

Peer Research in Focus Ireland

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Focus Ireland

- Non-profit organization founded by Sister Stanislaus Kennedy in 1985 that provides services for people who are homeless and people at risk of homelessness in Ireland
- We believe that homelessness can be ended & everyone has a right to a place they can call home
- Understanding homelessness key part of Focus Ireland contribution since 1985 – “Knowledge Strategy”
- Since 2015, Focus Ireland has developed a Peer Research programme and employed researchers with lived experience of homelessness to work on specific research projects.

What is Peer Research?

- Peer research is a methodology
- Developed from the traditions of Action Research, Participatory Action Research (PAR), Empowerment Research
- Research cannot be done on others; people can only carry out research on themselves
- Research “with” people, rather than “on” people
- Emancipatory process which helps people challenge and remove themselves from unjust social structures



Peer Research Team





Focus Ireland Customer Satisfaction Survey 2020/21

FOCUS
Ireland

Challenging homelessness. Changing lives.



Levels
customers
and
housing

FOCUS
Ireland

ging lives.

FOCUS
Ireland



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Involving Lived Experience

- Ethics and Safeguarding
- Equal Treatment
- Training and development
- Planning and Flexibility
- Participation
- Role of the Professional

Volunteering Supports Study

LIFE AFTER
HOMELESSNESS through
VOLUNTEERING with
SUPPORT



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin



Volunteer
Ireland
Obair Dheonach Éireann



FOCUS
Ireland

Volunteering Support Study

Phase 1

- Explore need for creating a service that offers opportunity to volunteer in the community for people with lived experience of homelessness *with support* from first year OT students
- Qualitative interviews with staff (n=3) and people with lived experience of homelessness (n=6) from Focus Ireland and HSE services

Volunteering Support Study

Phase 2

- Design of a pilot project
- Occupational therapy students supported 6 people with experience of homelessness to volunteer in a 6-week placement (one evening a week) in National Council for the Blind of Ireland (NCBI) shops located in Dublin city centre.
- Evaluation of the pilot project through a survey and qualitative interviews with participants

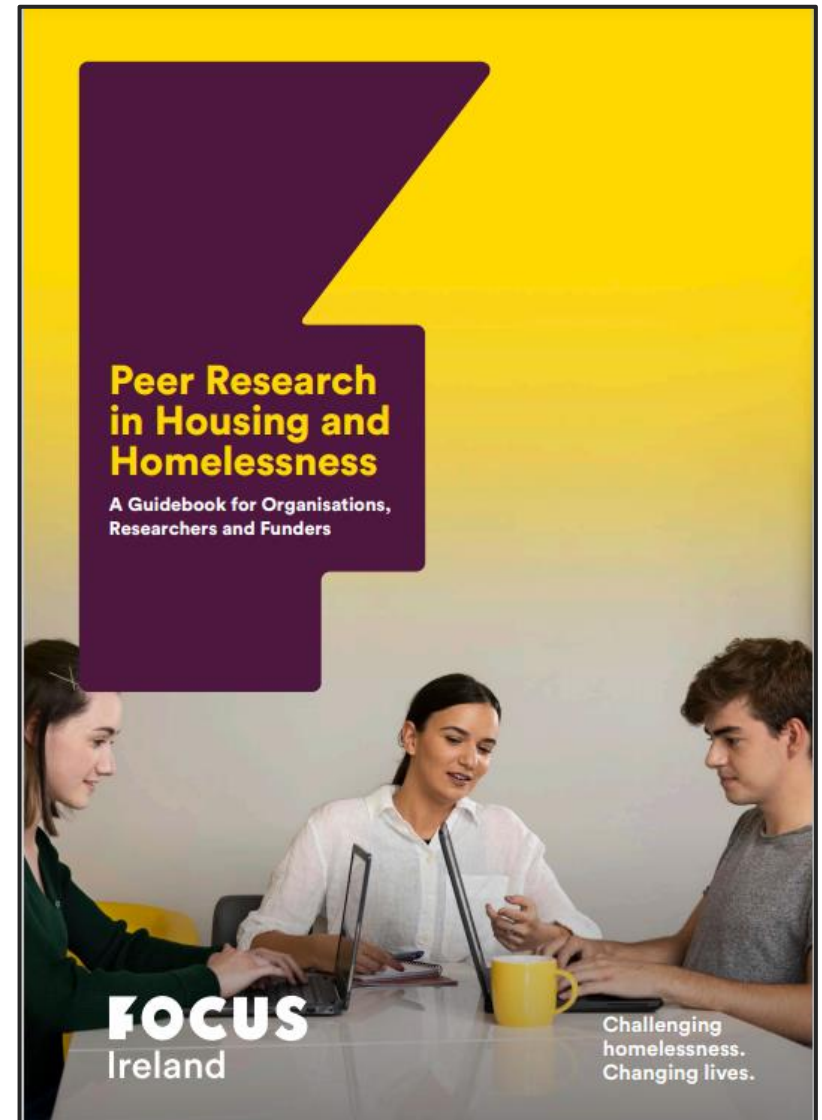
Peer Research Input

- Research Design – data collection instruments, info sheets and consent forms
- Recruitment – information sessions
- Data collection – qualitative interviews with participants (Phase 1 and 2)
- Transcription and Data analysis

Peer Research Guidebook

Available from the Focus Ireland website

www.focusireland.ie





Thank You.