Safe as Houses—
a providers perspective

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About SHP

- Established in 1976
- Provides support temporary housing for people with a wide variety of support needs
- Work across London (9 boroughs)
- Policy and procedural framework states specifically that no one will be denied access to services on the basis of current drug use.
About Kings Cross Projects

- Working with people with Substance issues
- Chaotic, hard to engage client group
- Challenging behaviour
- Creative and flexible approaches
- Clear drugs policy
- Targeted referral sources
- Active part in the wider agenda

Ethos and Framework

- A belief that all individuals have a right to quality services that meet their needs.
- A positive attitude to housing people with high need and challenging behaviours
- A willingness to work with residents towards gaining greater control both of their drug use and other aspects of their lives.
- A wish to actively assist residents to reduce the harm associated with chaotic and destructive drug use both on themselves and others
How we work

- Individual key work for each client
- Up to date and regularly reviewed Support plans and Risk assessments
- Support plans client focused and client led
- Informal approaches v’s formal approach
- Holistic approach
- Joint working with other agencies
- User involvement consultation on the ground

Dilemmas

- Visitors
- Activities to fund habit (e.g. Begging, burglary and sex working)
- Source of money for personal service charges
- How to keep everyone happy
- Bullying and intimidation
- Slow rate of change - hard to know where to begin
Challenges - the practical side

- Staffing issues
- Poly-drug use services/joint working
- Funding
- Community responsibility
- Avoiding eviction

Solutions

- Staffing issues
  - Competency based framework
  - Training and development
  - Terms and conditions
  - Creative approaches to recruitment

- Poly-drug use services/joint working
  - Pilot schemes/setting up protocols
  - Putting problems on the agenda
Solutions Cont..

- Funding
  - Making the case of the cost of not providing this service
  - Looking for alternative funding sources

- Community responsibility
  - Have to be involved in local strategies and initiatives
  - Attend Local forums

- How to avoid eviction
  - Flexible solutions for dealing with difficult behaviour

Taking it forward

- Our views
- Need for service
- Not be afraid of drugs
- Build from today
- Let’s all do it