



Tomorrow is too late

Suicide prevention support for people with no fixed address

SAMARITANS

Introduction

In 2023, we explored suicide prevention support with people who had experience of living with no fixed address. Through a series of workshops and sessions we discussed what works well, what barriers people face and what needs to change to improve suicide prevention support for people with no fixed address.

Our report outlines our approach as well as key themes and recommendations for policy and practice.

What is the Suicide Prevention Consortium?

The Suicide Prevention Consortium is made up of four organisations: Samaritans (lead), National Suicide Prevention Alliance, Support After Suicide Partnership and With You. As part of the VCSE Health and Wellbeing Alliance, it aims to bring the expertise of its member organisations and the voice of those with lived experience directly to policymakers, to improve suicide prevention in England.

Attitudes towards people with no fixed address

We heard experiences of people with no fixed address being treated poorly by healthcare and other professionals.

People told us about feeling invisible, about being refused support, being made to feel unwelcome and being treated differently to other people because they were experiencing homelessness.

“Attitudes and the way that they look at people who are homeless needs to change drastically.”

Access to support

We heard that there is a lack of consistent access to good suicide prevention support for people who have no fixed address.

This applied to support that could help specifically when they were actively planning to take their life or had attempted to take their own life (eg, crisis support).

People also told us about support that could have helped to reduce their suicidal thoughts and feelings which included reference to housing, mental healthcare and physical healthcare.



Support that meets people's needs

The needs of people with no fixed address are personal and complex. It is important to consider several factors when looking to provide good suicide prevention support.

Suicide prevention support is about both offering help for suicidal thoughts specifically, such as during a crisis, as well as providing help that can reduce suicidal thoughts and feelings.

“ For me, it comes down to just one word and that is safety. ”

The role of community

We heard that community can have a crucial role to play in suicide prevention support for people with no fixed address.

Many people highlighted the role of community and friendship in reducing their suicide risk.

“ As long as you've got community and a connection with others facing the same unique challenge as you are, you can work together to find the solution. ”

To find out more about this work and read the full report, you can visit [Samaritans' website](#).



➤ Recommendations

Our report outlines seven recommendations for policy and practice to improve suicide prevention support for people with no fixed address. Including;

All public services and voluntary sector provision need to take a person-centred, trauma-informed approach to care for people with no fixed address.

There is a need to ensure that existing crisis provision, particularly A&E services, meets the needs of people with no fixed address seeking crisis support.

There should be no barriers or exclusion for people seeking support with suicidality wherever they seek help.

The government should ensure that all different types of support that help to prevent suicide are fully funded and resourced.

Contact a Samaritan

If you need someone to talk to, we listen.

We won't judge or tell you what to do.

Call us any time, day or night, for free on 116 123 or visit [samaritans.org](#) for other ways to get in touch.

Whatever you're facing, a Samaritan will face it with you.