

Appendix A

What is the Tamworth Homelessness Education Programme – THEP?



The Tamworth Homelessness Education Programme is a specially designed series of sessions and resources which aim to

- Raise awareness of Homelessness
- Consider how it might feel to be without a home
- Challenge stereotypes of Homelessness
- Prevent young people in the Borough from leaving home in an unplanned way
- Identify where Homelessness is a risk that the young person knows the services that can be accessed or advice and support

The Homelessness Education Programme is also a key prevention tool used by Tamworth Borough Council to prevent homelessness.

The programme aims to visit all schools within the Borough delivering sessions to children and young people, complementing and contributing to their PSHE education. By experiencing a session this gives the children and young people an awareness of the subject matter, explores their thoughts and feelings about how it might feel to have no home, challenges stereotypes of homelessness and equips them with the knowledge of what to do and who they could approach if they ever found themselves in a position where they were either threatened with homelessness or found themselves homeless.

The programme consists of a toolkit of sessions aimed at different age groups. All of the sessions are very interactive and engage the children and young people in discussion, debate and a range of activities.

The sessions all address the National Curriculum and have session plans which clearly set out the learning aims and objectives and what it is hoped the children and young people will learn from participating in the session. Knowledge about the subject is assessed at the beginning and end of the sessions to determine if the learning aims and objectives of the session have been achieved.

Pre –school/Reception and Year 1

During this session the children are read a story about a Highland Cow called Hamish who visits his friends and because of his untidiness they ask him to leave and this makes Hamish homeless in the snow. The friends then don't like it that they have put Hamish outside so work together to find a solution and build Hamish a new home.



The session aims to explore how they might feel if they were Hamish and did not have home and how working with others problems can be solved to give a positive outcome.

The children are given some THEP character colouring book and pencils to take home and colour with parents. This contains a note to parents to advise them that their child has taken part in a session and also contact details for advice agencies should the family be facing any of the issues raised during the session.



This session meets the following PSHE Key Concepts for KS1

- 1 a,b,c,d
- 2 a,b,c,d,e,g
- 4 a,b,d
- 5 a,b,c,e,g

and meets the aims and objectives by getting the children to think about how it might feel not to have a home and that help is available.

Years 5/6

This session considers what a home is, what homelessness is and challenges stereotypes of being homeless. It is delivered in the form of a PowerPoint and group work where the children are given a series of THEP Characters in different scenarios, questions to answer in small groups and then a class discussion about what each of the scenarios has in common.

The children will be given a resource booklet with activities in to take home and work through with parents. Again this will have a note to parents and signposts to external agencies that may be able to assist where the family may be facing Homelessness.

This session meets the following PSHE Key Concepts for KS2

- 1 a
- 2 a,b,e,f,h
- 4 a,e,g
- 5 e,g,h

And meets the following aims and objectives of the programme, raising awareness of Homelessness, challenging stereotypes of Homelessness, preventing young people in the Borough from leaving home in an unplanned way and highlighting where homelessness is a risk that the young person knows the services that can be accessed or advice and support

Years 9/10/11 and 6th form

There are a series of sessions for this age group that tackle a number of issues and these can be delivered as an assembly, stand



alone individual one off sessions, all of the sessions over a day or spread across a number of weeks.



Assembly sessions

The assembly session asks for volunteers and each volunteer takes on a role. A number of scenarios are given and it is up to the young people to determine what the outcome of the scenario is.

This session meets the following PSHE Key Concepts for KS4:

- 1.4 a, c
- 2.1 d
- 2.3 b,c,e
- 3 d,g,h
- 4 c,d,e,f,h

The other sessions focus on single issues:

“Laying in the Gutter looking at the stars” is a session about rough sleeping and challenging the stereotypes of homelessness and which agencies might be approached if the young person is threatened with or finds themselves faced with homelessness.

The session begins with a discussion about what homelessness means to the young people. A DVD is then shown (although on occasion a peer educator may attend sessions with the Homelessness Education Officer) illustrating that being homeless does not always mean sleeping rough to demonstrate the point that sleeping rough is only one form of homelessness.

This is followed by the “Ruck Sack” exercise – during which the young people are given a ruck sack graphic, cards with different items on and a THEP Character scenario sheet. They are then asked to consider which agencies might be able to help them if they found themselves in that situation and what they would need to put in their ruck sack to assist the agency.

This session meets the following PSHE Key Concepts for KS4:

- 2.2 c,d
- 4 a,b,c,d,e,h

“It’s all about the Money” is a budgeting exercise which aims to make the young people think about the costs that they may incur if they were to live independently. This is delivered via a quiz, and a session in which THEP Character budgeting scenarios are given and the young people work in small groups to answer the questions.



This session meets the following PSHE Key Concepts for KS4:

4 a, b, c, d, e, f, h



“Moving on Up” is a session that looks at what Supported Housing is and the reality of living independently in Supported Housing, challenging some of the stereotypes and illustrating what the young people could expect should they move to this type of accommodation.

This session meets the following PSHE Key Concepts for KS4:

1.4 b

2.1 a, e

2.2 b, c, d

3 g

4 a, b, c, d, e

“The Grass ain’t always Greener” This session thinks about the reasons why young people might leave home and uses a DVD (Or the peer educator) to show where young people have left home and successfully gone back. There is a choice based activity where one of the THEP characters leaves and the choices made by the young people determine the characters actions but the end result is always that the character returns home. Finally the session looks at what agencies and services could help the young people should they find themselves in a situation where they are either threatened with homelessness or find themselves homeless.

This session meets the following PSHE Key Concepts for KS4:

2.3 a

3 g

4 a, b, c, d, e, h

For all of the KS4 sessions the young people will take home a THEP memory stick with the session delivered to them loaded on it to show to their parents to discuss the session and additionally a useful “Z” Card that lists agencies that may be able to provide support to prevent homelessness should a young person find themselves in this situation and to share with their family.

All of these sessions meet the all of the aims and objectives of the Education Programme.

Post session

Whenever a session is delivered there will be communication that goes home to the parents to advise them that their child has participated in this session and advice and information on agencies that may be able to assist should the family require any support.



If you would like to discuss the THEP further, would like information or would like us to come and deliver a session then please contact the Homelessness Education Officer at Tamworth Borough Council on 01827 709217 or email thep@tamworth.gov.uk

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