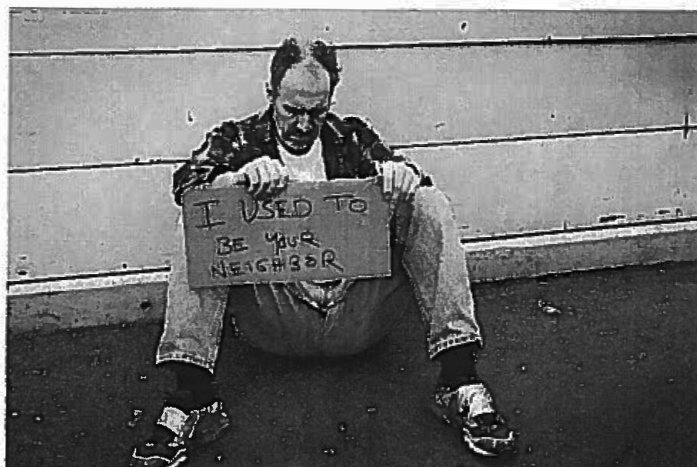


Candidate 2 evidence



HOMELESSNESS

Is it a social issue?



Word count: 1,295

Introduction (A)

In the UK there are currently 94,465 people who are considered homeless. "In Scotland, 28,247 applications were assessed as homeless", according to the latest figures released from Crisis. Most know that being homeless is when you are living on the streets unable to know where your next meal is coming from. Sleeping rough is sometimes the only option for those who are homeless "In January 2017, 4,134 people are estimated to be sleeping rough on any one night... [which is] a 16% increase from 2015 to 2016." Homelessness is steadily on the rise and we cannot find a way to prevent it then the problem is only going to continue to grow.

Common Sense (B)

One common sense view that is associated with being homeless is that it is their own fault or that they are not truly homeless. They are only doing it for the money. This means that the public presume that these homeless people have put themselves in this predicament and if they truly wanted to they would be able to get themselves out of it if they tried. They think that instead of going out and finding a job they would rather beg for it. For example: In the Independence newspaper Simon Dudley, a Windsor council leader, believes that being homeless is a "commercial choice". He goes on to say "It is time for you to deal with this issue. This is not voluntary homelessness. It is commercial life choice praying on residents and tourists. It's been going on and getting worse for months. Enough is enough."

Another example is that 2016 the Sun released an article that revealed "Only one in five beggars targeting big- hearted Brits is homeless." "It comes after we were told yesterday how a scrounger in the West Midlands rakes in around £130,000 a year by pretending to be sleeping rough."

These common sense assumptions believe that homeless people would rather beg for money from those around them than go out and get their life sorted.

Common Sense (B)

We are able to understand the difference between common sense and a sociological perspective on this issue. Those who use a common sense statement do not have any valid evidence to back it up whereas a sociologist would have done extensive research to find out exactly what the problem is and how it can be resolved. A common sense statement is very subjective meaning that they use their own personal opinion i.e. they believe that those who are homeless are nothing more than lazy whereas a sociological perspective is very objective and will find research to show that their points are true i.e. they believe that there may be economical issues surrounding those who are homeless.

Studies Used (C)

I will be using a study that was conducted by Crisis entitled "The Homeless Monitor" to explain the expanding problem that is homelessness.

I will also be using a study conducted by Homelink entitled "Single Homeless Support in England Review" to explore more on the idea of single people who are homeless.

Analyse of studies (D)

A study conducted by Crisis in March 2017 revealed that rough sleepers alone in England was at a record high between 2015/16 with over 250,000 people needed help regarding homelessness prevention. This means that they needed help in order to stay in their current residencies than living on the streets. 6,000 people in England alone were deemed statutory homeless meaning that they were seen as genuinely having nowhere else to go and that it was not their fault. Although it is impossible to know the exact number of those who are homeless, seeing these figures show that this problem only seems to be getting bigger. Until sociologists are able to find a solution homelessness will consistently be a contemporary social issue. The pressure placed on social housing and supported accommodation due the high demands of homelessness continues to grow as the number of people needing help regarding their living situation continues to rise while the money being spent on these facilities consistently reduces. Another research study carried out by Homelink found that in 2016/17 the government put in place 35,727 bed spaces to accommodate those who found themselves homeless in England. Although this is an extremely large amount of space in the same year homelessness foundations received 47% less funding than the year previously with only 8% of the

organisations receiving an increase in funding. "34% of projects reported the main barrier to be a lack of affordable housing." The pressure of finding affordable housing for those that are homeless is becoming an increasing problem. Those that are homeless and in supported accommodation often have a range of special needs with "33% having complex needs and need additional support." This having a substantial burden that we can no longer keep up with those that do have these problems are not having their needs met ultimately causing them to continue on this vicious cycle that is homelessness. People who have the benefit to be placed in these supported accommodation may not understand how to run their home. "93% of services use life skills i.e. budgeting and cooking to help people understand the basic needs to live independently." "50% use a rent deposit scheme" because they are unable to afford the deposit on their property making it harder for those who wish to get out are not able to. This again helps to disprove the common sense statements stated before because if these homeless people were only doing it for the money then they would have gotten very far because as it stands homeless charities are having a serious shortage of support and donations.

Theory perspective of Homelessness. (E)

A sociological theory that would be able to explain the causes of homelessness due to capitalism is Marxism. Marx's suggests that there are two different classes in our society and that the proletariat are being exploited by the bourgeoisie because they wish to make the maximum profit without having to pay them a sizable amount of wages. The workers believe that they are being paid adequate amount of money in order to survive, little do they realise that the capitalist are paying them an extremely low wage compared to what their profits are making. Those of us living in a capitalist society believe that we are essentially trained to work through education, hard-work and determination. Homeless people are seen as "lazy" and "uneducated". This conflict theory believes that homelessness is due to people's personality flaws instead of the flaws we have in our society meaning that they did not follow the hidden curriculum in school and ultimately rebelled causing them to be homeless. Furthermore this theory is able to explain homelessness and capitalism because of the constant resentment to those who are considered to have everything compared to those who have nothing. There is an extremely large

differences between these social classes in this capitalist society. Those that have the control through competition and power are the wealthy groups.

Conclusion

In conclusion the evidence presented in this report helps disprove the common sense statements that surrounds homelessness because it gives us the insight needed to understand the many problems homeless people face in order to get themselves out of their unstable life they are leading. We can see that the mass media plays a key part in spreading this vicious cycle of common sense statements that surround homelessness. There are many reasons as to why someone may be homeless. These include things like mental health, illnesses, money trouble or lack of opportunity because of the way they have been socialised or the background they come from. Without research these common sense statements would continue to portray homeless people as nothing more than lazy.

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