



Meeting accommodation needs of ex-offenders

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Areas to be covered:

1. Langley House Trust
2. Context of work with offenders
3. Managing risk
4. A recipe for success?
 - a) A strength based approach
 - b) Key areas for intervention
 - c) Joint and complementary working
 - d) Prevention of placement breakdown
5. Accommodation a spring board to employment?

Langley House Trust

- Langley House Trust is a Christian Charity based in the UK. The Trust is a Registered Social Landlord.
- Over the last quarter the Trust has provided services to 436 individuals. The Trust's services are provided through:
 - Hostel based accommodation
 - Care homes and other care services
 - Resettlement homes (typically 3/4 bedroom homes)
 - Floating Support (supporting individuals in their own accommodation)
 - Education and Employment services

Who we support/care for:

Broad range of service users all of which have offending histories



If you do big things they print your face, and if you do little things they print only your thumbs.

Author: [Arthur Bugs Baer](#)

Who we support/care for:

- Offenders can include those:
 - released from prison (short or long sentences)
 - serving community sentences
 - released from forensic psychiatric units
- The offenders can be high to low risk of
 - re-offending or,
 - risk of harm to others.
- Including niche market of hard to place offenders

Dealing with complex needs

- Offenders we support/care for often have a range of issues including:
 - drug and/or alcohol misuse issues
 - mental health issues
 - abusive or violent
 - experienced abuse or violence
 - homeless
 - lack of meaningful relationships
 - chaotic lifestyle
 - financial problems
 - gambling addiction
 - self-harm/suicidal tendencies
- Or all of the above!

CONTEXT OF WORK WITH OFFENDERS

Context of work

- Fear of offenders within the Community
 - NIMBYism
 - NOTE
 - Fear of crime
- Accountability- Serious further offence reviews – by HM Inspectorate of Probation
- Financial pressure on services to deliver more for less – value for money.
- Short term funding

Limited choices:

- Some offenders have limited accommodation options due to:
 - Type of offences
 - History of Anti-social behaviour
 - Rent arrears
 - Addictions
 - Mental Health problems
 - Restrictions contained within prison licence
 - Requirements or expectations of prison licences

DEALING WITH RISK:

a) Risk Management

- Regular risk assessments with risk management plans that cover:
 - Risk of harm
 - Risk of reoffending
 - Risk to self
 - Risk to those in authority
 - Issues relating to risk from addictions and mental health
- Involvement in MAPPA arrangements
- Timely communication and sharing of concerns
- The Trust last year had under 1% reconviction rate of its service users

A RECIPE FOR SUCCESS?

