

# Threshold Housing First

Greater Manchester, England, UK

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**Project Description:** This is a specialized Housing First program that targets the unique needs of homeless women with a history of offending. The service has continued in the Greater Manchester Area after the completion of a two-year pilot program from 2015 -2017.

**Distinguishing Features:** Threshold Housing First works predominately with women who are referred by parole or other criminal justice services and require highly individualized support programs for a complex combination of needs.

**Population Served: Homeless Women with a History of Offending**

Website: [thp.org.uk/services/HousingFirst](http://thp.org.uk/services/HousingFirst)

Two-year pilot program report 2015-2017:

[www.york.ac.uk/media/chp/documents/Threshold%20Housing%20First%20Evaluation%20Report%20-%20FINAL%20\(14-3-18\).pdf](http://www.york.ac.uk/media/chp/documents/Threshold%20Housing%20First%20Evaluation%20Report%20-%20FINAL%20(14-3-18).pdf)

## SUMMARY

Threshold Housing First started as a two-year pilot program in 2015, and has since received funding for an additional three years of operations within the Greater Manchester Area. The program provides specialized services to homeless women with a history of offending and is one of the UK's predominate gender specific supported housing programs. As a result of working with this demographic, the women referred here have a complex set of support needs. A large majority of the women within the 2015-2017 pilot program had a history of mental health (91%) and addiction issues (drugs 75%, alcohol 79%), as well as experiences of domestic violence (94%). Due to the acute level of need, Threshold Housing First provides daily support for their service users, including welfare check ins every day of the week. This ongoing support is focused on building successful, trusting relationships. Their wholistic program model of service works to ensure the women feel valued, motivated, and empowered with life skills to support themselves going forward.

## Support Services Offered

Threshold follows the 'consumer choice' model of Housing First initiatives, so the supports offered are highly individualized based on the service users' needs. The women do not receive a standardized, package of support, because they play an ongoing, central role in determining what that support is. Threshold Housing First bases this co-produced program of support around four main areas:

<b>Housing Skills</b>	Daily living skills Management of finances and debt
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>	Mental health Physical health Addiction
<b>Social Integration</b>	Avoiding anti-social behaviour Avoiding criminal activity Engagement in education, training, volunteering and employment
<b>Social Networking</b>	Positive relationship with a partner Positive relationships with children Positive relationships with family and friends Positive relationships in the neighborhood

## Threshold

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Threshold is a support charity operating in multiple locations across the Greater Manchester Area in North West England. Their focus is supporting vulnerable people towards independence and wellbeing. While they provide a variety of housing services from low support to intensive housing management, their expertise is working with gender specific Housing First programs and domestic violence services. Their program is one of the largest, longest running Housing First Programs for women in the UK. Their goal is to provide quality services to vulnerable people so they can achieve their full potential and make a positive contribution to the communities where they live.

[thp.org.uk/about-us](http://thp.org.uk/about-us)

## CONNECTED ORGANIZATIONS

### **The Prevention Alliance**

Threshold pioneered The Prevention Alliance which is an alliance of organizations focused on providing proactive, early support for anyone who is vulnerable due to their health, wellbeing, or situation. Their services include support for physical, mental, and financial wellbeing, as well as housing support and community connections that enable individuals to work towards independence.

[stockporttpa.co.uk](http://stockporttpa.co.uk)

### **The Jigsaw Group**

Threshold is also part of The Jigsaw Group, which is one of the largest housing groups in England. They collectively manage over 33,000 homes, and offer a variety of housing services.

[jigsawhomes.org.uk](http://jigsawhomes.org.uk)