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An Exploration of the Housing First Approach from Service Provider and Practitioner Perspectives.

The aim of this research is to gain an understanding of service provider and practitioner experiences of implementing and utilising a Housing First approach. The Housing First approach is currently to the fore in housing policy in many countries in Northern Europe and it is central to strategic responses to homelessness in Europe (Pleace, 2011). The Housing First approach has proven to be successful in a variety of contexts when working with individuals with a range of issues (Brown et al., 2016; Collins et al., 2013). Although Housing First is, a relatively new concept in Ireland research suggests that it has been successful in ensuring that those who engage with it remain in stable housing (Peter McVerry Trust, 2016; Greenwood, 2015). As the implementation of Housing First has increased, research has shown that there has been a drift from the basic principles of Housing First in some settings due to contextual, economic and cultural factors (Pleace, 2011). This research will seek to understand the factors that influence how Housing First is implemented in Ireland and how this adheres to the basic principles of the original Pathways to Housing Model of Housing First.