

## The Access Point, Edinburgh

<b>Theme:</b>	Homelessness and Mental Health
<b>Country:</b>	Edinburgh, Scotland
<b>Name of Project:</b>	Edinburgh Homeless Practice (The Access Point)
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<b>What is innovative about this project?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>∞ Housing, Social Work, Health and Mental Health services housed under one roof and working together.</li> <li>∞ Homeless people have direct access to mental health services via a Community Psychiatric Nurse (CPN) if they identify this as a need</li> <li>∞ Drop-in service – no appointment needed</li> <li>∞ Recognised as unique service in Scotland – ongoing project.</li> </ul>
<b>Project History &amp; Aims:</b>	Established by City of Edinburgh Council in response to difficulties homeless people had accessing mainstream mental health services. Homeless people can access 'one-stop-shop' for housing, social work, health and mental health issues, without the need for lengthy referral times and moving between different organisations.
<b>Target Group(s):</b>	Any homeless person who identifies themselves as in need of mental health support: particularly homeless people with complex needs (dual diagnosis)
<b>Main approaches to work:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>∞ Multi-disciplinary – CPN works alongside housing support staff, social workers, doctors involved with client to help provide best solutions to homelessness issues</li> <li>∞ CPN can visit client in accommodation (e.g. B&amp;B, hostel) if they want.</li> <li>∞ CPN provides counselling and emotional and practical support</li> <li>∞ CPN can help ensure client has access to mainstream mental health support when they move on from homelessness</li> </ul>
<b>Funds, staffing &amp; other resources (inputs)</b>	Funded by City of Edinburgh Council in line with recommendations outlined in Council Homelessness Strategy regarding homeless individuals with mental health issues.
<b>Main activities (outputs)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>∞ One-to-one counselling</li> <li>∞ Inter-disciplinary approach taking into account work being carried out by doctors, housing support staff and social workers to offer appropriate housing options to client taking into account mental health needs</li> </ul>
<b>Impact on people who are homeless:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>∞ Direct access to personalised mental health service.</li> <li>∞ Mental health support integrated with other housing and addiction support.</li> <li>∞ Support is continued if individuals move on from homelessness</li> </ul>
<b>Any other comments:</b>	