

Effective options for post-custody accommodation

Final Report

By: **Carissa McPhee**

Host organization: Regional Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committee (Contact: Dave Jarvis)

Faculty Supervisor: Sharon Beaucage-Johnson

Trent Community Research Centre Project Coordinator: John Marris

Department: Forensic Science
Course Code: FRSC 4890Y
Course Name: Community-Based Research
Term: Fall/Winer 17/18
Project Submitted: April 2018

Project ID: 4744



Abstract

This paper examines provincial post-custody accommodation. The purpose of this research, was to investigate what is currently occurring in the Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge (HKPR) region and review any existing best practice or programs for post-custody accommodation. To achieve this goal, a grey literature review was conducted and a survey addressing post-custody accommodation was emailed to social service organizations in the HKPR region. The survey consisted of qualitative and quantitative questions. The organizations were asked if they provided any services or support for post-custody clients, if they directly operated housing for post-custody, what problems post-custody clients experience, any barriers and challenges to meeting accommodation needs, any services that should be implemented and if the federal mandated post-release planning should be implemented provincially. The research demonstrated that the biggest barrier was a lack of housing. In terms of services, housing support workers and long term permanent housing should be implemented. The research also alluded to organizations wanting to see similar post-release planning, as mandated at the federal level. Recommendations include: targeting organizations that directly operate post-custody accommodation, disperse yearly surveys, test other post-custody accommodation models and fight for adequate housing.

Acknowledgements

Without the support of Dave Jarvis from the HSJCC, this project would not have been possible. Thank you for providing me the opportunity to aid in your research. I would also like to thank TCRC Supervisor Dr. Marris, Faculty Supervisor Professor Beaucage-Johnson and the Forensic Science department, for allowing me the opportunity to take part in a Community Based Research project and for being tremendously supportive along the way. It was an incredible opportunity to be a part of this research and to be able to gain knowledge and experience within the community. The next individual I would like to acknowledge is Regional Housing Coordinator Kerri Kightley, who helped provide valuable information about post-custody accommodation, provided contact information for the surveys and offered to distribute them. Thank you for your continuous support throughout this project. I would also like to give an acknowledgement to the organizations, who participated within the study: John Howard Society of Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton, Housing Access Peterborough, the Haliburton Highlands Mental Health Services, YES [shelter](#) for youth and families, FourCast, Northumberland Hills Hospital Community Mental Health Services, HKPR District Health Unit, Green Wood Coalition, Salvation Army and the Help Centre. Lastly I would like to thank from the bottom of my heart my classmates and friends, who supported me throughout this project.

Table of contents

Key Words.....5

Introduction.....7

Methods.....9

 Grey literature review..... 9

 Survey.....11

Results.....12

Discussion.....23

References.....27

Appendices.....29

 Appendix A..... 29

 Appendix B.....30

 Appendix C.....33

Key Words

Accommodation: A building in which the individual resides.

Adequate housing: Provides legal protection against threats, is affordable, the house should provide enough space, protect individuals from outside conditions, provide drinkable water, heating, lighting, sanitation, is accessible and is near employment and service facilities.

Best Practice: The most effective procedure chosen and is informed by research.

Couch Surfing: Staying temporarily in a series of other people's homes (e.g., friends, family).

Decriminalization: To repeal a ban or classification but still have regulations upon it.

Deinstitutionalization: To release an offender from a prison or mental health hospital.

Destigmatization: To remove an association of disgrace from a classification (e.g., destigmatize mental health).

Emergency housing: Short term accommodation for people who are homeless.

Halfway house (also known as Community-Based Residential Facilities): Allows federal offenders to serve a bit of their sentence under the watch of the community, it is a community based facility.

Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge (HKPR): The region that includes Peterborough County, Kawartha Lakes, Haliburton and Northumberland County.

Homeless: An individual living within a shelter, hostel, at a friend's house or on the street.

Independent Living: Is an individual living on their own and is able to make their own decisions and converse with others.

