

**Local Partner
Organisations:**

Calderdale Smartmove

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Cumbria Action for Social Support

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Contact: **Neil Waller** (Director)

Look Ahead Housing and Care

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Contact: **Rob Smyth** (Research and Policy Manager)

Project Funders:

Economic and Social Research Council, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Department of Communities and Local Government, Tenants Services Authority, Department of Health and Homeless Link.

Rethinking Multiple Exclusion Homelessness:

Implications for Workforce Development and Interprofessional Practice



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WORKFORCE
RESEARCH
UNIT

KING'S
College
LONDON

University of London

Background

This project forms part of a £692,000 research initiative launched by the Economic and Social Research Council in February 2009 with the aim of informing government policy and practice and finding solutions to bring vulnerable homeless people in from the margins of society. The initiative intends to develop a greater understanding of homeless people who have to cope with multiple problems in their lives, such as drug or alcohol dependencies, severe mental health problems and institutional experiences, such as a prison or long term hospital stays.



- Because of the potential for improved practice and more 'joined-up' working between different agencies and professionals, the main beneficiaries of this research will be homeless people themselves.
- For practitioners, the main benefits will be increased confidence in their professional knowledge base and that of other professionals and workers.
- There will be scope for the findings to inform interprofessional education and training thereby enabling continuing professional development.
- For managers and commissioners there will be benefits at the level of more informed workforce planning in areas such as recruitment and retention.

Who will benefit from this research?

Focus on workforce

As one of the partners the Social Care Workforce Research Unit at King's College London will undertake a two year study of those who work with homeless people. The researchers want to find out who these workers are, where they work, what they do, what special skills and training they have or need, and what can be done to support them. They also want to find out how people in different jobs work together and if this has any advantages or disadvantages. We know that there are lots of different services but do they see people 'in the round' or do they help with one problem at a time?

The Research Team: Dr Michelle Cornes, Professor Jill Manthorpe, Dr Louise Jolly, Saida Blendi-Mahota (King's College London) and Sue O'Halloran (University of Cumbria).

What work will we carry out?

To explore these issues in depth the study will focus on three areas in England (Cumbria, Calderdale and London). We will talk to people who are homeless and staff working in housing, health care, benefits and employment services, social work and social care. In each area we will work especially closely with a local voluntary sector organisation so that we can put some of our findings straight into practice.

For more information about this project please contact:

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