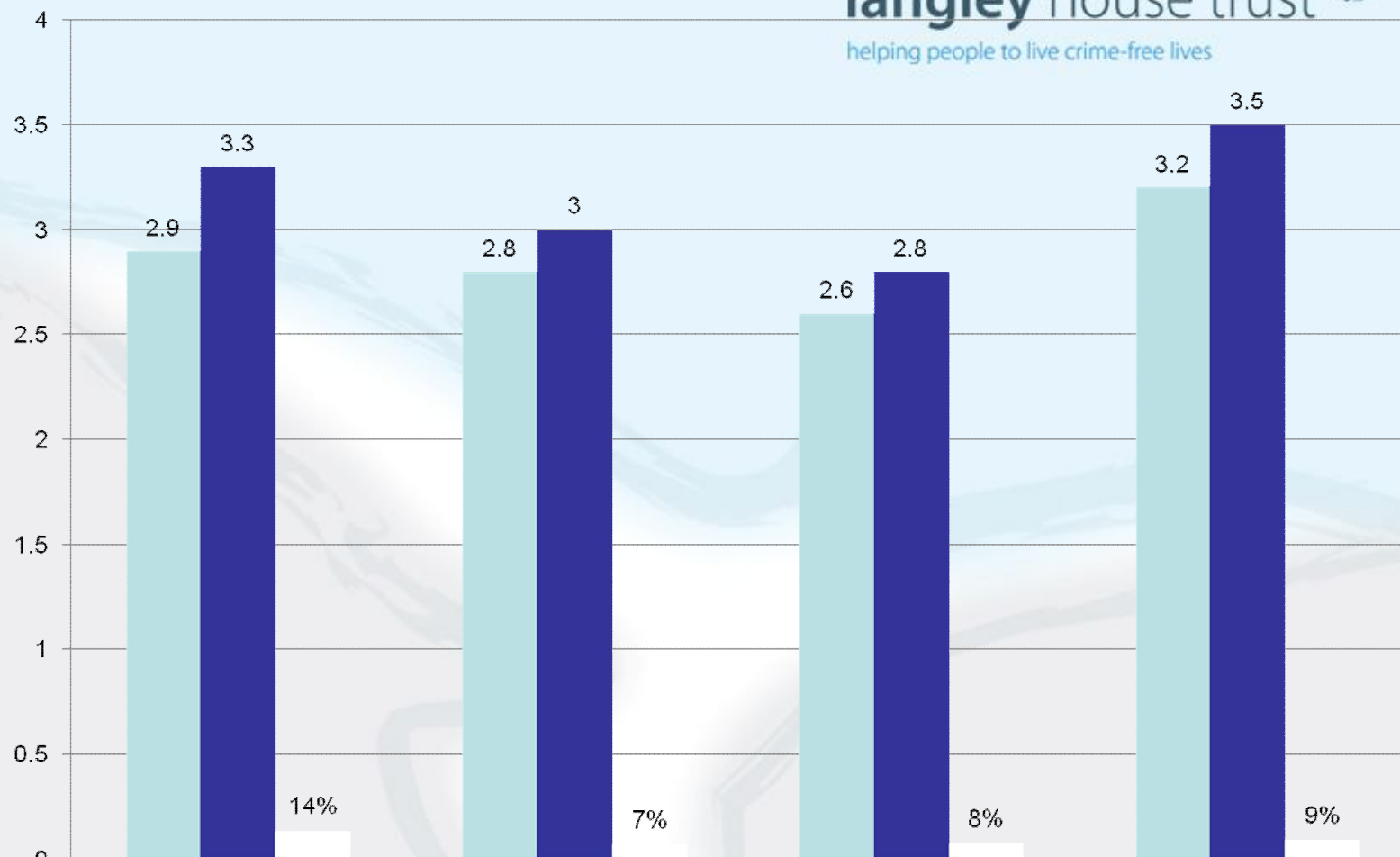
A) Strength based approach

- Whilst developing a culture of service users being aware of clear boundaries and expectations they are expected to meet. The Trust focuses on developing strengths within each service users life
- These strengths we call assets.
- The search institute have mapped 40 assets as being key indicators to a person having successful outcomes in their lives.

A) Strength based approach

- Asset questionnaire – every 3 months – gives an indication of ‘distance travelled’
- Positive Asset Database (PAD) bespoke database in early stages of reporting

External Asset 2, Empowerment



	Community Values You: The SU feels valued.	You as a Resource: The SU feels they have a role in the community (including within the Project).	Service to Others: The SU serves in the community one hour or more per week (including within the Project).	Safety: The SU feels safe at home and in the community.
Qtr 1 - Phase 1	2.9	2.8	2.6	3.2
Qtr 1 - Phase 4	3.3	3	2.8	3.5
Qtr 1 - Comparison	14%	7%	8%	9%

b) Key areas of intervention

- To increase an offenders ability to successfully reintegrate into the community the Trust believes that key areas to address are:
 - Securing decent housing
 - Positive mutual relationships
 - Managing personal finance
 - Education, employment and training
 - Physical and mental well being (including dealing with addictions)
 - Boundaries

C) Joint and complementary working

- Complementing statutory agencies
- Recognising that different agencies have different strengths/skills/perspectives we can bring to the table
- Utilising specialist skills of other agencies
- Having a planned and coordinated approach to identified needs

D) Prevention of placement breakdown

- The Trust has developed a positive reputation in working with offenders that some organisations turn away.
- A priority for the Trust within the context of Public Protection is to work with service users proactively to prevent placement breakdown.

D) Prevention of placement breakdown

- It does this by:
 - Being aware of changes in behaviour
 - Previous cycles of behaviour that have led to relapse
 - Updating risk assessments and risk management plans when significant changes occur
 - Communicating concerns and agreeing coordinated action plan
 - Reviewing success and altering strategies as necessary

Accommodation a spring board to employment?

- It should be but:
 - Capping on Housing benefits and other benefits
 - Housing benefit awards will be reduced by 10 per cent after a claimant has been claiming jobseeker's allowance for 12 months.
 - levels of rents and service charges can make affordability of work difficult

Accommodation a spring board to employment?

- Postal code discrimination when applying for jobs
- Rural challenges— lack of public transport or affordability either in securing work or accessing job centres, libraries or work opportunities

Thank you

langley house trust 
helping people to live crime-free lives



www.langleyhousetrust.org