

Homelessness and health

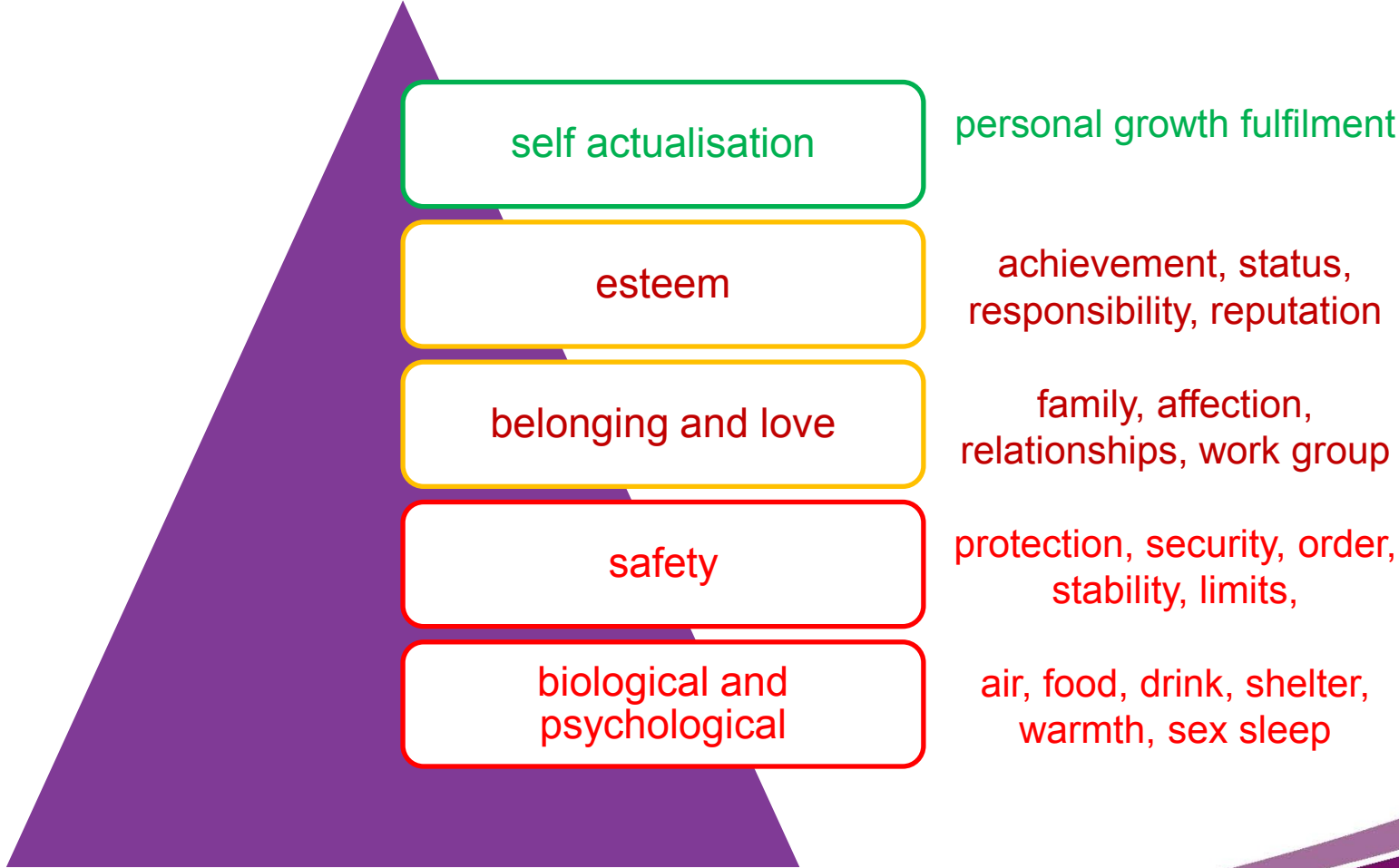
Health and Wellbeing Board

23rd October 2013

The relationship between homelessness and health

- The difference between housing and a home
- What do we mean by homeless?
- Relationship between housing, homelessness and health
- Research into health impacts of rough sleeping and living in temporary accommodation
- Recommendations

Maslow's hierarchy of needs



Housing provides for basic human needs, but a settled home provides a platform for inclusion, positive relationships and potentially for achievement

Vulnerability
[esteem/belonging/love]

