

Case Study: Mapping and assessment of young homeless people's perceptions of their own health and their use of health promotion activities

What were we asked to do?

NHS Health Scotland commissioned us to research young, single homeless people's perceptions of their health and their use of health promotion activities provided by NHS, Local Authority and voluntary sector agencies.

How did we approach the research?

We used a combination of methods to approach the research:

- a literature review – of published and grey sources
- a national statistical profile of young single homeless people
- 62 semi-structured interviews with young single homeless people
- six focus groups with frontline staff working with this client group
- one consultation focus group and three consultation interviews with frontline staff
- two consultation focus groups with young, single homeless people

What did we find?

We found that the health promotion needs of young, single homeless people are influenced by a number of different factors including age, gender, length of homelessness and area of residence. These factors and the specific health promotion needs of young, single homeless people were not being fully catered for by the three sectors involved in delivering health promotion activities.

We produced a series of strategic recommendations to encourage greater recognition within the NHS, local authorities and the voluntary sector, of the specific health promotion needs of young, single homeless people, to ensure that a more structured approach be taken in future to addressing these needs within the