

# Multiple Disadvantage: The Complexities of Support Systems vs the Complexities of People's Lives

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### The Nature of Funded Initiatives

Drug and alcohol treatment programmes and approaches

Out and in-reach work

Advocacy and referral

Collaboration and/or multi-agency working (and colocated services)

PIE and trauma-informed approaches

Distinctive staffing structures, including the use of specialists

# **Understanding Needs**

#### Prevalence and effects of trauma, multiple disadvantage and cooccurring conditions

 Co-occurring conditions in the same category (for example, multiple mental health conditions)

Various stages on the 'recovery pathway'

#### Distinctive sample with shared experiences:

- Broad range of ages and ethnicities
- 1 in 4 are women experiencing homelessness intersecting disadvantages that they face
- Migrant populations represented including groups with no recourse to public funds

Experienced workers speak about increased complexity

### Achievements



Rethinking outcomes

More planned service access, less crisis

Rapid access through processes and into recovery

Harm reduction and safeguarding

Increased 'reach'

Longer-term and more meaningful engagement

#### Factors Influencing Positive Outcomes



### RSDATG and System Change

# Philosophy

- Recognise strengths
- •Enable self-determination
- Promote choice

### Values

- Non-judgemental
- Non-conditional
- Avoid labels

# Support

- Individualised and informed
- Co-created plans and activities

### Timeframes

- Open-ended support
- Accepting ups and downs
- Continuity of support

# Measuring

- Jointly determine outcomes
- •Reframe the indicators of progress
- Value the impact of relationship building

### Key Challenges

#### Recruitment

- · skills deficit
- pay and reward
- flexibility

#### Access to suitable accommodation

 at all levels in the pathway (though vast pathway improvements in some areas)

#### Access to suitable residential rehab

#### Access to mental health therapies

#### The need for wider systems change

- ... in a sustained way
- ... to overcome clashes, cultures and allegiances

# Some Key Actions



# People's Stories



# Service User Feedback

Building trust

Persistence, consistence

Non-judgemental and compassionate support

Empowerment and decision-making

Flexibility and responsivity

Recognition of step-change

For some, notable impact of Everyone In