


Furniture Poverty

What's going on in Salford?	The current challenges
<p>Helen provided a presentation highlighting the national picture of furniture poverty and the social benefits of furniture reuse. Simon provided a presentation on Emmaus Salford and the work they are doing on furniture poverty.</p> <p> 3. Furniture Poverty workshop - DONE.p</p> <p>Simon was asked how someone in need can obtain furniture, he described the procedure of furniture being donated:</p> <p>A request can be made via email to Emmaus, on which the companions at Emmaus will make a decision. There is also a voucher scheme available, Emmaus work with Housing Associations and Citizen Advice. Anyone can ask for help, but there is a limit on how much furniture can be provided free of charge. Attendees asked for information on Lucie's Pantry once it is available. MW advised that Salford CVS can put the information in their newsletter. Health and safety awareness was raised as a key issue, need to ensure that mattresses have fire labels on otherwise they cannot be used. Some providers do not realise the risk.</p>	<p>A discussion took place on people's experiences and issues with food poverty in Salford, with the following points being raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Veterans transition period - have unique issues due to circumstances they have been in• The furniture most people request is small items such as plates, cutlery or accessories such as a picture to put on the wall to make the house feel more like a home• The voucher system gives the recipient more dignity as they are being given responsibility and a choice on what they are going to buy with the funds they have available and they can build on any left over money for future purchases. Vouchers also limit people's expectations as there is a limit to the amount available• Behaviour change needs to happen as people want the newly released items and go to expensive stores to buy getting themselves into debt• Different level of poverty and expectations in Salford• Difference between NEED and WANT• Stigma and stereotyping• Void clearances - store goods for housing association tenants and make available when needed• Emmaus could have more furniture but have nowhere to store as they do not have a warehouse

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was suggested that there was a need to know what was available in Salford for people in need, such as mapping out the different providers • Furniture poverty is a huge problem in Salford but there are lots of solutions
<p>What we can do collaboratively going forward to make an additional difference</p>	<p>Key messages to feedback</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small packages (grocery; etc.) • Choice for recipients – dignity necessary • Void clearance • Store goods for HA tenants – make available • Mapping of FRO's in Salford • Manage expectations • Emmaus – Support from them and local authority • Volunteers – eco design opportunities and social benefit 	