



# Breaking the cycle: Homelessness, education and employment

## Homelessness de-skills and isolates people

St Mungo's provides the largest programme of work and learning opportunities for homeless people in Europe.

Each year we help over 2,000 homeless men and women, to build their confidence and their skills, and help them move towards finding permanent employment.

***"It's given me a positive outlook on life. I don't know what I would have done without the help I've had from St Mungo's."***

Trevor's attendance at Bridge Training Centre led to him being offered a job



## The problem

Homeless people face multiple barriers to education and employment, particularly those with drug or alcohol problems and an offending history.

- More than a third of our clients have no qualifications at all
- Nearly a fifth of St Mungo's clients struggle to read or write well enough to fill in a form or apply for a job
- 60% of St Mungo's clients have yet to achieve their first full level 2 qualification.

***"The more skills and experience you get, the better opportunities you have to find a job. These skills are valuable."***

Robin attended the European Computer Driving License (ECDL) course at a St Mungo's Training Centre

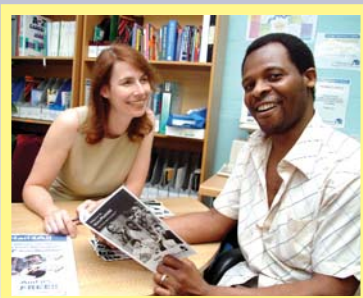


Despite low skills and high levels of unemployment, homeless men and women do not engage with mainstream education and employment services.

- Less than 5% of homeless men and women are in any form of paid employment
- Yet 77% say they would like to start work tomorrow if they could.

***"I can't believe how much my life has changed. For the first time in my life I have choices. The hard work is paying off."***

Joey completed his NVQ qualification in gardening, winning the 2007 Adult Learners' Week Award for London



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## The solution

St Mungo's works with homeless men and women to build their confidence and develop their vocational aspirations.

First steps learning provision or 'engagement' activities are a vital part of the process of becoming job ready - it is these purposeful activities which give homeless people increased confidence and vocational aspirations.

We offer support with every aspect of training and finding employment; from help with writing CVs; improving literacy, numeracy and key skills; looking and applying for jobs or training; to providing interview clothes and helping people maintain their jobs.

***"The workshop has given me a structure, something to do and people to talk to. As a result, I feel much less isolated."***

Peter attends St Mungo's wood workshop following two years sleeping rough



## Getting people off the streets and into work saves the UK money

Independent research shows that St Mungo's work and learning services saved the tax payer £5.6 million last year and helped 125 people find sustainable employment. This represents a £45,000 saving per client that enters employment.

Charles Fraser, Chief Executive of St Mungo's says:

***"It is time that the government acted upon its own rhetoric surrounding social exclusion. Addressing the issue of homelessness requires tackling the absence of training and skills - it is a long term project, which needs a long term solution and sustained funding."***



## About St Mungo's

- We are London's leading homelessness organisation with a unique range of services helping homeless men and women move from the streets to settled housing
- Every year we help thousands of homeless and vulnerable people find solutions to the problems they face with their housing, health and work, especially where they are excluded from mainstream services.

