

SouthEast DClinPsch Homelessness Workforce Project

Salomons, Southampton, Surrey, Oxford

Psychological Professions Network
South East Workforce Council, March 2025





Context: Homelessness Psychological Workforce Development

- 2003: Two CPs in UK, now 50 – 60.
- 2012: Psychologically-Informed Environments
- 2015: Trauma-Informed Care
- 2022: Homeless Link research around sector need for Clinical Psychology
- April 2022: NHS-E (HEE) supported by OHID funded four CP programmes to develop a psychologically-informed homelessness workforce through:
 - Clinical psychology placements in the third sector
 - University certificated training programmes
 - PG Certificate: Psychological Practitioner in Homelessness, funded by MHCLG
 - Homelessness Community of Practice, from regional to international
- 2023: Launch of NHS national framework for action on inclusion health, including workforce guidance and case studies
 - <https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/a-national-framework-for-nhs-action-on-inclusion-health/>
- Feb 2025: Inter-Ministerial Group on Homelessness commissioned 'task and finish' group on Homelessness Workforce Development, reporting to Rushanara Ali (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Homelessness and Democracy, MHCLG).

NHSE Project South East DClinPsych Programmes



Rationale

Lack of mental health practitioners working in the homeless sector, particularly clinical psychologists

= a high level of unmet mental health need for people who are the most marginalised in our society



Ambition

To create systems change through working with clinical psychology programmes and their local services supporting the homeless

To generate specific interest in those qualifying from DClinPsych programmes to work within the homeless sector

To identify learning that could be transferred to other programmes and disciplines

To develop a research infra-structure to support innovative research and a community of practice. See:

chrphomeless.co.uk

HOW WAS THE PROGRAMME DEVELOPED?

A LOT OF GROUND WORK...

Building local networks

- Liaison with local third sector organisations



What is Clinical Psychology?

- Information & 'myth-busting'



Contracting

- Setting up all requirements to enable trainees to work in new settings
 - E.g. Honorary contracts, IT

