

# HOUSING FIRST

National Implementation and Systems Change

*Threshold 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference  
Dublin City Council, Wood Quay Venue  
26th October 2018*



An aerial photograph of a residential neighborhood on the left, a large open field in the center, and a wooded area on the right. The image is in grayscale with a light gray grid overlay.

# Hello!

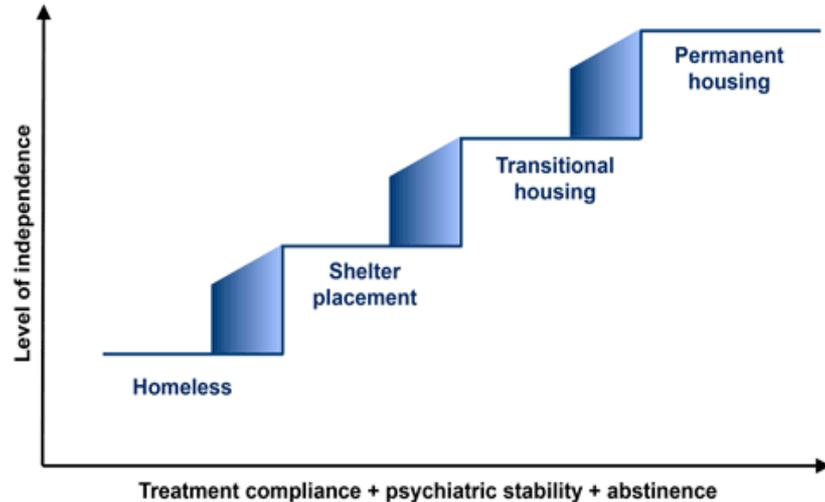
**My name is Bob Jordan**

National Director of **Housing First**, Dublin Region Homeless Executive

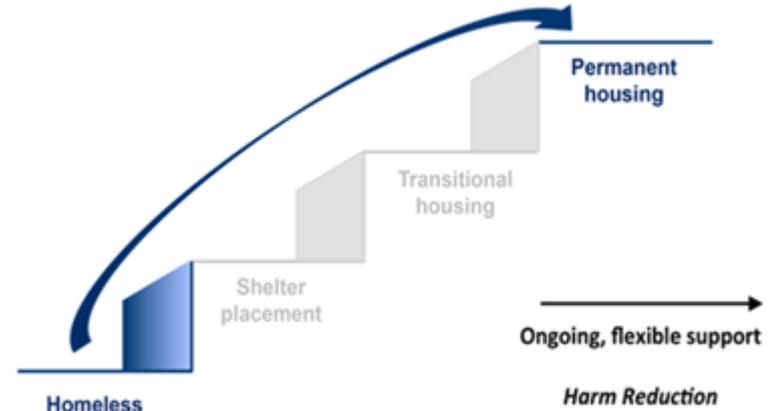
# Housing First Model

**Housing First** provides direct access to permanent housing without preconditions around addiction or mental health treatment. Intensive wraparound housing and health supports are provided for as long as required.

## Traditional System Approach



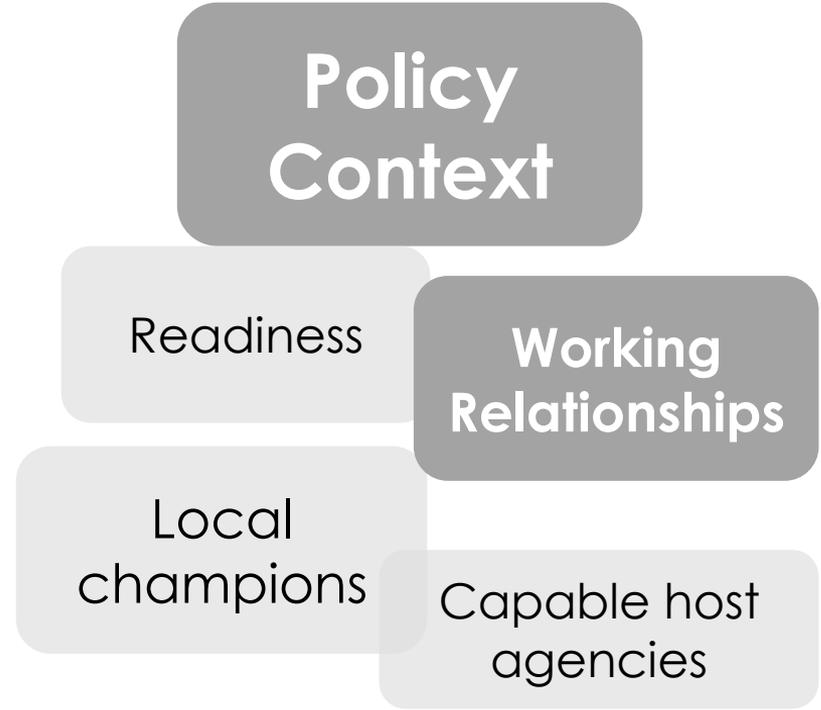
## Housing First Approach



# Systems Change Theory

Concepts from implementation science and systems change theory can be used to understand the implementation of **Housing First**.

- Systems Change Theory is a process of adjusting the 'Form and Function' of a specific service system
- 'Deep Structures' perpetuate the complex problems that interventions aim to address
- Identifying 'Levers for Change' that act as catalysts for broader systems change



(Worton *et al.*, 2017)

# Success

By adopting the **Housing First** model ('fidelity'), Ireland has proven it can achieve the same positive results for homeless individuals as other countries.

- Dublin Housing First has been operating since 2014, following a successful pilot
- Partnership between DRHE (4 Dublin local authorities), HSE, Focus Ireland and Peter McVerry Trust
- Rebuilding Ireland (2016) commitment to expanding **Housing First**

214

individuals

250

tenancies

187

properties

85%

housing sustainment  
rate

# Scaling Up

Government's aim in rolling out **Housing First** nationwide is to reduce and end chronic homelessness in Ireland.

- A National Implementation Plan was jointly launched by Ministers for Housing and Health in September
- **Housing First** will be delivered in every county over the next three years
- Targets have been developed based on an identification of current needs

737

homeless individuals with high support needs

663

additional tenancies over next 3 years

75

tenancies for vulnerable prisoners

200

people to date

to

1,000

people by 2021

# Structures and Supports

**Housing First** delivery requires a strong commitment by housing authorities, health services, and NGOs to work together in a planned and integrated way.

## **Structures**

- Joint housing and health funding, including Service Reform Fund (SRF) initiative for urban areas
- Planned delivery at regional level, open tendering for host NGOs, and collaboration with housing bodies
- Oversight by **Housing First** National Implementation Committee

## **Supports**

- Support delivery through education, training, technical support and **Housing First** manual
- Action research to fully understand and resolve implementation issues
- Continue to demonstrate success by undertaking Nationwide Implementation Study and Fidelity Assessments

# Systems Change

Towards an Ireland where housing with intensive supports becomes the primary response to long-term homelessness and provides the basis for recovery in other areas.

occupied by  
**22%**  
of homeless  
individuals

Change  
practices that  
make and  
keep people  
homeless

Stable housing  
is a platform  
for recovery,  
health and  
wellbeing

Today  
**64%**  
of hostel bed  
nights in  
Dublin

Service users  
are involved  
and there is a  
focus on  
social  
integration





# THANKS!

**Any questions?**

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