Harrow residents are under the age of 16
- 64% of the resident are working age (16 – 64)
-
- 15.2% are 65 years and older
- (Annual Data Report, 2017/18)

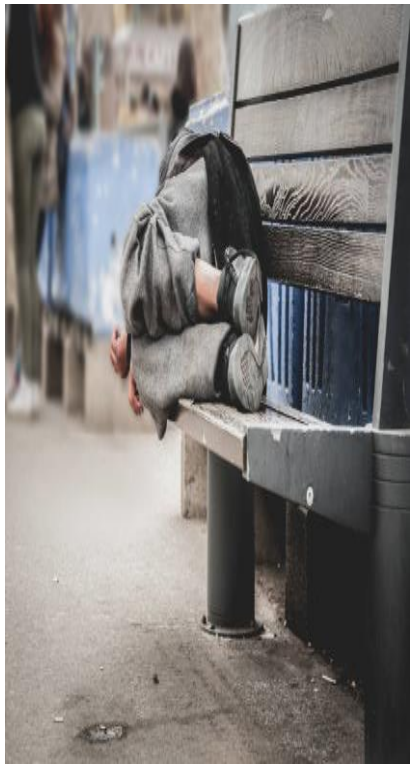
Demonography of London Borough of Harrow

The Population of Harrow Borough where they were born
The diagram below shows that 53.7% of the population were born in England

(Census, 2011)



Community Development Issue: Homelessness And Rough Sleeping in the London Borough of Harrow



Harrow online (2023)

Homelessness and rough sleeping are issues that affects the whole of London, however for this presentation Harrow borough will be focused upon. Shaw (2018) explains that 604 families are homeless in the London borough of harrow. This demonstrates the problem that housing is a big issue in this borough.

There are various reasons for individuals becoming homeless Harrow Borough (2023) defines those who are homeless as Individuals living with friends or family need the person to leave and living in a very short-term accommodation, when there is a risk of violence in a person's home squatting and living in a very poor condition that affects their health and cannot be rectified. Those individuals that are at risk of losing their home in the next 8 weeks and those having issues such as domestic violence are legally considered to be homeless. (Shelter, 2023). It is homelessness that leads to rough sleeping, in which people are forced to sleep on street corners, in front of shops and at bus stops.

Harrow Council Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019 – 2024

Below is the statistics of rough sleepers and homeless individuals that show a huge rise from 1 to 13 people from the year 2012 to 2018. (Harrow Council Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy, 2019 – 2024

Year	Number of Rough Sleepers
2012	1
2013	2
2014	4
2015	6
2016	10
2017	10
2018	13

London Borough of Harrow
Key Facts:

Harrow online (2023)

Harrow is ranked the 6th least deprived borough of The 33 London boroughs. There has been an increase in the number of households approaching Harrow council for housing the figure reached 2,000 in the year 2014 – 2015.

There has been an increase of 25% of the number of service users requesting advice Over housing issues in the last 5 years (Policy Team Harrow Council, 2016).

The above information shows how Harrow council has changed over the years and the need for housing issues in this borough to be taken more seriously and addressed.

What Causes Homelessness and Rough Sleeping

Domestic violence – Individuals having to leave their homes due to abuse and violence hence must leave their homes to live in temporary accommodations if they can seek help or are sign posted to the right department

Loss of employment – Individuals unable to pay their rent due to lack of income and loss of earnings for example during the covid 19 period when a lot of people lost their jobs.

Financial problems- Individuals having various other financial commitments which makes paying regular rent to be difficult especially those who rent with private landlords these could lead to having tenants to pay very high rents.

Stakeholders to be involved in the program

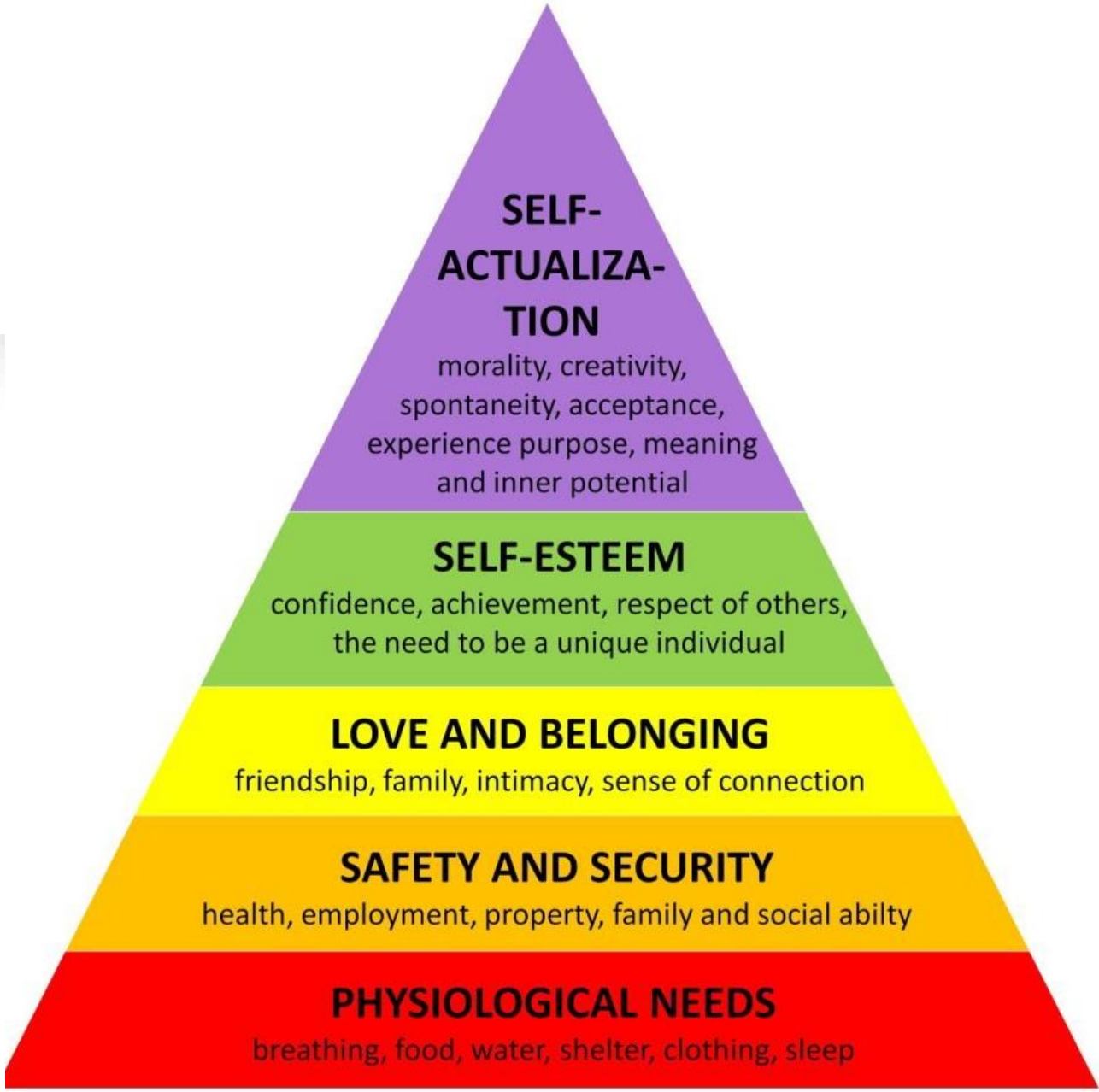
- Harrow council will be needed as they will need to approve such a project
- Housing associations that work closely with harrow council
- National health service to work closely with the campaign to let the homeless people gain access to necessary screenings and treatments such as vaccinations and screenings which other individuals in the borough can gain access to
- Homeless and rough sleepers in Harrow Borough
- Community Police

