

TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION NETWORK



Justlife

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VISION

To see temporary accommodation used as a safe, healthy and short-term solution that works for everyone involved.

MISSION

To galvanise a nationwide network that drives systemic change through collective action for people living in temporary accommodation making their stay as short, safe and healthy as possible.



WHAT IS IT?

The TA Network brings together individuals and organisations across England to focus on creating systemic change to improve the lives and experience of those living in TA. The network facilitates collective action by stakeholders of TA across England, at a local and national level, in order to create change in the sector that ensures stays are as short, safe and healthy as possible.



WHY DO WE NEED IT?

The number of single individuals and families living for an indefinite period of time in temporary accommodation is increasing. The longer someone lives in TA, the more adverse long-term impact it can have, including new and repeated trauma, decreasing mental and physical health, isolation and sometimes the higher likelihood of death. Far too often, time spent in TA is neither healthy nor safe. In addition, long stays in TA can lead to a loss of basic life skills that can turn people into long-term dependants of the state.



WHO CAN BE INVOLVED?

Anyone interested in, and working towards, changing the experiences of people in TA.



HOW DOES IT WORK?

The network uses targeted strategic action, supported by Justlife, at local and national levels, to drive systemic change and improve the lives and experiences of those stuck living in TA.



UNDERLYING ETHOS

The work of the network is built on trust, not blame, by recognising the system is bigger than each individual stakeholder. Each stakeholder needs to recognise their role in the system but then decide how to move forward to create change using the unique tools we each have in our roles and sectors.

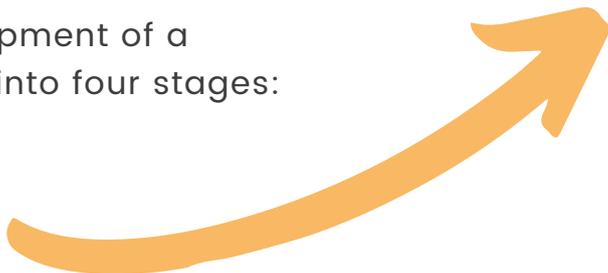


LOCAL

Local network activities are primarily focused on the creation and support of Temporary Accommodation Action Groups (TAAGs). Justlife provides support in establishing these groups through our Network Development Workers. These TAAGs are cross-sector collaborative groups, including landlords, residents, local authorities and other public and voluntary sector stakeholders. The TAAGs provide a vehicle to drive locally relevant changes for temporary accommodation.

TAAGs uncover specific challenges about TA in their local area and then collectively develop, test and implement solutions to address those challenges. Each TAAG will look slightly different and have different priorities, depending on locally agreed targets. However, the work of TAAGs typically involves recurring meetings, for example quarterly.

The development of a TAAG falls into four stages:



1. Setting the scene and foundation for TAAG

- a. Workshops with all relevant stakeholders to collectively draw out local problems & potential solutions
- b. Agree terms of reference for the group
- c. Action plan for the group based on information set in workshops

2. Form subgroups based on action plan

- a. Working groups to develop testable ideas/solutions related to action plan set in stage one
- b. Receive feedback from full TAAG

FOR EXAMPLE

In Brighton, two areas of challenge were identified as: Unclear barring (from housing/rehousing) & eviction practices and poor communication to homeless households. Working groups created were:

1. Eviction & barring guidelines (for block booked accommodation) - to help the process be more clear to residents and support organisations
2. Information poster - Informing people of relevant services such as support groups, landlord information, homeless in Brighton website etc. via a poster for each hallway and room]