Offenders: Recent inmates and individuals re-offending.

Penitentiary: A prison that is for people who have committed crimes, it is a place of imprisonment, a place for discipline and punishment.

Planner: An individual who helps coordinate discharge planning.

Post-release services: Assistance given to those being released from jail that helps the individual find long or short term housing, could get this through being referred.

Pre-release services: Assistance in planning housing prior to prisoners being released.

Provincial offender: An offender who serves their sentence in jail for a 2 year period less a day within a provincial facility.

Qualitative research: Primary research that gains insights through data collection from interviews, surveys and discussions.

Quantitative research: Data that is transformed into usable statistics, it generalizes the findings and applies it to the overall population.

Recidivism: The tendency of a convicted criminal to reoffend.

Regional Human Service and Justice Coordinating Committee (HSJCC): The HSJCC offers support that aims to destigmatize, deinstitutionalize and decriminalize individuals who are dealing with mental health issues and/or addiction who come into contact with the criminal justice system.

Shelter: A place that acts as a temporary home, providing safety.

Transitional Residence: Long or short term housing that allows offenders to become self-sufficient.

Introduction

At the federal level, when offenders are released from prison, they have access to accommodation such as halfway houses due to the discharge planning that is implemented. The goal of these halfway houses, is to allow offenders the ability to transition back into society. Federal discharge plans that include accommodation do not exist at the provincial level and therefore offenders are often released into homelessness.

When looking at post-custody accommodation at the provincial level, a paper by Gaetz and O'Grady (2009) discussed what discharge planning is implemented in British Columbia and Ontario. The authors explained that discharge planning is either limited or not evident and consists mostly of a planner being able to provide only a list of shelters or hostels to which an offender can be released (Gaetz & O'Grady, 2009). At the provincial level, offenders do not have the same access to transitional housing that federal offenders do and are typically forced to look for housing in shelters or in the private market. This is primarily due to budget cuts in Ontario, which resulted in funding being withdrawn and having Ontario close their last halfway house in 1995 (Gallagher, 2017).

There are a variety of limitations that occur during post-custody accommodation. The first limitation that becomes apparent occurs when an individual, post-custody, deals with private rentals. The owners of these homes, typically discriminate against any applicants who have a criminal record (Willis, 2016). The second limitation with housing deals with shelters. Shelters

are the least stable housing option available and have limits surrounding the duration of an individual's stay. However, due to the lack of discharge planning in place at the provincial level, individuals post-custody find themselves being released to shelters (Fontaine & Bless, 2012). This is important because every individual should have access to permanent accommodation. However, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms in Canada does not formally acknowledge the right of adequate housing as a requirement in law. There is a new plan in place called the National Housing Strategy, which over the next 10 years plans to invest \$2.2 billion dollars into a 50% reduction in the amount of chronic homelessness (Place to call home, 2018). This plan is significant because it is trying to give individuals the right to adequate housing. Overall, with the limitations and lack of planning for provincial post-custody, there are agencies across the province with a mandate to address the needs for this specific population. One group that is striving to understand more about post-custody accommodation is the HSJCC.

The host of this project is Dave Jarvis from the HSJCC. The Regional Human Service and Justice Coordinating Committee (HSJCC) is located in the Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge (HKPR) area, which includes Peterborough County, Kawartha Lakes, Haliburton and Northumberland County. This organization draws members from police services, adult mental health, courts, corrections and community living.

The purpose of this project was to investigate these questions:

- How have agencies across the region that work with those recently released addressed the housing needs of this population?
- What services would front-line agencies like to see to meet the needs of this population?
- What challenges do agencies encounter in meeting the housing needs of this population?
- What types of support do local agencies see as necessary for this population?

- What post-incarceration accommodation programs exist in other towns and cities? How are they structured and funded? What supports do they offer? Have they faced opposition from community and landlords
- What is the existing best practice in post-incarceration accommodation? What evaluation and research has been done on this subject? What types and levels of support are needed by those recently released from jail?

