

Seminar One - The role of housing in safeguarding

Speakers:

- Anne Simmonite, National Children's Service Co-ordinator, Shelter
- Jane Thompson, Regional Children's Service Co-ordinator, Shelter

Link to the publications page of the Children's Service pages of the Shelter England Website:

http://england.shelter.org.uk/professional_resources/childrens_service/childrens_service_publications

This link includes the following:

Against the Odds

This report presents the findings of a major investigation into what it means to be a child living in bad housing. Carried out between April and August 2006, the investigation looked at the impact of homelessness, overcrowding, insecurity, poor physical conditions, and deprived neighbourhoods

How do the lives of children living in bad housing compare with those of children with decent homes? What is the impact of their living conditions on their life chances and future prospects? Are the odds stacked against them because of their housing situation?



Download [Against the Odds report](#) (PDF 3.6 mb) published November 2006.

Chance of a lifetime – the impact of bad housing on children's lives

This research pulls together a wide range of existing studies to provide a compelling and robust account of the impact that poor housing and homelessness in childhood have on later life chances. The effects of bad housing and homelessness can stay with a child for a lifetime, revealing that the 'housing effect' means:

- children growing up in bad housing have up to 25 per cent higher risk of severe ill-health and disability during childhood and early adulthood
- homeless children are up to four times more likely to suffer mental health problems than other children
- offending behaviour may be linked to behavioural problems that emerge among children living in poor housing conditions, highlighting evidence that almost half of young offenders have experienced homelessness.



Download [Chance of a Lifetime – The Impact of Bad Housing on Children's Lives](#) (PDF 1.6 mb) published September 2006.

Improving outcomes for children and young people – benchmarking guide

Shelter's model of joint working will support local authorities' efforts to shape and develop first class services for homeless children and young people and their families. This comprehensive resource demonstrates how services can be benchmarked at governance, strategic and frontline delivery level.

It is aimed at professionals working in local authority children's services and housing departments, and is a useful reference for partners including registered social landlords (RSLs) and voluntary sector organisations working within the homelessness field.



Download [Improving outcomes for children and young people – benchmarking guide](#) (PDF 1mb) published November 2009.

Supporting homeless children – guidance for children and family services

Although many children's services work effectively with other agencies and specialists such as health and education practitioners, it appears that links with housing providers and the homeless sector are not so well developed. This good practice briefing identifies how bad housing and homelessness affect children and outlines the ways in which children's sector professionals can engage more effectively with children and young people who are experiencing homelessness or bad housing.



Download [Supporting homeless children – guidance for children and family services](#) (PDF 165.4 kb) published March 2010.