



Homeless Link

Working Together

Isabel Langdale
Homeless Link

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We are the national membership charity for organisations working directly with people who become homeless in England. We work to make services better and campaign for policy change that will help end homelessness.





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Ending Women's Homelessness Project

Stage One – Ending Women's Homelessness Grant [\(recommendations\)](#)

Services:

- Embed co-production
- Strategic partnerships between women's and homelessness services

Funder & Commissioners:

- Fund specific approaches delivered by women's sector specialists
- Ring-fence funding
- Fund strategic cross-sector partnership approaches
- Decisions-making process based on research and lived experience

Stage Two – Ending Women's Homelessness Project

Women's Housing Movement (working across sectors)

- [Gender Informed Commissioning: Community of Practice](#) (5th December)
- National Pilot Women's Census

Gendered Lens Framework and Workbook

Why Work Together?

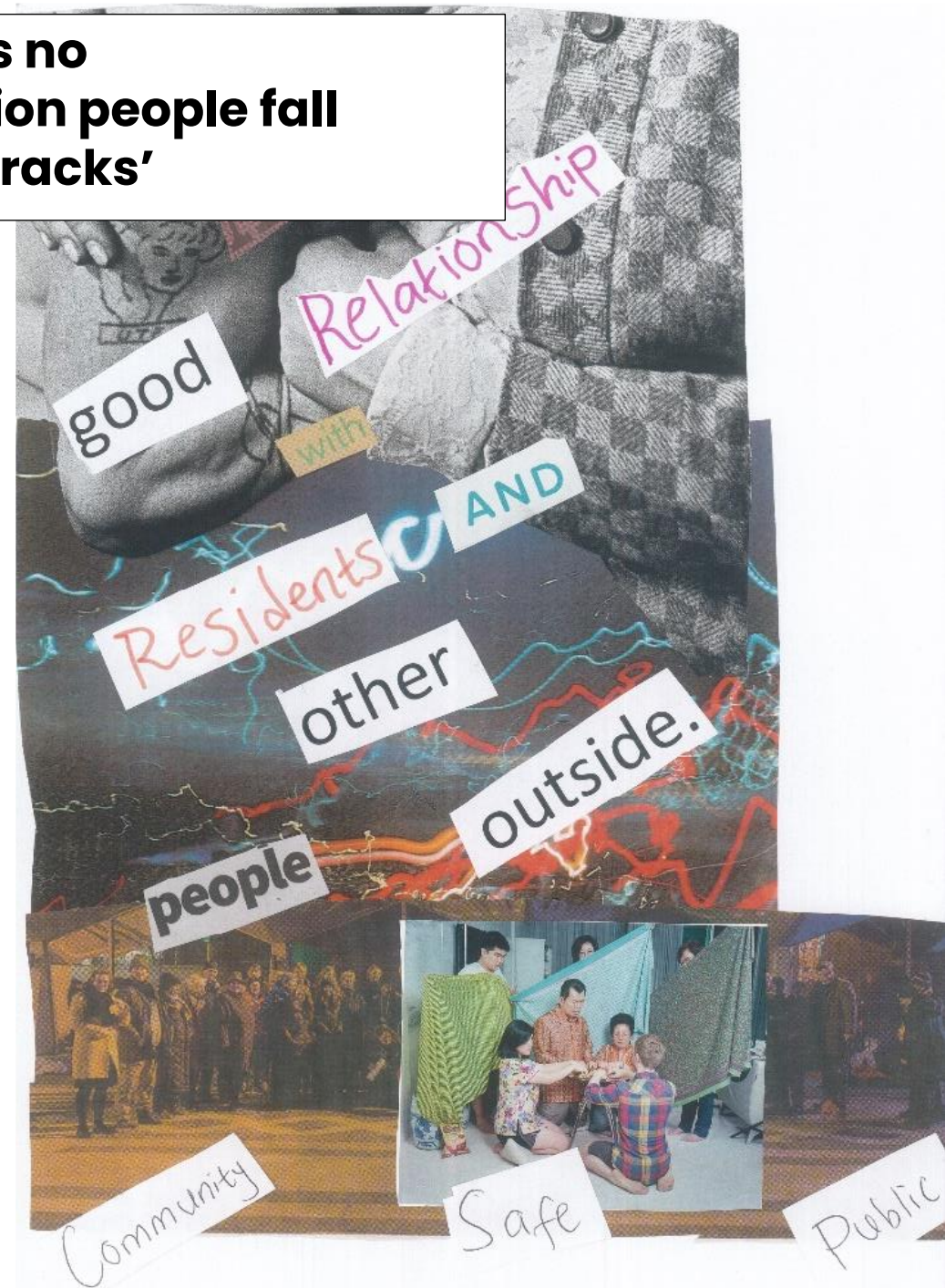
‘When there is no communication people fall through the cracks’