Methods

The first part of this project consisted of reviewing academic literature and conducting a grey literature review on what the best practice is for post-custody accommodation. Research was also conducted on, examining other possible programs that might exist in Ontario, in other provinces or outside the country. This is then followed by a discussion about the creation of the survey.

Grey Literature review

Review of post-custody accommodation programs existing in other towns or cities? What is the existing best practice in post-custody accommodation?

This information was addressed by reviewing academic literature (e.g., Scholar's portal) and conducting a grey literature review on Google. The information also represents content obtained in a meeting with the Regional Housing Coordinator for FourCast Kerri Kightley. The key terms that were searched for this section include:

- Post-custody accommodation programs
- Post-incarceration accommodation funding Canada provincial
- Housing first approach model

- Reintegration of inmates and ex-offenders
- National housing strategy Canada
- Offenders keep housing while in prison
- Post-incarceration accommodation Europe
- Post-incarceration provincial housing.

After this was conducted, it was important to determine what is occurring within the HKPR region.

Research locally, to understand how the HKPR region is currently addressing the housing needs for post-custody

This question encompasses four different research questions that the HSJCC wanted answers for. The four questions pertain to:

1. What services would front-line agencies like to see to meet the needs of this population?
2. How have agencies across the region that work with those recently released addressed the housing needs of this population?
3. What challenges do agencies encounter in meeting the housing needs of this population?
4. What types of support do local agencies see as necessary for this population?

To begin addressing these questions, it was important to review academic literature and conduct a grey literature review. The information was retrieved from Google and through Scholars portal.

The key terms that were entered in the search bar on google included:

- Provincial services for post-incarceration (Ontario)
- Reintegration into Ontario (and planning reducing the risk of re-offending)
- Why hasn't a post custody plan worked for offenders in Ontario
- Housing placement workers

- Couch surfing
- Offenders released into shelters a form of accommodation (Ontario)
- Funding for post-incarceration accommodation
- Consultation on human rights and rental housing.

After this was conducted, the information found from the grey literature review was formatted into a survey. The survey addressed the four main questions above and assessed what is occurring locally within the HKPR region. The surveys were sent out online and the information should be gathered from: Lindsay, Halliburton, Peterborough and Northumberland County.

Survey

The initial commencement of the surveys started with several meetings between Dave Jarvis of the HSJCC and the Trent Community Research Centre (TCRC) Supervisor Dr. John Marris. The components of the survey were assessed multiple times to ensure that the survey addressed and targeted the most prominent themes. In total, the survey consisted of ten qualitative and quantitative questions (Appendix B), with a consent form at the beginning of these questions (Appendix A). The agencies contact information was provided by Dave Jarvis and Kerri Kightley. After the contact information was provided and the survey questions were prepared, the next step was to go through ethics. The ethics application consisted of an ethical data storage form (asking how the information would be stored) and a main form that included purpose of project, the survey questions and a consent form. After the ethics application was approved, Kightley offered to distribute the online surveys to the organizations listed. Kightley then asked if the organizations should provide one response to the survey or have multiple individuals from the organization submit a response. The reply to this, was to obtain only one

response because agencies would indicate the same services or barriers, which would mean that multiple responses are not needed.

The surveys were sent out to 21 organizations on January 14th, 2018, with the survey closing on January 27th, 2018. However, there were not enough responses in the two week period. Therefore, Mrs. Kightley sent out a reminder email to the agencies to complete the surveys. After the reminder email was sent and the agencies were given a few more weeks, there were a total of 18 responses (with three not providing their agencies name) by the end on February 19, 2018. Lastly there were 4 responses excluded from the survey, due to those providing an extra response for their agency. After excluding the 4 responses, there were a total of 14 provided. The information from this survey was entered into excel for analysis. The questions were analyzed by putting the responses for each question into categories and then entering each value into either a bar graph for multiple answers or pie chart for yes/no/no response answers (Appendix C).

