

Jeopardy, Power and Resilience

*“Significant Factors that Impact
on the Survival and Recovery of Street
Addicts”*

Pathways into “Multiple Exclusion Homelessness” (Fitzpatrick, McDonagh et al: 2011)

ESRC commissioned programme substantive quantitative study covering 8 UK cities as combined in report:

- Explores the potential causal processes underlying these pathways
- Locates homelessness “in the context of other domains of deep social exclusion”
- Deep exclusion experiences “unlikely to have a single trigger, rather than having causal mechanisms which are multiple and multi-directional” and complex (Fitzgerald 2007)
- Postulates that the most complex forms of MEH associated with early life trauma.

- More extreme form linked to multiple and complex forms of social exclusion and need”
- The identified group constitutes the most complex 25 percent of “multiply excluded homeless” people IE those whose issues are the most difficult to address
- High associations between homelessness, substance misuse and street culture activities (begging, street drinking, shoplifting)
- and institutional “care” (childhood experience of local authority care, experience of prison/YOI or hospital admission for psychiatric reasons).
- Men between 20 and 49 experienced more indicators of deep social exclusion than any of the other identifiable groups with complex support needs (Manque et al 2009)
- Scottish Government statistics: 2013-18 increase in female beggars

Universal use of hard drugs – they were also found to possess other powerfully dominating issues:

- Anxiety and depression (95%)
- Survival shoplifting (89%)
- Homelessness experience (90%)
- Problem alcohol use (81%)
- Street drinking (75%)
- Prison (77%)
- Suicide attempts (56%)
- Victim violence (56%)
- Perpetrator violence (51%)
- Thrown out by parents or carers (51%)
- Self-Harm (47%)
- Evicted from rented accommodation (39%)
- Survival sex – almost all women (21%)

Edinburgh City Council Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan: 2017-18, P10

Council and its community planning partners launch *Inclusive Edinburgh* from 2014

- “to address problems faced by people with complex needs who may struggle with homelessness, unemployment, drug and alcohol problems, or mental or physical ill-health, who sometimes become involved in crime, and who are often the victims of violence”
- People with these multiple problems were considered to “have exhausted operational service options” causing a need to redesign services
- “so that partners can respond in a coordinated and psychologically-informed way”

“Factors associated with substance use among homeless young adults” (Gomez L, Thompson S, Barsyk A: 2015)

Homeless young adults defined as individuals between 12 and 24 years of age without stable housing and who identify with the culture and economy of living on the streets.

3 factors that may influence their level of substance use –

- social support
- economic resources
- and future expectations

Newly homeless young adults, seek the street lifestyle as a result of disruption of family relationships and separation from social institutions (such as schools)

The resulting social networks are important for homeless young adults

But these peer groups negatively influence increased substance use among them

“Street Addiction: A proposed theoretical model for understanding the draw of street life and gang activity” (Bergen-Cico D, Heygood-El A, Jennings-Bey T, Lane S: 2014)

- Street life itself could become behaviourally addictive –
- With most addictions there is a history of trauma and suffering -
- People acting out to handle the build-up of stress.
- Street life experiences described by interviewees mirror the characteristics of gambling as defined in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM-V).
- If street addiction received recognition, it would change the way professionals approach treatment and help those working with young people be trained
- to identify and better handle the effects of traumatic stress

"Jeopardy"

The state of high- anxiety related to external factors

- Constant need for a fix and the money to pay for it
- Dependency on street-life and dealers
- Lack of any stable income even without addiction
- Dependency on begging and...
crime such as drug-carrier activity, shoplifting, prostitution
- Hyper-vigilance and other factors relating to earlier trauma
- Lack of ability to access services and to maintain services
- Prevalence of lapsing & consequent loss of services
- Recurrence of chaotic living
- Episodic Homelessness
- Family alienation. Broken relationships,
- Mutual and communal exploitation

POTENTIAL RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- What factors compromise survival, stability and recovery?
- How does Power operate within street-life and services?
- How can resilience increase and recovery be achieved?