Social inclusion
Opportunity
Employment

Social or family
support
Caring
arrangements

Making plans
Hopes/ambition
Lives on hold

Quality
[safety]

Hazards
Trips
Fire
Electrics

Damp
Mould
Extreme cold
CO, lead,

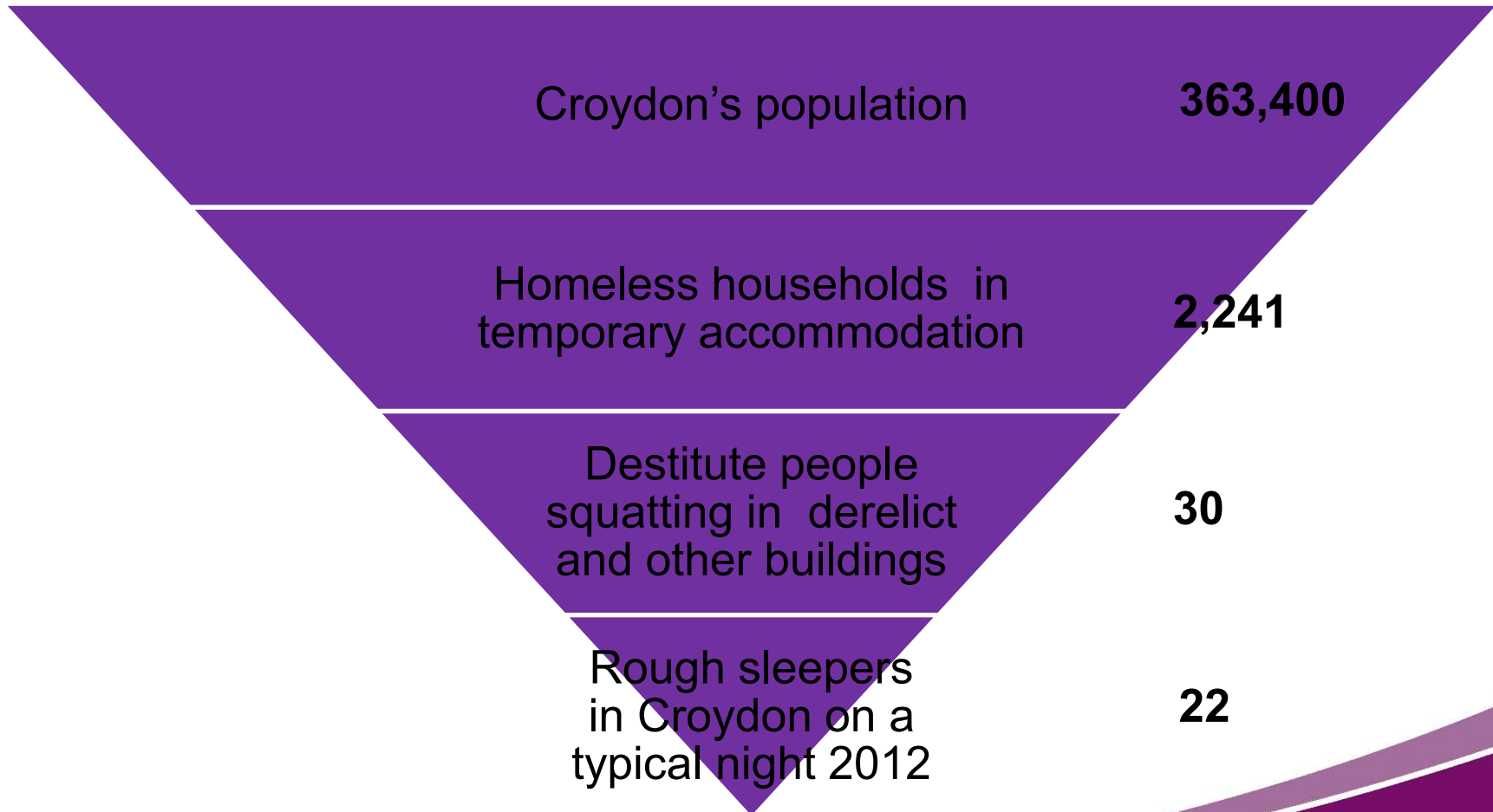
Overcrowding
Light
Noise

Access
[biological/psychological]

