

Key findings – Lambeth Council Vulnerable Adults Pathway – Health Needs Audit

250 clients responded to an online health survey, supported by their keyworkers. This was analysed to give a rich picture of the health problems and needs of homeless people on the pathway. More detail can be found in the full report.



Homeless health check



78% of people reported at least one physical health problem



81% of people reported at least one mental health issue



48% said that they are taking drugs or are recovering from a drug problem.



Over a third of people were drinking more than 3 times a week



82% smoke, compared to 21% of the Lambeth population.



Only 5% ate the recommended amount (5 pieces) of fruit and vegetables a day.



94% were registered with a GP and very few reported problems seeing their GP.



28% had visited A&E in the last 6 months and 19% had been admitted to hospital



Clients were able to comment on the support they received for their various health issues. For example, 70% of those with an alcohol problem were receiving support and the majority felt it met their needs. However over a third of those receiving support for a physical or mental health problem reported they would like more help, which indicates an unmet need for support.

Focus group discussion



11 people attended the focus group which was held in April 2015. They discussed their experience of homelessness and health. The following themes came up during the discussion:

- Health is felt to be a priority
- Homelessness worsened existing health conditions and those who become homeless are likely to develop new health problems.
- Experience of healthcare and the environment in hostels is mixed.
- Many participants experienced judgement and stigma when accessing healthcare.
- Many felt a lack of power and control in their health situations.
- Solutions included having more advocacy and reducing discrimination.

Thank you for participating in this project. If you would like to read the full report and recommendations, please ask your hostel manager.