Better outcomes for women:

- increased and faster access to a range of support – meet variety of women’s needs.
- increased flexibility in how support is provided – centering women’s needs and wishes
- support from a broad range of services that have the skills and knowledge to support women effectively.

Better relationships with services:

- breaking down barriers between services
- pooling resources – increases organisational capacity
- sharing responsibility – reduces the chances of women falling through gaps in services and supports effective risk management
- increased cross-sector skills and knowledge



How to work together

- Provide a single point of access for support from multiple agencies can support accessibility of the services. Co-location of services and/or multi-agency drop in.
- Develop a clear partnership agreement which sets out the roles and responsibilities all agencies.
- Understand the limits of your provision and be aware of available resources and referral provision which can provide appropriate support
- Identify opportunities with key partners for resource and knowledge sharing, this could peer training and reflective meetings.
- When multiple agencies are working with one woman, consider appointing a lead practitioner who has the strongest relationship with the person and can provide consistency. Consult with the person as to who they have the strongest relationship with.
- Work **with** the person. Allow them more control of the pace of the work and understand when they don't want to work with an agency.
- Fund cross sector partnerships!



Kairos & Coventry Womens Partnership



The Coventry Women's Partnership seeks to break down barriers for women in accessing crucial services and streamline the support they receive. The partnership is led by FWT – a centre for women and includes Coventry Haven Women's Aid, CRASAC, Central England Law Centre Coventry and Kairos.

The Coventry Women's Partnership supports the development of effective multi agency working. The services in the partnership respect each other's specialisms and share their resources and knowledge. The coordinator of the partnership conducts meetings for everyone to reflect on what working well and what could be improved.

Wonder Women Wednesday's drop in: Operated by Kairos and funded through the Coventry Women's Partnership. Women can come to the drop-in for 'everything and anything'. This might include a cup of tea on the sofa, a chat, lunch, food donations or a shower. The drop in takes place every week, services within the Coventry Women's Partnership and beyond either attend on a rota or every week. The drop-in creates a safer space in which moments that might transform a women's experience can happen.

Ladies Night



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- In Medway, women were not able to access mainstream services. To find out why, Medway ran a forum and asked them 'If I had a magic wand what would you turn up to?'
- At Ladies' Night there are lots of different local services under one roof, but engagement with these services is completely on the women's own terms.
- Ladies' night takes place in the evening. It is very informal, everyone is dressed casually, and no ID badges are worn. There are activities, food and goodie bags of useful items such as beauty items, and personal alarms to take away.
- Ladies Night has a different approach to partnership working. The emphasis on interventions is removed, instead the space is created for the women to be able to get the information they need, so they can make their own decisions. The personal details of the women attending are not recorded and any information they share does not leave the space.

Measuring success



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- Relational 'Gendered Outcomes' i.e. Increased confidence and sense of self-worth; Improved capacity and relationships between services
- Evidence: Case studies; case mapping; qualitative feedback
- Flexibility: Allowing time for a service to develop and become 'known'

Ladies Night: Did not take information from women who attended the night, even if they spoke to services on the night. They recorded how many people took part in activities, and services reported outcomes after women had reached out following the evening.

Your Place: Your Place secured funding from the National Lottery Community Fund and Nationwide for a Women's Development Specialist. The funding for the project was flexible and focused on softer outcomes and narrative based reporting. This was perfect for gender informed programming.

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What we do

Homeless Link is the national membership charity for frontline homelessness services. We work to improve services through research, guidance and learning, and campaign for policy change that will ensure everyone has a place to call home and the support they need to keep it.

homeless.org.uk

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