Results

The results section contains information from academic literature and from conducting a grey literature review. This section will first discuss federal and provincial accommodation followed by possible programs. The first two programs (Scattered Site and Housing First) are ones that already exist in Canada, followed by ones outside of Canada. This section also includes the review on information pertaining to the barriers, challenges and support for post-custody accommodation that helped formulate the survey questions. This section will be followed by the results from the survey.

Grey Literature Review

Review of post-custody accommodation programs existing in other towns or cities? What is the existing best practice in post-custody accommodation?

At the federal level of post-custody accommodation one of the options available is to obtain housing through the private market, which is usually only feasible for those who have a strong employment background and can afford this type of housing (Fontaine & Bless, 2012). Housing can also be obtained through subsidized housing, which helps individuals afford housing while dealing with low-income (Fontaine & Bless, 2012). There are supportive housing programs that offer permanent accommodation and are typically geared towards those with histories of mental illness or chronic homelessness (Fontaine & Bless, 2012). Halfway houses are the most prominent option and allow individuals to transition from incarceration to being released to post-custody accommodation (Fontaine & Bless, 2012). Halfway housing allows offenders to attend programs, look for jobs and go to school, while residing in the house (Halfway houses, 2018). Offenders are assigned cleaning tasks and contribute to maintaining their living areas within the house (Halfway houses, 2018). Another type of housing is transitional housing. This type of housing differs from supportive housing because transitional housing is not permanent (Novac, Brown & Bourbonnais, 2009). Living space can range from dormitories to single-rooms and apartment buildings (Novac et al., 2009). Lastly when looking at what type of support is needed, this requires a flexibility to changing needs, to promote growth/independence, that support is evaluated regularly, is provided with quality and improves access to social inclusion within the community (Ontario Supportive Housing, 2017).

When looking at the provincial level in Ontario, there is not a mandated discharge plan in place. Halfway houses have not been in operation since 1990's when they were shut down due to lack of funding (Adult Community Corrections, 2014). There is also a lack of suitable housing,

due to the lack of discharge planning (Adult Community Corrections, 2014). In a study by To, Palepu, Matheson, Ecker, Farrell, Hwang et al. (2016) the researchers looked at incarceration in the past 12 months, which demonstrated that 166 out of 337 participants had not been housed. Even after the 2 year follow up, some individuals were still not housed (To et al., 2016). However, there are programs that could help individuals find accommodation.

To begin, one program that could help individuals find accommodation is the usability of the Scattered Site (SS) condition. The premise of this condition, is that offenders would have some choice in where they would live (Sommers, Rezansoff, Moniruzzaman, Palepu & Patterson, 2013). The SS condition offers a choice between 2 to 3 available units and allows a randomization of these sites within the community, such as those with families, couples or single occupants (Sommers et al., 2013). The condition allows for choice, due to renting a variety of units in the private market (Housing First, 2017). There was a test conducted that used this condition and demonstrated that recidivism rates had receded from 0.55 to 0.29 (Sommers et al., 2013). The reason for this result, could have been attributed to the different neighbourhoods and support services in those areas (Sommers et al., 2013). Therefore, this condition provides choice, doesn't encounter as much stigmatization, and is a format of the Housing First model.

The goal of the Housing First model, is to provide assistance to those experiencing homelessness and help them navigate to independent and permanent housing (Housing First, 2017). Those post-custody do not have to demonstrate their sobriety or abstinence or that they are ready for housing (Housing First, 2017). There is choice for those post-custody, in terms of location and type of housing. There are also supports available, that provide options for what services are available and when these services can start being used (Housing First, 2017).

In terms of models, there is also the Common Ground Model. This model receives help from the government, non-profit organizations and businesses to acquire permanent housing options for those who are homeless (Willis, 2016). The developments of these housing properties can be obtained through built properties or redevelopment of existing properties (Willis, 2016). This model began in the United States and has progressed to Australia.