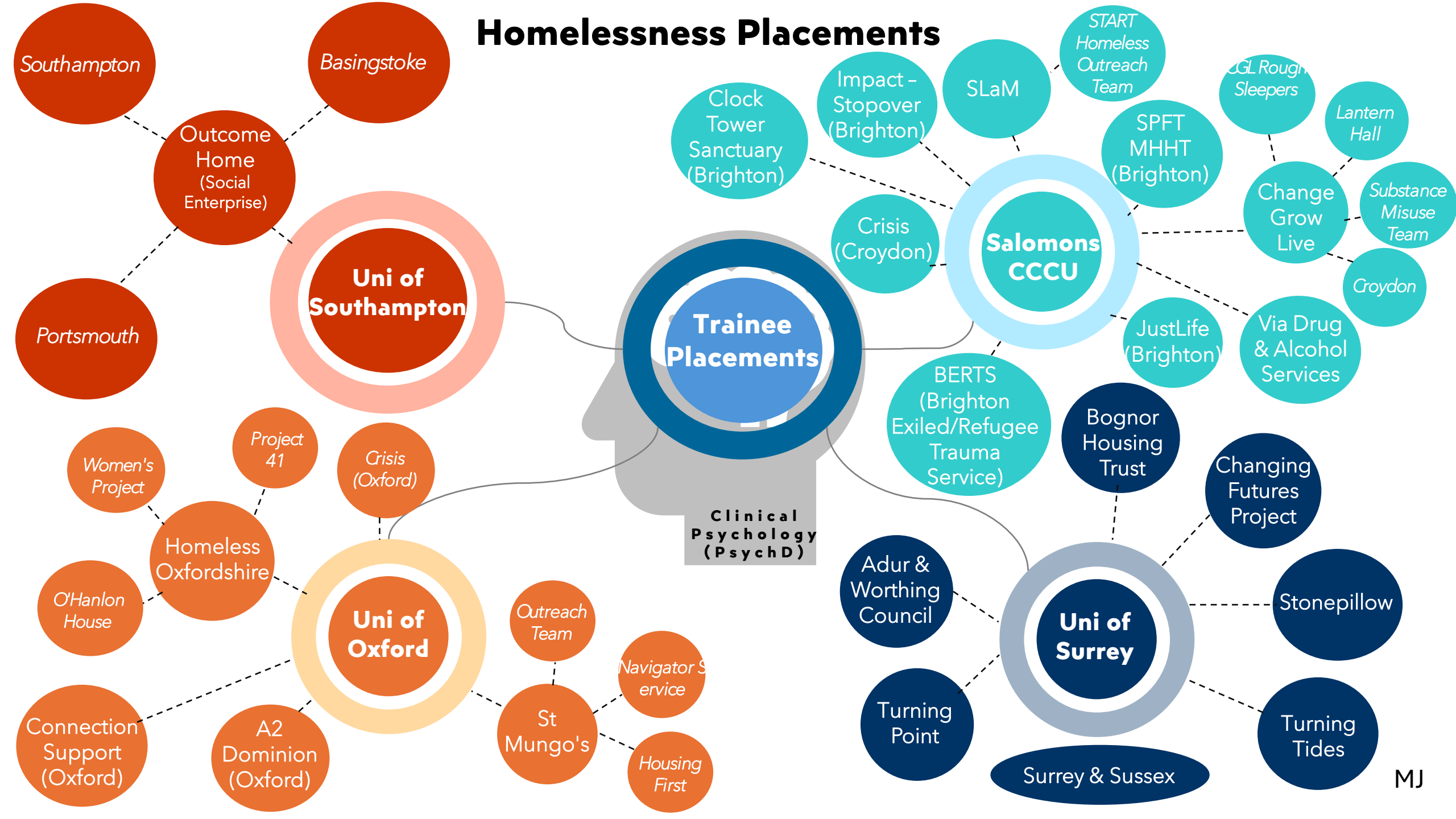


Practical Requirements

- Locations, work space/ environment, day-to-day support, access to IT and clinical systems
- On-site & external supervision



Homelessness Placements



What has been the impact?

- Trainees provided training and reflexive spaces, leaving a legacy to support the charitable sector workforces' wellbeing
- Enhanced the experiences of service users who are accessing support from the homeless sector
- Evaluations of the experiences of the trainees, supervisors and services highlighting strengths and areas for development

*"There was one particular client she (the trainee) did a huge amount of work with and I would describe it as life changing work." **Homelessness staff about Surrey trainee***

Trainee perspectives from Surrey:



Developing the evidence base

"Doing research with a marginalised, silenced, and stigmatised population has a value that keeps me going when the course gets tough."

3rd year Salomons Trainee

Building the Evidence Base through

Research:

- **30+ research initiatives** across the four university programmes, comprising service development projects, theory-driven studies, scoping and systematic literature reviews, and large-scale empirical studies.
- Primarily **led by DClin trainees**, with Southampton also involving UG, MSc and PhD students.
- **Diverse research areas** spanning individual and systematic factors influencing homelessness, healthcare experiences of marginalised groups, the impact of climate change on homelessness, and more.

Knowledge sharing & impact:

- **Diverse knowledge exchange events** hosted by Oxford University & University of Southampton including seminars, research impact events, CPD training, and workshops on topics such as hoarding, autism and homelessness, improving the commissioning and data environments.
- **Wide reach & engagement:** Over 500 attendees across events, bringing together frontline staff, researchers and experts by experience.

Successes for the Clinical Psychology Programme

Building on the academic and operational expertise of the Southampton Clinical Doctorate programme:

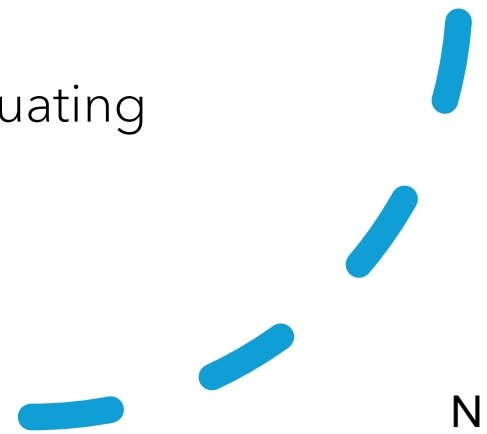
- New infrastructure built in Surrey, Kent and Oxford to support learning, and to promote and offer placements within the homeless sector
- New relationships with third sector organisations
- Greater understanding developed of the sector challenges and advantages and the interface with the NHS

Understanding competencies in context

- Better fit between the trainee and the placement for the future, learning around third sector relative advantages and limitations

Inspiration

- Trainees employed in the sector after graduating
 - Salomons - three
 - Southampton - one
 - Oxford - one
 - Surrey - three



HOW CAN THE PPN HELP?