The Theory Relating To The Homeless and Rough Sleepers

Abraham Maslow Theory of Hierarchy of needs

This theory explains that shelter is one of the basic needs of individuals hence it is not a luxury but a necessity

(Mcleod, 2023)



The Effect of The Homelessness and Rough Sleepers On Harrow Borough

- An increase of mental health issues on the affected individuals
- An increase on health issues especially during the winter months
- Breakdown in meaningful relationships due to shame and individuals isolating themselves
- Social isolation and exclusion due to these group of individuals not having a fix address hence for example when census are carried out they will not be added to the head count
- Individuals found in the street corners begging and disturbing other residence in the borough

Policies and Legislations

Homelessness Legislation (2002)

The United Kingdom Government stated that all boroughs must have plans and strategies in place to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping. (Gov.UK, 2023)

Equality Act (2010)

Human Rights Act (1998)

Mental Health Act (1983)

Barriers and Obstacles to Prevent The End To Homelessness and Rough Sleeping

Financial issues - Harrow borough may not have budget assigned for this kind of project or may believe that more pressing and needed projects need to be addressed

Getting across to the right audience - Those who are in this community may not be easy to reach since they do not have fixed abodes

Lack of Communication/Language barrier- Not everyone in Harrow understands English Language, hence this may cause some of the desired community who are affected with rough sleeping and homelessness not to receive the information that is important to them. Harrow Council (2016) highlight that 1% of Harrow borough's population cannot communicate in English Language judging by the census carried out in 2011. This is a large amount of the population.

Lack of ongoing Funding – The initial funding for building affordable homes may be provided but if not continued then this curial project maybe aborted due to this.

Digital Media and Technology

Performing a digital campaign to create awareness for the homeless individuals in the Harrow Borough is a very effect way to create awareness. Flood (2019) highlights that 90% of problem solving for Harrow council residents is now done by self-service as for the past five years there has been a reduction of the old fashion face to face service. This demonstrates how much Harrow Council depends on technology in communicating with its populace by using emails, face book and twitter

Digital Media and Technology

Harrow is known to be one of the members of the West London Alliance which is a digital programme for the West London area which focuses on 5G investment and “Borough Plan”. (Harrow Council, 2023). The borough plan aim to make sure that the whole Harrow borough are enlightened and knowledgeable when it comes to technology and where this is not taking place the populaces can be educated, this will help in bridge the gap of inequalities as regards technology.

Recommendations To Tackle Homelessness And Rough Sleeping in Harrow Borough

THE BUILDING OF AFFORDABLE HOMES FOR HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS IN HARROW

BRIDGING THE GAP AS REGARDS INEQUALITIES AMONG INDIVIDUALS LIVING IN HARROW WHEN IT COMES TO HEALTH AND SOCIAL AMENITIES

Recommendations To Tackle Homelessness And Rough Sleeping in Harrow Borough

- Introducing policies that are more down to earth and more applicable to the problem of homelessness and rough sleeping in Harrow.
- Getting the affected homeless and rough sleeping community more involved in the policies that are introduced hence making the polices more fit for purpose.
- An increase of food banks in Harrow borough is important as this would help immensely the homeless and rough sleepers.

Conclusion

- Harrow borough like other boroughs in London have the issue of homelessness and rough sleepers
- Digital Technology is an important tool to facilitate the eradication of homelessness and rough sleeping in Harrow
- There are barriers and obstacles to solving the problem of homelessness and rough sleeping
- Homelessness and rough sleeping does not only affect these group of people but the whole of the borough is affected
- Homelessness and rough sleepers can affect the health of these people if the problem prolongs.

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Questions