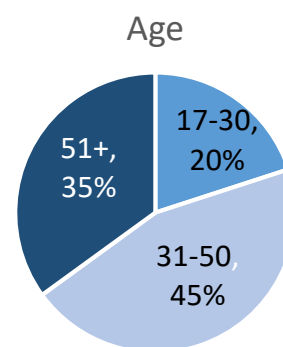
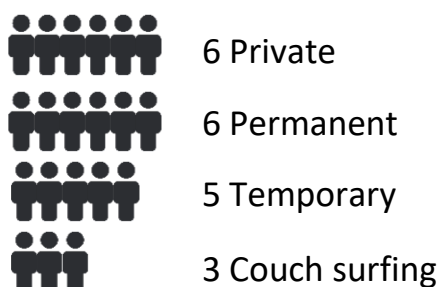


What does 'better' look like?

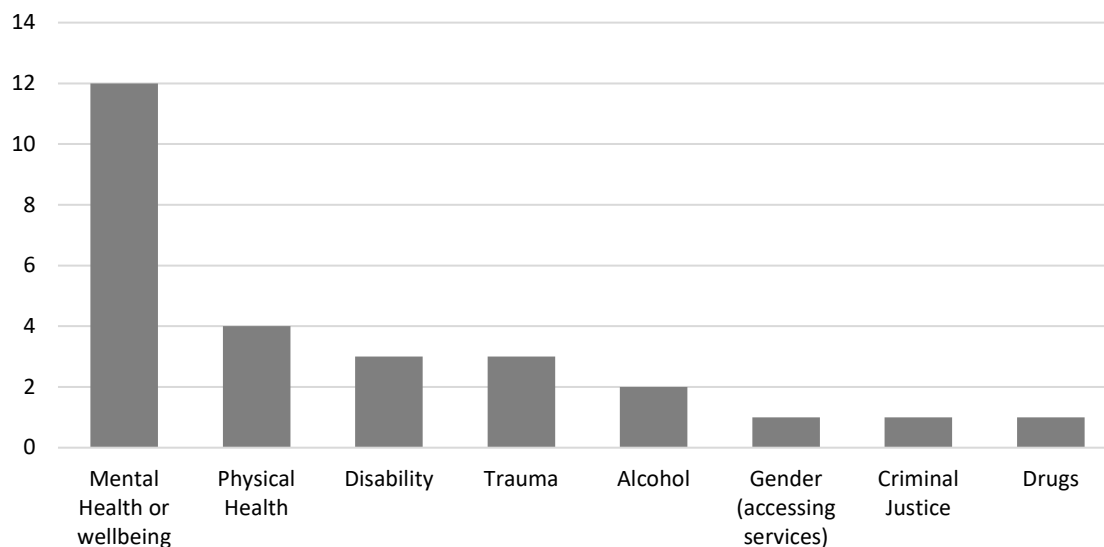
(Autumn 2020)

We asked people who have experience of homelessness, Shelter Scotland and Midlothian Council how to make a real change for the better in their local area.

We asked 20 people of different ages living in a range of accommodation:



They faced a range of problems (often experiencing several problems at once.)



What has your experience been?

- **Private let**
“too expensive and too small”
- **Permanent**
“Established some stability in my life, after many years of sleeping in a car, sofa surfing, B&B accommodations & washing in the river”,
“Great”
- **Temporary**
“Nightmare”,
“My GP wrote a letter concerns about the impact the flat is having my health to the housing officer 4 years ago and am still suffering (5 years in accommodation)”
- **Sofa surfing**
“Living with daughter and parents at their 2 bedroom council flat for almost 4 years”
“it’s playing with my mental health am also a frontline worker so can’t stay anywhere else”

Are you getting help or support with your problems?

- Most common response was “No”
- “I have a good support and help from Melville housing but they can't do everything”

What would help you right now?

- “Because you are not allowed anyone under 18 in the accommodation I don't get to see my daughter and that really gets me down and depressed as she is only 11 years old”
- “Getting my rent arrears sorted and more help”
- “New secure main doors stop people using the place like a public toilet”

Anything else we could help you with?

- “Money problems”
- “Information on helping/ volunteering for the many people who find themselves homeless or close to giving up”