Scalability

- How can PPN members help us build a case for METIP to supporting scaling across all regions?
- How can the PPN support roll out of PG training for frontline workers?
- What advocacy and leadership can the PPN provide to keep this work on the agenda and share across other PPNs?

Collaboration

- How can the PPN facilitate joint working with MHCLG and Inter-Ministerial Group on workforce development generally
- What opportunities are there for joint working on funding of clinical psychology in the third sector (MHCLG, MoJ, DWP)

Policy

- Support for All Party Parliamentary Group on Inclusion Health Workforce development



Contacts

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Clinical Psychology Placements		
University of Southampton	Nick Maguire	Nick.Maguire@soton.ac.uk
University of Surrey	Jane Iles	j.iles@surrey.ac.uk
Canterbury Christchurch University	Maria Griffiths	maria.griffiths@canterbury.ac.uk
Oxford Health	Alasdair Churchard	alasdair.churchard@hmc.ox.ac.uk
Community of Practice	Lucy Hartland-Grant	lucy.hartland-grant@outcomehome.com
Homeless Intervention Education	Stephanie Barker	S.Barker@soton.ac.uk

Appendices

The health needs of those sleeping rough



20%

of people seen sleeping rough had **no alcohol, drugs or mental health support needs**

ALCOHOL MISUSE



42%

of people seen sleeping rough had alcohol misuse needs

MENTAL HEALTH



50%

of people seen sleeping rough had mental health needs

DRUG MISUSE



41%

of people seen sleeping rough had drug misuse needs

Why Clinical Psychology?

- Professional & NHS values
- Competencies, e.g.
 - Reflexive scientific practitioners
 - Person-centered
 - Work across the life span with individuals, couples, families, groups and systems
 - Interdisciplinary working & inter / intra-systems working
 - Working to promote equality, equity & inclusion
 - Leadership



ALLOCATING TRAINEES TO PLACEMENTS

- How to ensure a 'good' match for trainees & placement providers
- Placement requirements
- What the work looks like on the ground
- Specific competencies/ abilities needed
- Consideration of trainees' previous experiences, interests, strengths, hopes & expectations
- Is this setting 'right' for everyone?



Research Outputs

Surrey

- Midwives' experiences of supporting the homeless population (ongoing)
- A qualitative study exploring doulas' (birth companions) experience of supporting refugee and asylum seeking women through the perinatal period (ongoing)
- "We are here, because you were there": Refugee Mental Health: A Critical Discourse Analysis of the Parliamentary Debates on the passage of the UK Illegal Migration Act; Asylum-seeking Hongkongers' Experiences with the UK Mental Health Services (ongoing)
- Unveiling Potential: A Scoping Review of Participatory Action Research with People Experiencing Homelessness in the UK and Ireland (submitted for publication)

Salomons

- 5 large-scale empirical studies, 3 systematic reviews, 7 quality improvement projects

Southampton

- Published paper: Ward, R. J., Greenway, F. T., & Maguire, N. (2024). 'It Is Good to See the Person As a Whole Person and... Continue to Improve Our Psychologically Informed Working': A Thematic Analysis of Clinical Psychology Trainee Placements in Homelessness Settings. *Health expectations*, 27(3), e14121.
- Four main research programmes undertaken by UG, MSc, DClin and PhD students:
 - Complexity of homelessness: Interaction of individual and systemic factors
 - Women and homelessness, including lack of menstruation provision
 - Individual factors, e.g. intergenerational trauma, ADHD, adverse childhood experiences and attachment
 - Climate change and homelessness