Another initiative is the Resi program, which also ended due to funding costs. This program is based in Germany, where experts care for post-custody accommodation, the individuals work environment, any debt and are able to intervene up to 6 months after an individual's release (Schmitt, 2014). The importance of this project was that it provided services, which helped reduce reoffending rates from 50 to 13% over a three year period (Schmitt, 2014).

In other locations like England, individuals post-custody deal with waiting lists that include factors such as age, the amount of time they have resided in an area, the amount of time they have resided on the waiting list and if they are in poor health (Finding Accommodation, 2018). However, there is a program in England with the name Homeshare that makes an exchange between homeowners and those seeking accommodation (Finding Accommodation, 2018). This works by having the post-custody individual assist around the house, while in return having a place to reside (Finding Accommodation, 2018).

In a paper by Aloisio and Lafleur (2014), there is an initiative called the Supported Accommodation Service (SAS). This service in Australia works by having services provide properties to private providers, who in return sub-leases the property to individuals post-custody (Aloisio & Lafleur, 2014). The service is only provided for three months until the individual is transferred to more permanent housing. While it is not long-term accommodation, it does provide a more stable housing option.

Review of services, challenges and support for post-custody accommodation

There can be a reduction in funding for services, which is evident in the Ontario cutback towards funding halfway houses. When it comes to finding homes individuals with a record, are subjected to harsh criticism and judgement from the landlords (Reintegration in Ontario, 2017). When looking at housing, landlords typically provide accommodation for students before they would provide housing for someone with a criminal record (K. Kightley, personal communication, 2017). Offenders also receive stigmatization from the community, since they don't want individuals with a criminal record living nearby (Miller, 2017). Housing also has limitations such as: long waitlists for those with criminal records, limited availability in housing and short term accommodations (Willis, 2016).

Support for those post-custody could include assistance in finding suitable homes, providing help towards daily living skills and access to care services (Homelessness code, 2006). Social support can include family members (e.g., parents, siblings), partner, children, and friends (Graffam & Shinkfield, 2012). Housing support workers help individuals find and maintain stable housing, due to their roles in: case management, crisis intervention, counselling, income assistance and advocating for their clients to a landlord (Support Workers, 2017). Housing placement workers help individuals find housing, while housing support workers do this and provide ongoing support once housed. Lastly there are rent supplements that can be provided, but this is not enough money to afford the full housing cost (K. Kightley, personal communication,

2017). With the understanding the support, challenges and services that are targeted at post-custody accommodation, this led to the development of the survey.

Survey

The survey consisted of 10 questions (Appendix B), with 6 of these questions being evaluated in excel for the results (Appendix C). The questions did provide a space for other comments, with no allotted word limit. The first two questions were not examined in excel, since they were only asking for consent and for the organizations name. Questions 9 and 10 were also not examined in excel due the questions containing written responses: such as explaining their choice for question 8 and if they had any further comments.

- Question 1 asked for the organizations consent to participate, all 14 organizations said yes.
- Question 2 asked for the organizations name, with 11 of the 14 organizations responding
- Question 3 asked if the organizations provided any of the following services or support for post-custody clients. Out of the 14 participants, 6 provided rent supplements and housing support workers. The other comments category for this question, provided answers which included:
 - Not specific enough services and support for post custody.
 - Provide these supports for all clients.
 - Accommodation lists were a product of another agency.
 - One organization also provides shelter for abused women.

- One stated that in the past they provided clients with a portion of rent (as funding allowed).

