

‘Where Homelessness & Social Work Coalesce’ Gerry Skelton’s ‘20:20 Vision’

**Monday 2nd December 2019
Homelessness Awareness Week
@
The NI Social Care Council**

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“20:20 vision: Embracing ‘Home-less-ness’ as a compelling concern in Social Work Education, Training & Practice: (Skelton, 2019)

- Lets define homelessness
- Looking to my past
- A history of Homelessness Awareness Panel events
- Common themes
- Know the services available to you
- Consider all the voices of homelessness
- Final thoughts

Home

Looking to my past

- 25 years ago volunteering for a 'Cross Community' service;
- Spending my formative years working in the youth sector;
- Embarking on a career in the homelessness sector:
 - - Support Worker;
 - - Training & Employment Support;
 - - Management of supported accommodation provision.
- Exploring homelessness prevention within the community.
- A new journey in housing – continuing to collaborate.
- A long history in coalescing with social care and social work sector.

Joining the dots: A history of Homelessness Awareness Panels

2011: NISCC support HAP;
2012: Patient Client Council support HAP;
2012-2015: Social work teaching @ homeless hostels;
2012 –2015: HAP event and work goes on tour: PCC, Equality Commission, QUB, Samaritans, NI Assembly, Belfast Met, ETC!
2013: Inaugural HAP @ NISCC on World SW Day;
2013: Simon Community NI support HAP;
2014: Homelessness placed on SW curriculum;
2014: Oaklee/Trinity support HAP;
2015: PCC release report on 'Issues faced by people who are homeless accessing health & social care services';
2015: EXTERN supports HAP;
2015: HAP on TV – NVTB/Belfast Met programme;
2016: Rea Estates supports HAP!
2018: Gerry's GoH Evetn with Choice Housing & SCNI.



Common themes throughout HAP

- Policy context
- Carers and service users voices
- Definitions and statistics
- Who is responsible?
- Government and departmental strategies
- Changing political climate
- Public & Private sectors
- Media portrayal

Know the services available to you - Extern

- Supported Accommodation Provision
- Multi-Disciplinary Homeless Support Team (MDHST)
- Complex Floating Support (CFS)
- Refugee Floating Support (RFS)
- Syrian Vulnerable Peoples service
- Extern Homes
- Alcohol Housing Support
- Dual Diagnosis Team
- Homeless Travellers Project
- Drug Accommodation Support Project (DASP)
- Learning & Development Unit

<https://www.extern.org/Pages/Category/all-our-services>

Extern Homes – know the services available to you

- ❑ **Providing affordable tenancies for people who are homeless and have limited housing options.**
- Tenancies for people who are homeless via PRS
- Appropriate Floating support services (to help sustain tenancy arrangement)
- Engagement with local services for additional support
- Incentives for tenants to save for future longer-term tenancies
- Build tenancy & credit history

Consider all the voices of homelessness – Homeless support workers perspective for SW...

- Sharing of information;
- Initial meetings are so important – first impressions last!
- Signposting and networking;
- Professional integrity – Keep your promises re. Arranging meetings/visits;
- Keep up-to-date with policy/legislative changes;
- Status – don't look 'down' on service users;
- Communication – keep people informed;
- Realistic – set action plans that are achievable!

Consider all the voices of homelessness: My perspective



You are
what you
do, not what
you say
you'll do.