Service Improvement Projects

- *Abigail O'Shea* - "Exploring the Support Offered to Homeless People with Autistic Traits"
- *Amy Lewins* - "Perspectives from Third Sector Support Workers on the Barriers and Facilitators to Engaging Effectively with Women Experiencing Homelessness"
- *Anais Philippe* - "Access to Statutory Mental Health Provision for Service Users Experiencing Homelessness: Third Sector Perspectives"
- *Elliot House* - "Exploring the impact of adopting a Restorative Practice Approach in a homelessness hostel in Oxford"
- *Tamara Ondruskova* - "The Use of the Autism Homelessness Toolkit in Homelessness Services in the UK: Service Providers' Perspectives"
- *Elena Bragulat Martinez* - "Understanding the Experiences, Needs, and Mental Health Views of Unaccompanied Young Asylum Seekers in Oxfordshire"
- *Dr Vicky Milner* - "Staff recognition of service user needs in homelessness services"
- *Abigail Dickinson* - "Embedding palliative care within homelessness services"

Theory-Driven Research Projects

- *Maša Micunovic* - "The Role of Stigma in Acceptance of Offered Help for People Experiencing Homelessness in Oxfordshire"
- *Rhiannon Richards* - "Executive Functioning Impairments and its Association with Traumatic Brain Injury in a UK Homeless Sample"
- *Dr Tiago Zortea* - "The role of beliefs about hoarding and early material deprivation in the relationship between hoarding and homelessness"

Systematic Reviews of the Literature

- *Jess Dring* - "Personal Recovery in Mental Health Difficulties in People with Experience of Homelessness: A Qualitative Systematic Review"
- *Saskia Phelps* - "Intergenerational impact of homelessness on maternal mental health and child outcomes: A narrative review"
- *Abigail Dickinson* - "Care leavers and homelessness: a systematic review of the literature"

Southampton Trainee blogs

- [Doing a trainee placement in homelessness settings - Centre for Homelessness Research and Practice](#)
- [Clinical Trainee Placements in homelessness settings - Centre for Homelessness Research and Practice](#)

Oxford & Southampton Learning Events

- 1 day-long seminar led by Dr Alasdair Churchard (45 attendees; report produced & disseminated to local experts by experience and services)
- Co-hosted in-person Research Impact Event (45 attendees including staff from local homelessness services)
- Online CPD training event on hoarding and homelessness ran by trainee based on his research findings (over 300 attendees)
- Autism & Homelessness Community of Practice online event ran by trainee (over 100 attendees)
- Half-day in person workshop on autism & homelessness delivered to a staff team at a local homelessness service

Quotes from recent Surrey evaluation

- *"It's been exciting to have so much **scope** to develop the trainee role. I've developed **confidence** in my own judgment and decision making. I'm definitely interested to work in similar setting in **future**"* 1st year Salomons Trainee
- *"I think they developed a lot of skill and competence in **empowering others**, in **leadership competencies** I suppose really and in offering people a **psychological language**, or at least a **psychological framework**, to think about the clients that they were supporting."* Clinical supervisor about Surrey trainees
- *"The CEO of one of the organisations is trying to have conversations with other charities in the area to see if they can get money together to **hire a consultant clinical psychologist**, to help with **policy** level stuff across organisations in the area, charities, so and that kind of came from my presentation about me explaining **what can it (psychology) look like at different parts of the system.**"* Surrey Trainee

ONGOING SUPPORT

Community of Practice

Supervision Requirements

- Accrediting body requirements:
 - Supervision hours
 - Professional affiliation
 - Observations & feedback
 - Paperwork!

Additional teaching

- Adapting psychological theories and approaches – what does an 'intervention' look like?
- Psychologically informed environments & trauma informed care
- Accredited PG training

Reflective Practice

- Fortnightly group reflective practice
- Impact of the work & personal responses
- External clinical supervisor

Homelessness Community of Practice activity

HCoP Mailing List (as of 22.01.25)

- 379 members - increased from 323 in December (+56 members in 2 months)
- UK membership now spans over 30 counties in the UK
- Some European members based in France and Spain
- International reach now to USA, from 4 states - Missouri, New Mexico, Los Angeles and
- Utah

HCoP Network Meetings

- July 2022 - August 2023: 5 network meetings held
- September 2023 - August 2024: 8 network meetings held
- September 2024 - February 2025: 6 network meetings held
- Planned for March 2025 to August 2025: +5 (potentially 6)

- Sign-ups and attendees for Network Meetings, academic year (since November) 2024-2025



[Link - Centre for Homelessness Research and Practice](#)