HOMELESSNESS SOLUTIONS

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Introduction

My E-portfolio will cover artifacts 2 and 4 and it would be centered around solving the issue of homelessness. The information below is an original idea that I have come up with to totally eradicate homelessness in a very rich and well-developed nation like the UK. I have done extensive research or reading on this issue, but nothing looks like my idea.

The causes of homelessness are generally described as both structural or personal and can be interrelated or linked to one another.

The following are structural factors for homelessness:

Structural factors like homeless people are having nowhere to sleep or stay. Sleeping rough or sleeping on the street. (Shelter, 2018)

Ill health can be a cause or reason for rough sleeping, though it is not constantly recognized as the trigger of homelessness. For example, being unhealthy may contribute to job loss or relationship breakdown, which on the other hand can end up in homelessness.

Study shows that people who are unhealthy are more likely to be homeless than those who are healthy. They often go through the most significant health inequalities. The longer an individual experiences homelessness more so in young adulthood, it is likely that their fitness and well-being can be at risk. (NHS, n.d)

It is common for people who had experienced long-term homelessness to have two or more disorders or diseases. Statistics show that 32 years is the mean age of death for homeless people, while it stands at 42 years for the rest of the population. (job.ie, n.d)

Homelessness can be legally defined as where a household has no home or anywhere available for them to live. Sleeping rough is not the only form of homelessness, and this problem is not only found in expensive cities such as London or New York but can be found all over the world. (Noor, n.d)

Artifact Task 4: Flyer

(shelter, 2018) (Public Health England,2019) (Job.ie, n.d)

Homelessness is one of the biggest social problems in our society today. There are so many factors responsible for this: When people are unable to pay their rent because of poverty and unemployment can lead to homelessness. When people leave care centers, prisons, or from military service are likely to be homeless if they have no immediate support.

There are so many governmental and non-governmental organizations dealing with this matter. But until now, there has been no perfect solution to this very important social problem. I have done extensive research on this issue and found out that there are things we could do to eradicate homelessness once and for all.

My idea is for government/policymakers to make comprehensive and well-defined legislation to end this problem.

Firstly, I am suggesting that all stakeholders like the government, medical professionals, social workers, and mental health professionals work together as a team for the common good of these people.

Secondly, Government should introduce a scheme wherein social workers, friends, and families with spare rooms or accommodation to house these people for an incentive or pay. People will be interested to take part in ideas like this knowing that it would come with no financial burden on them. Every citizen or resident should be given the opportunity to be part of the initiative.

But this will not work without considering their health, and psychological/mental issues. That is why I initially mentioned the issue of stakeholders. For this idea to work, homeless people should be screened and treated for any health-related, or mental issues before they could be housed by social workers or the public. Those who are physically challenged or with special needs should be housed by social care professionals.

The 6 points plan for my idea are as follows:

1. **Registration:** The government, local council and relevant organizations, social care workers, homeless organizations, and volunteers, should go out to register all homeless people. Get their personal details and try to establish the reason why they are homeless, for how long they have been homeless if they have families or close friends. This process is very important because it gives you an idea of how many people are going to be processed for the scheme

2. **Reception Centre**: Bring them to a reception facility where they can be assessed or screened for any health, physical, or phycological/mental issues. It is pivotal for this process to be given all the attention it deserves to eliminate any risk that may be associated with their individual circumstances. It is obvious that some people who have been homeless for a long time may need help, and most could have health-related issues. Common health issues of homeless people like mental ill health, drug use, alcohol abuse, violence, pain, hunger and nutrition, injuries, infections, Respiratory issues due to cold, dental problems, etc. (Emma, 2015)
3. **Screening**: The screening process, will uncover any health-related issues, like physical, psychological, and mental health. At this stage, all those who need immediate treatment or intervention should be taken and in need brought to the appropriate facilities for a test for potential health disorders or diseases. (Autumn, 2017)

4.

5. **Treatment and Rehabilitation:** Once the above measures have been taken, and all those with individual health issues identified, they should the referred to appropriate health professionals for treatment. Those who are on drugs, alcohol, or have mental issues should be taken to a rehabilitation facility. Alcohol and drug abuse or addiction is a psychological problem that needs a significant amount of time and expertise to transform those affected back to normal life.