3. Testing phase

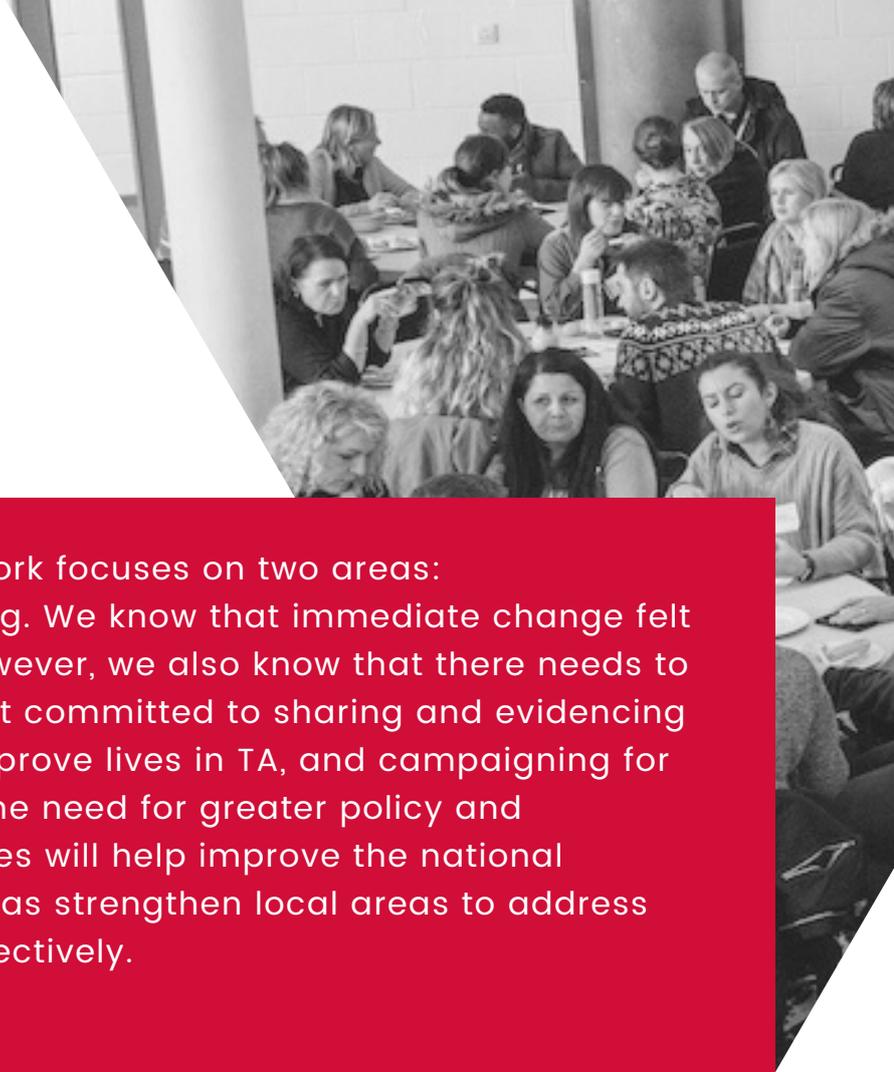
- a. Agree on idea from working groups to test
- b. Set time-frame for checking back in and review effectiveness of idea being tested

4. Review & Next steps

- a. Think through feedback from ideas tested - continue? Change? Stop?
- b. Does the TAAG need to go back to stage 2 and begin working on other challenges?
- c. Review of TAAG itself - helpful? Effective? Continues? Stop?



NATIONAL



The national work of the network focuses on two areas: Connections and Campaigning. We know that immediate change felt by residents in TA is local. However, we also know that there needs to be a wider national movement committed to sharing and evidencing what does/doesn't work to improve lives in TA, and campaigning for the national government on the need for greater policy and monetary focus. These changes will help improve the national framework around TA, as well as strengthen local areas to address the challenges of TA more effectively.



CONNECTIONS

The Temporary Accommodation Network is made up of TAAGs, individuals and organisations working towards improving people's experience of TA. The network facilitates joined-up thinking, building relationships, and the sharing of resources and ideas between TAAGs and other stakeholders across England. The network provides spaces to encourage these connections through:

- a. Annual Conference
- b. National Workshops
- c. Bi-monthly newsletter
- d. Annual Network Report



CAMPAIGNING

The Temporary Accommodation Network also aims to gather wider sector learning and share it with relevant stakeholders nationally, helping to answer the questions: 'What are the national challenges we see in TA? What works and what doesn't when trying to create change?'

Justlife will gather the learning from TAAGs across England, and the connections spaces will produce shareable information that can be used in campaigns or other forms of calls to action aimed at national policymakers.



SUPPORT FROM JUSTLIFE

Our role is to provide the behind-the-scenes support for the network. This includes paid staff who help drive the values /principles we believe are key to the network's success, support the local TAAGs and create written reports about the work of the network. TAAG support provided by Justlife:

01 RUN INITIAL WORKSHOPS FOR LOCAL AREAS SETTING UP TAAGS

These workshops bring together stakeholders to set the foundation for the ongoing work of the TAAG. The aim is to collectively agree on the primary challenges and potential solutions that will shape the TAAG's agenda. Justlife will produce a report, summarising the event and the agreed way forward.

02 PROVIDE A NAMED NETWORK DEVELOPMENT WORKER FOR EACH TAAG, WHO:

- a. Attends the TAAGs (but does not provide the chair - that needs to be held locally)
- b. Provide the connection to the wider network and other TAAGs, including sharing news from other TAAG work and facilitating TAAG 'swaps' (visits to other TAAGs)
- c. Provide support for any TAAG-related questions
- d. Sharing resources developed in other areas across the network

03 HOST/RUN THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND ONLINE NATIONAL WORKSHOPS

- a. Conference: The conference will be a longer event celebrating the past year of the network and share any new updates or learning.
- b. National Workshops: These are opportunities to come together as TAAGs twice a year and work through issues collectively.

04 WRITE/SEND BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

An electronic newsletter shared every two months.

05 COLLATE AND SHARE ANNUAL LEARNING

This will be based on the work we are doing to reach the impact set out in the network's theory of change.

**For more information about TAAGs,
the network, and to sign up to our
newsletter, please email:
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