



# LONDON FOR ALL

## A ROADMAP TO END POVERTY



## Homelessness Prevention & Housing

### 4.1 Build a culture of practice around effective implementation of the Housing First approach

Homelessness begins in a home, in a neighbourhood, in our communities. The lasting or permanent solution to preventing and ending homelessness is housing with support. It has been the historical and often current practice, that individuals and families experiencing homelessness were expected to address the issues that led to their homelessness, such as addiction, trauma and mental illness, before they were housed.

London's Homeless Prevention System focuses on: Securing Housing; Housing with Support; Housing stability; and Shelter Diversion. The priority of a Housing First approach is to move individuals and families experiencing homelessness quickly into housing with supports and then begin to work on the issues that contributed to their homelessness from the stability and safety of their own home.

A Housing First or Housing with Support approach assists individuals and families by seeking out and supporting the right housing, at the right time, with the right level of support to develop lasting housing stability.

#### **City of London**

There are six Housing First programs in London supporting individuals experiencing chronic homelessness, youth, street involved sex workers, families, and individuals involved in the justice system. Over 400 individuals and families have solved their experience of homelessness in the last five years through the support of Housing First programs.

#### **CMHA Middlesex**

In June 2017 CMHA conducted an external review of their Housing First Program through Whitesell and Co. The major finding from the evaluation was that the CMHA

Housing First program is functioning very well relative to performance standards of Housing First programs in other jurisdictions.