6. **Accommodation:** This is the most important part of my idea, which is to eradicate homelessness. Health and social care professionals, family members, the community, or anyone who is willing to be part of this scheme should now come forward and take these people to their homes. There are thousands or more people in the UK with unused spare rooms or accommodation which they are willing to offer for this scheme if the right measures are put in place.

7. **Incentive:** We all know that money encourages and motivates us to do something. So many people would love to take part in ideas like this, but in most cases, they are not financially strong to do so. Offering support or incentive (money), will eliminate the fear of burden for everyone. Where there is financial security, the scheme will be a success. All authorities need to do is to give assurance to the people that they receive full backing including financial support.

Artifact Task 2

Blog

www.homelessmess.sl/solution.org

Why Preventing homelessness Vital?

Mohamed Turay

Wednesday, 13 April 2022

Homelessness is preventable if we take the required measures to stop it before it happens to people.

There are so many factors responsible for this social problem. It can be structural or personal reasons for homelessness.

There are various housing circumstances that can be considered as an example of homelessness:

1. Living in an overcrowded house, campsite/caravan, a house that has been declared unfit for habitation.

2. Without a home, sleeping on the street (rough sleeping)

3. Temporal accommodation or a shelter

4. Living in a house where there is domestic violence, the threat of eviction, or living with family or friends but sleeping on the sofa.

Housing affordability and availability, poverty, joblessness or insecure job, no access to social security

Individual reasons like mental health issues because of childhood experiences hate crime, abuse, harassment, hate crime, violence, neglect, gambling, drug, and alcohol addiction, refugees, relation breakdown, the experience of prison or care. (Public Health England, 2019)

My idea is based on extensive research that I have done through reading government and non-governmental websites, Charity organizations, and other relevant agencies that deal with homelessness. But None has offered a deeper or more precise solution involving the community or social care professional's participation. Allowing the community and care workers to accommodate rough sleepers, is the perfect option for solving this social problem.

I am therefore encouraging bloggers to engage with me to catch the attention of government, policymakers, or relevant organizations to influence them to strongly consider my idea and implement it to eradicate homelessness.

There are so many organizations that are fighting homelessness, but the problem still exists and as a matter of fact, it is getting worse.

Let's take an example from people who served in the military, physical or mentally challenged people, who are faced with homelessness. Is it their fault or is it a structural problem? In most cases, it is not their fault. I think structural issues might be responsible for this problem. To my knowledge, I know the government has all the resources to tackle this problem.

Especially ex-servicemen deserve to be looked after because they have done everything in their power to protect us. It would be totally unfair to ignore them after sacrificing a lot for us.

Veterans who served in the military, somehow find it difficult to find accommodation for themselves once they leave service. Because so many of them joined the service while they were still leaving with their parents, and upon completion of their service, they have got no idea about the process of getting a home for themselves or making the transition from military to civilian life.

There should also be a shift, from the traditional or usual way we treat people who were criminals/prisoners before. Some of them need a second chance in life to be able to bounce back from their mistakes. The system is totally against them because history shows us that there are so many people in this world who have transformed their lives from once being a criminal to very useful and productive citizens in society.

I have had the opportunity to have conversations with some of these rough sleepers, they all gave different accounts as to why they are homeless. I was surprised to know that there are major and minor reasons for homelessness in the UK. For example, some people are homeless simply because they are ashamed to ask for help because they are used to living an independent life.

A am looking forward to seeing you support my idea. If you are interested and would like to share my idea, please follow this link below to share and support my idea.
www.homelessmess.sl/solution.org

Conclusion

The government has been tackling homelessness over the years via policies and legislation. However, this social problem requires a long-term policy option such as modification of the benefits system through new legislation, and the construction of cheaper homes that can be accessed by those in need. Economic opportunities should be provided for everyone.

Homelessness is caused by so many factors that I have already mentioned above. A lot has been done to tackle this social problem, but it appears as if rough sleepers are on the increase. As we all know, homelessness is depriving people of a basic standard of living and deprives them of the dignity we all deserve.

That is why my idea can be used as a short or long-term solution to fixing this very serious problem in our society. From the experience we have learned from Covid-19, people now know the worth of humanity. Today, most of mankind understands that we need each other and that coming together and reaching out to the most vulnerable is the right thing to do.

Homelessness is a social problem that can be eradicated If we work together using my idea as an added solution to the already existing options to put an end to the problem.

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