

Dear Mark,

Unfortunately I am unable to attend this meeting this Thursday due to prior commitments. My comments on this issue for homeless people would be as follows:

Loneliness is inherent in the state of homelessness, usually the complex trauma experienced by people who find themselves sleeping on the streets or lodged in a hostel or other temporary accommodation has likely been extreme enough to divest them of any social capital they may have had.

Generally for people who become homeless, families are estranged, they find they have lost a peer group of friends, colleagues etc and a loose alliance with other homeless people may be formed but this camaraderie is ephemeral and based often on substance misuse or passing mutual need.

High rates of completed suicide amongst people who find themselves homeless owes a great deal to the social isolation they experience. This is mitigated to some degree by professional relationships with support workers, probation officers, street outreach etc, but these, however kind, can never replace the spontaneous relationships of family and friends.

I hope this proves helpful.

Best wishes

Pam

Pamela Campbell
Consultant Nurse Homelessness and Health Inequalities
Solent Healthcare
Fanshawe Wing
Royal South Hants,
Graham Road
Southampton
SO14 0YG