POTENTIAL THEORETICAL APPLICATIONS

All humans “possess some power in the form of ability to transform to some extent the circumstances in which they find themselves”.
Giddens (1996)

1. Marxist perspectives of alienation

In “Street Addicts in the Political economy”, Waterston, A. (1993) locates:

- “Vital aspect of the informal economy whereby the underclass is exploited in lucrative illegal businesses and can only afford daily living above the price of very expensive opiates and other street drugs by becoming an integral part of their distribution through utilisation of the same violent coercion from which they themselves have suffered. Addicts are part of the city’s “surplus labour supply”, forced into the city’s informal service economy by economic restructuring and gentrification. (Claeson, B 1995)
- “Thus, the drug industry, hierarchically structured like any capitalist industry with “big men” or distributors at the top and street sellers, lookouts, touters and steerers at the bottom, is part of the growing informal service economy, as is prostitution and a number of other ventures that are legal... street addicts serve crucial economic and political roles in late capitalism, as low-wage vulnerable, disorganised workers and as a divisive tool within their own class.”

"Power"

- The street-life and the operation of dealers
- Prescription procedures
- Housing procedures
- Revolving door of services
- Sentencing
- Remand
- Fines warrants and fine collection
- Lack of ability to report violence to police
- Or police ability to protect victims of drug related violence
- Release with no money

“Resilience”

- Ability or lack of to stabilise addiction or reduce dependency
- Stabilise mental and physical health
- To get an income
- Able to budget and find financial stability
- Develop supportive rather than exploitative relationships
- Break from street-life dependency and dangers
- Have positive work-related experiences
- Get to the point of achieving employment.

Fieldwork examination

- The data collection will examine the experience of the subjects
- seek to understand whether the economic power of this illegal economy mirrors that of state apparatuses.
- Its parallels and interdependence with the medical opiate regulation distribution
- And punitive systems and the state benefit sanctioning system
- As well as the interdependent role of the police in both regulating and condoning various aspects of the illegal economy
- And the lives of those dependant on it.

Foucault: Power and Knowledge...Governmentality and Truth Speaking

- “Power and Knowledge - the politics of health in the eighteenth century” (Foucault: P276)
Governmental factors powerfully emerged to impact and dominate the existence of people with extreme economic social judicial and medical difficulties.
- These emerge by means of “a whole series of functional discriminations (the good poor and the bad poor) <and> the emergence of the health and wellbeing of the population in general as one of the essential objectives of political power...
- Different power apparatuses are called upon to take charge of ‘bodies’ ...to help and, if necessary, constrain them to ensure their own good health” (Ibid P. 268)
- “The sudden importance assumed by medicine in the 18th century originates at the point of intersection of a new ‘analytical’ economy of assistance with the emergence of a general “police” of health...(making) the shift from the narrow context of charitable aid to the more general form of a ‘medical police’ imposing its constraints and dispensing its services” (Ibid: P 277,278)”

Foucault recorded lectures delivered to the College of France in “Psychiatric Power”(1973-1974), replaced idea of “modes of domination” with “the basic forms of power-knowledge”

- “The idea of an unbalanced relation of force that makes it impossible for the other person to do anything other than what he is forced to do - is hardly suited for reconstructing the complexity of the games of power’ (Ibid: P 355)
- For instance, those diagnosed with “hysteria” were recorded as manipulating medical power in the late eighteenth-century institution Salpetriere in what he described as “great manoeuvres” (Foucault 2006: P308).
- People’s need for and the potential to enable them to evade medical surveillance will be explored as: “subordinates attempt to deflect, cushion or radically subvert the ongoing forms of control” (Gibbons, 1984)
- “Psychiatric Power” portrays the patients of the developing system as active powerbrokers not merely victims
- people with street addictions who may also be both victims and perpetrators of acts of domination and evasion within clinical and non-medical services (Fitzpatrick E:2011)

Foucault's lectures (1979-1980), in "On the Government of the Living" (2012) highlight How society's requirements for "truth-telling" developed as dominant in Western civilisation

- Within the field of Addiction "truth and untruth" are fundamental, owing to determining factors such as individual shame, illegality, deprivation and judicial and medical surveillance
- Also, issues re service provision where the veracity of stated policy and practice intentions and their underlying motivations are put in question by recipients and the wider community
- The extreme subterfuge of the illegal "services" of drug dealers and loan sharks
- the publicly prosecuted war on drugs as contrasted with the realities and ethical particularities of the police's and courts' prosecution of this "war"
- All socially modulated by a volatile media excited by incidents involving violence, individual, family community and social negligence, extreme distress and multiple deaths.

Bourdieu
Fields of Power – Social financial, professional Capital
Personal Habitus

- The analysis of how differing types of capital hold power
- To operating within specified and varying fields
- Thus deepening understanding of the interplay of the many powerful and organised influences
- On and between the lives of those concerned
- I intend to apply this to shed light on the way power affects addicts