

Session 1 – 1b Homeless image 1



Teacher notes: Is this what homelessness looks like in your area?

Prompts:

Do you think this person has somewhere to sleep? Explore reasons why/why not.

What do you think they have written on the piece of cardboard in front of them?

Do you think people should give this person any money? Explore reasons why/why not.

Do you see this kind of homelessness in your area? Are there certain places you see people like this?

We are looking for:

An understanding and discussion of why people become homeless and a lightbulb moment that it is not always their fault/as a result of something that they have done (for example if after a family break-up, a mother/father gets a new partner who does not get on with the child, the child could be asked to leave).

An understanding and discussion of what homelessness looks like in your local area. Homelessness can look very different from area to area – in some areas (especially in urban centres) you might see high numbers of people sleeping rough (i.e. outside on the streets) and begging for money whilst in other areas, homelessness can be “hidden;” this means that it is more likely to be sofa surfing or people placed in temporary accommodation such as bed & breakfasts. In these instances, their homelessness is not as visible but it is still present and they still have no permanent home.

Session 1 – 1b Homeless Image 2



Teacher notes: Is this what homelessness looks like?

Prompts:

Do you think this person has somewhere (warm/safe/dry) to sleep? Somewhere to wash? Explore reasons why/why not.

What do you think he has in his trolley (if it is his belongings, does that mean he is more likely to be sleeping on the streets if he has to carry everything he owns with him)?

This man has no sign asking for help or money, do you think he still needs help?

We are looking for:

An understanding that people can become homeless for many different reasons and it is helpful not to judge them, based on their appearance. An understanding of why someone might become homeless, which can include:

- There are social causes of homelessness, such as a lack of affordable housing, poverty and unemployment; and life events which cause individuals to become homeless.
- People can become homeless when they leave prison, care or the army with no home to go to.
- Many homeless women have escaped a violent relationship.
- Many people become homeless because they can no longer afford the rent.
- And for many, life events like a relationship breaking down, losing a job, mental or physical health problems, or substance misuse can be the trigger. Homeless people who have additional needs, such as mental health needs, may find it more difficult to access help in the way they need.

Session 1 – 1b Homeless Image 3



Teacher notes: What does homelessness look like?

Prompts:

Do you think this young person is homeless? Explore reasons why/why not.

If they are sleeping on someone's sofa, is this a good type of accommodation? Explore reasons why/why not.

Do you think they have somewhere to call home?

Do you think they have somewhere to wash themselves/wash their clothes/change their clothes? Do you think they have any money?

Where do you think their clothes/Xbox/PS4/laptop/phone are?

What happens if the sofa they are sleeping on is not available any more – if they fell out with the friend it belonged to?

What we are looking for:

An understanding that:

- It is not a sleepover if you can't go home.
- Having a home is about having a safe and secure place to sleep, where you have a room and a bed of your own and you know you can return there each night.
- There are young people living off friends'/family members' sofas, who manage to attend school each day/ go to college and /or hold down a job; these young people need support and help.
- There is help available for young people who are living this way – they need to be referred to Children's Services or you need to follow your Safeguarding Policy.

Session 1, Task 1b What is Homelessness: Teacher's Notes

How they became homeless?

Individual factors including lack of qualifications, lack of social support (from friends, professionals and peers), debts - especially mortgage or rent arrears, poor physical and mental health, relationship breakdown, and getting involved in crime at an early age.

Family background including family breakdown and disputes, sexual and physical abuse in childhood or adolescence, having parents with drug or alcohol problems, and previous experience of family homelessness

An institutional background including having been in care, the armed forces, or in prison.

Sourced from

https://england.shelter.org.uk/campaigns/_why_we_campaign/tackling_homelessness/What_causes_homelessness



What support is on offer?

- Local Council Housing/Homeless Team.
- Job Centres.
- Local charities and other voluntary organisations.
- Teacher can research relevant organisations in the local area.
- Social workers, if appropriate.
- 16+ Youth Homeless Housing Officer.
- Child line **0800 1111**
- NSPCC 24 Hour Child Protection Helpline **0808 800 5000**
- Shelter, see https://england.shelter.org.uk/get_help for the different ways to contact them.

Where they are sleeping?

- Sofa surfing.
- Rough sleeping outside.
- Hostels or other temporary shelter.



Session 1 – 1C
Celebrity Handout



Session 1 – Task 2: Homeless Situations Task

Circle which of the following situations you think come under the term homeless.

1. **A young man aged 21 that has been living in a tent in a friend's back garden.**

Homeless

Not Homeless

2. **A mother and her 3 children living in bed and breakfast accommodation.**

Homeless

Not Homeless

3. **A young man (17) living in supported accommodation.**

Homeless

Not Homeless

4. **A young woman aged 18 staying with different friends and family members for a few weeks at a time.**

Homeless

Not Homeless

5. **Someone begging on the street.**

Homeless

Not Homeless

Session 1 – Task 2: Homeless Situations Task 2 Teacher’s Notes

Which of the following situations do you think come under the term homeless?

1. A young man aged 21 that has been living in a tent in a friend’s back garden.

This young man is **homeless**. A tent does not equal safe and secure accommodation, he is dependent on his friend to let him stay in his garden and presumably use the bathroom/kitchen/washing machine. Given he is 21 years old (and unless he is a care leaver), he would need to present as homeless to the housing team from the local council in his area. He would be able to find out where to go by searching on the internet, asking at his local Citizen’s Advice or going to the nearest Council offices.

2. A mother and her 3 children living in bed and breakfast accommodation.

This family is **homeless** as bed and breakfast accommodation is a temporary measure only. They are likely to have to all sleep, eat and live (watch TV, do homework etc.) in one room. They may have to share bathroom facilities with strangers.

3. A young man 17 living in supported accommodation.

This young man is **not homeless**; he has safe and secure accommodation in an accommodation project which supports young people to learn to live independently. A condition of being in this accommodation is that he attends his support sessions and keeps to the rules. These types of project usually accept young people between the ages of 16 – 24yrs and help young people develop the skills they need to live independently, manage their budget and get them engaged in positive activity such as education, employment or training.

4. A young woman aged 18 staying with different friends and family members for a few weeks at a time.

If this young woman cannot return home, she is **homeless** and is sofa surfing – she is staying between different friends and family. If she falls out with one of them or does something they don’t like, they could withdraw the offer of accommodation at any time. Because she is 18 years old and she is classed as an adult, she would need to present as homeless to the housing team from the local council in her area. She would be able to find out where to go by an internet search, asking at her local Citizen’s Advice or going to the nearest Council offices.

5. Someone begging on the street.

It is likely that they are **homeless**. Some people sleep rough (sleep outside) and they are homeless whilst some people may sleep in a hostel at night but are visible on the streets begging during the day.

Session 1 Evaluation & Assessment

	Score (1 = no understanding, 5 = complete understanding)				
Start of lesson	1	2	3	4	5
I can explain the kinds of situations covered by the term 'homelessness.'					
I can identify reasons why people become homeless.					
I can assess the benefits and challenges of living at home.					
I can describe the support available if a person is at risk of homelessness.					

	Score (1 = no understanding, 5 = complete understanding)				
End of lesson	1	2	3	4	5
I can explain the kinds of situations covered by the term 'homelessness.'					
I can identify reasons why people become homeless.					
I can assess the benefits and challenges of living at home.					
I can describe the support available if a person is at risk of homelessness.					

If you have any additional comments about the format or content of the lesson, please complete the box below.