

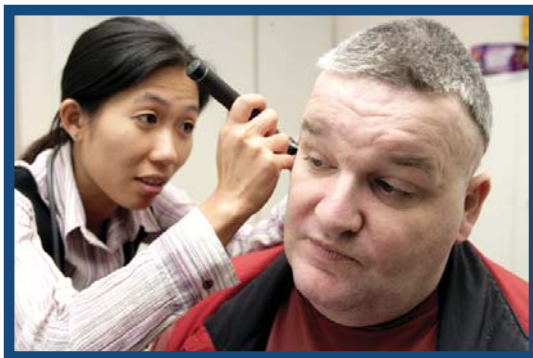
Early intervention hostel health services - a success story

Welcome to the first in a series of fact sheets from St Mungo's about how we offer successful solutions to people with complex health needs.

Health facts about homeless people

- Approximately 30% of St Mungo's clients have untreated conditions on arrival
- Typical health problems associated with rough sleeping are bronchitis, pneumonia, trench foot, frost bite and wound infections. In addition, they may also suffer from respiratory or cardiovascular problems
- 70% of St Mungo's clients require support with four or more needs, other than their lack of housing

Left untreated, physical health problems become worse for the individual and in turn cost more to treat, as hospitalisation becomes necessary. Furthermore, a long term hospital stay could mean the bed is blocked for another patient who requires it. St Mungo's takes a long term view to saving lives and money.



Complex needs? Successful solutions from St Mungo's

Health solutions from St Mungo's

Recent independent research commissioned by St Mungo's from ORC International indicates that early intervention from St Mungo's health services not only helps to dramatically improve a homeless person's health and prevent deterioration, but also substantially saves costs.

ORC concluded - £322,238 is saved per annum at one St Mungo's hostel alone.

Continued overleaf...

St Mungo's 

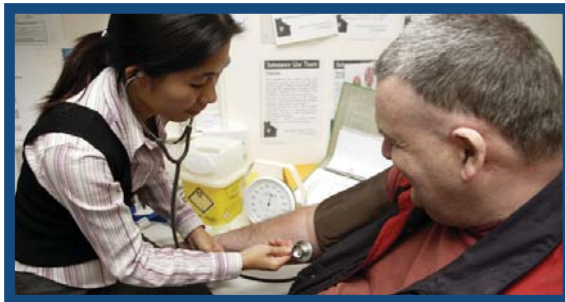
Opening doors for London's homeless

Without St Mungo's intervention

The following example presents costs that would be incurred if the individual suffered from type 2 diabetes or chronic heart disease, both typical for arrivals at St Mungo's. By remaining untreated, the individual's health would worsen resulting in a long term hospital stay. During this time the individual would receive incapacity benefits.

Situation - Long term hospital stay	Cost
Long term hospital stay	£46,600 ¹
Incapacity benefits received	£4,082 ²
Total cost	£50,682

The scenario could easily worsen. If the individual had type 2 diabetes and the situation had been left untreated for too long, the individual may require a leg amputation. Or, if the individual suffered from untreated chronic heart disease then they may require a heart transplant as well as a long term hospital stay.



*Complex needs?
Successful solutions
from St Mungo's*

Successful health solutions from St Mungo's

When an individual is referred to a St Mungo's hostel they receive a health check and have appointments with a nurse or doctor. Any diagnosis is then given and any necessary treatment begins. We work closely with local PCTs and other health care providers to deliver early intervention within the accommodation setting.

Treatment	Cost per annum
Appointment with a nurse in hostel	£394 ³
Appointment with a doctor - diagnosis of chronic heart disease/type 2 diabetes	£241 ⁴
Cost of hostel bed for a year	£27,030 ⁵
Total cost for a year	£27,665

Conclusion

ORC International's research shows that St Mungo's intervention provides a cost saving of £23,017 per person per annum. Using 30% of the 47 clients at Great Guildford Street hostel, ie 14, ORC calculated that by ensuring that each individual receives the treatment they require on arrival, £322, 238 is saved per annum at Great Guildford Street hostel alone.

Working together for successful solutions

We know that by working in partnership with other health service providers we can join together to effectively reduce health inequalities. **For further information, contact Kate Whalley, St Mungo's Group Manager for Health on 020 8762 5688 or e-mail Katew@mungos.org.**

References:

- (1) Guardian Society, *The cost of cutting edge* (April 2006)
- (2) Job Centre Plus - long term rate
- (3) Based on the daily cost (£98.60) of a Band 7 Grade nurse earning £36,000 salary per annum. Over the course of three months each resident at Great Guildford Street hostel will have been seen by the nurse
- (4) Based on £88,000 salary per annum of a contracted GP working 37 hours per week (2005)
- (5) Cost of St Mungo's Great Guildford Street hostel

St Mungo's, Griffin House,
161 Hammersmith Road, London W6 8BS

Tel: 020 8762 5500

Fax: 020 8762 5501

www.mungos.org

Charity exempt from registration
I&P Society No. 20598R Housing Association No. LH0279

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