Rough sleeping

Destitute
squatting derelict
buildings

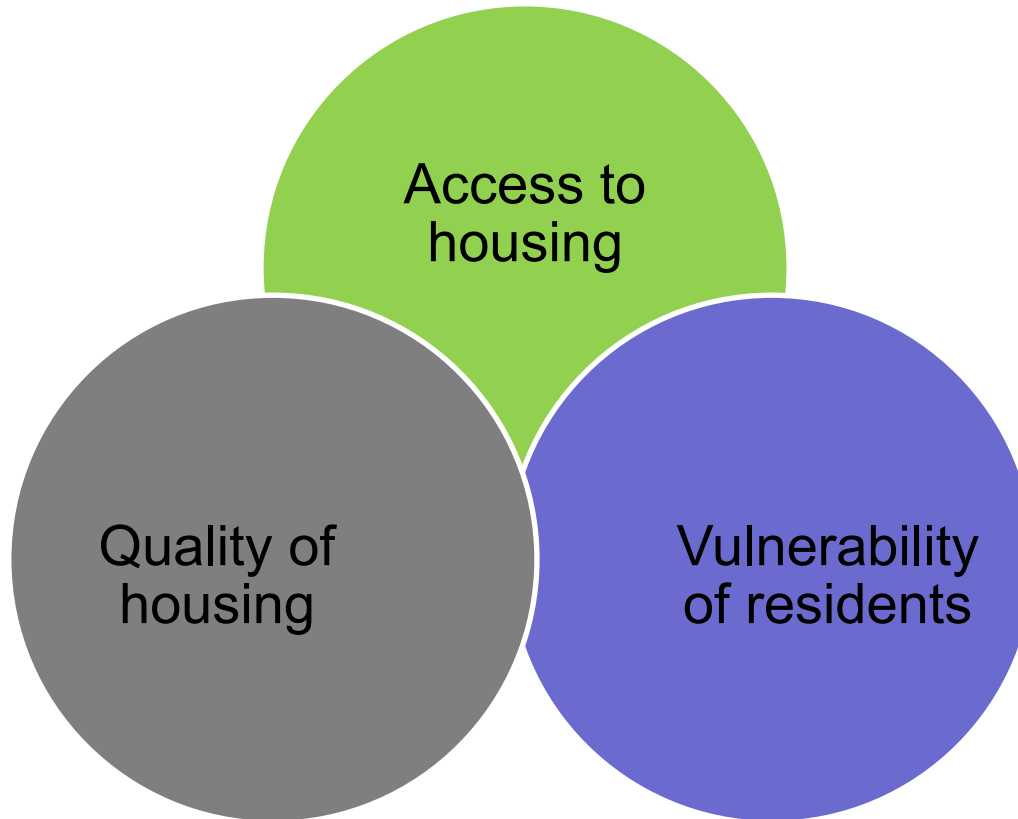
98% of homeless households have somewhere to live



What do we mean by homeless?

- Verifying rough sleeping
- Central and Eastern European nationals not exercising treaty rights
- Eligibility for housing assistance
- Priority need for housing
- Single homeless
- Housing support

UK Public Health Association framework



Rough sleepers are ...

- 13 times more likely to be victims of violent attack
- At risk of dying of hypothermia in cold weather
- More likely to die young - average age of death 47
- 3.5 times more likely to commit suicide
- 7 times more likely to die of alcohol related causes
- 20 times more likely to die of drug related causes
- At risk of fire and other hazards in squats or other unsuitable accommodation
- More likely to have mental health problems

Households living in temporary accommodation

- experience more mental, physical and obstetric health problems
- use accident and emergency services more
- Overcrowded accommodation with inadequate facilities for eating, playing relaxing and for doing homework affects childrens health, wellbeing and educational attainment
- 50% report they are suffering from depression
- Over 50% report that their family's health has suffered
- On average children missed 55 school days
- Children were often unhappy or depressed

Shelter – Living in limbo (2004)

“Homelessness means loss, loss, loss...it is not just loss of a home, maybe of a partner or of family life, of supportive friends or of a known community. It involves the loss of confidence and self-esteem. The loss of opportunities. These losses are less obvious... and the long-term effects on children in particular and the stigma of homelessness are not ever really taken on board. It’s not just the reasons why people become homeless that are important but what it does to you.”

Recommendations

1. Support and participate in JSNA chapter
2. Support on-going work to increase supply of accommodation for homeless households
3. Support development of homelessness strategy in 2014
4. Support and participate in outreach and engagement with destitute CEE nationals
5. Support and contribute to enforcement and improvement activity in private rented housing