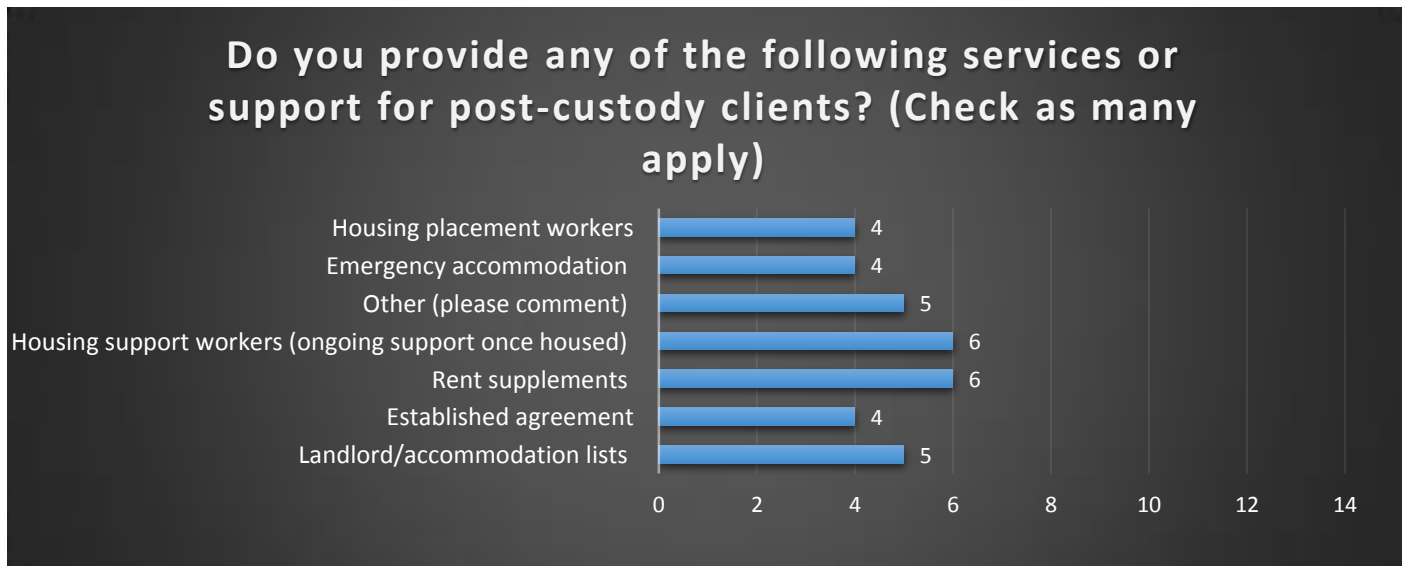


Figure 1: Bar graph depicting the services and support organizations provide to post-custody

- Question 4 asked if the organizations directly operate housing for people post-custody. Majority said they did not directly operate housing, with only the Haliburton Highlands Mental Health Services stating they did.

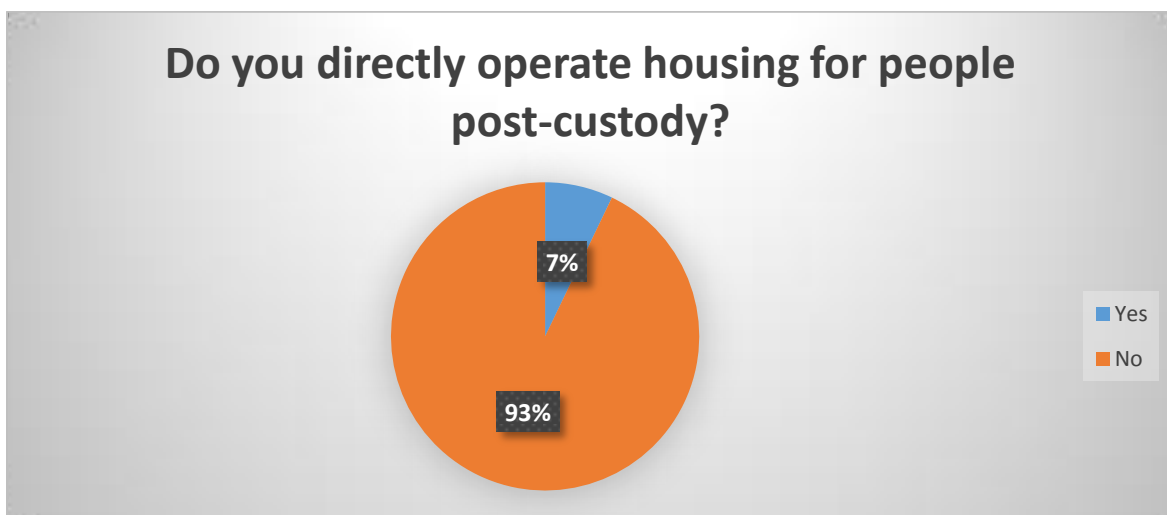


Figure 2: Pie chart depicting what organizations directly operate housing for people post-custody

- Question 5 asked the organizations if any of their clients coming out of provincial custody, experienced any of the following. The main responses include couch surfing, shelters and homelessness. Two of the organizations had other comments:
 - Post custody clients are eligible for housing services, yet services are not dedicated specially to individuals who have been previously incarcerated.
 - One stated that the organization works with individuals of all backgrounds.

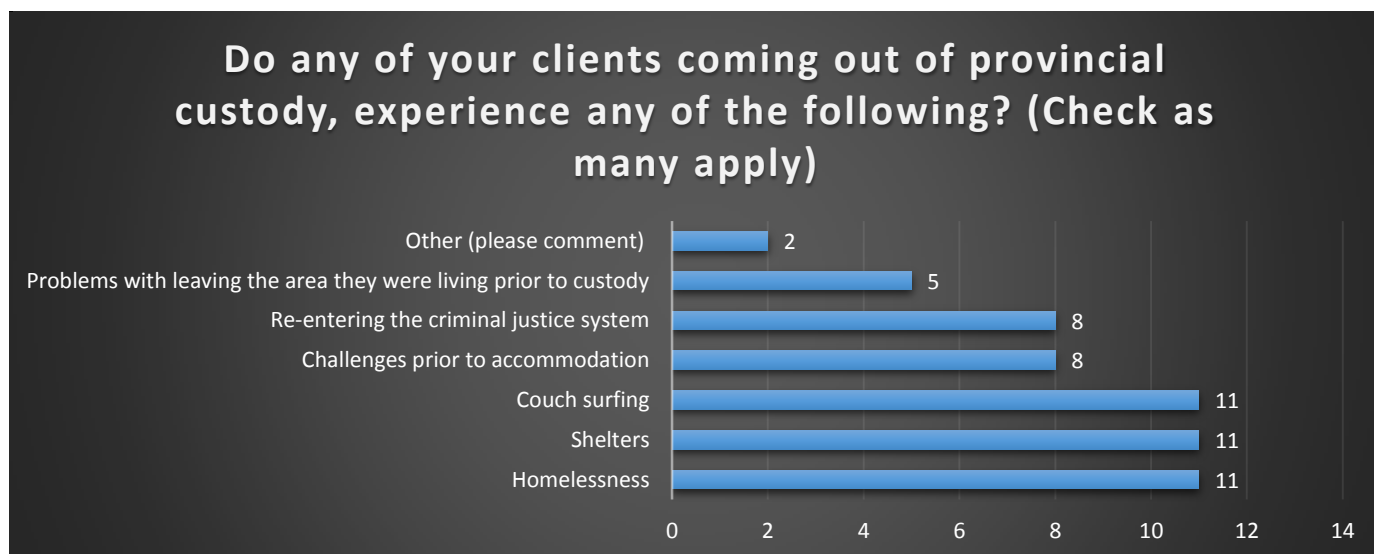


Figure 3: Bar graph depicting what clients experience coming from provincial custody

- Question 6 asked about the barriers and challenges towards accommodation needs, 12 responded to not enough housing and 8 saying there was landlord resistance. There were 3 organizations with other opinions:
 - Rent arrears, loss of income, loss of benefits.
 - For youth, they will require support to move forward in accommodation.
 - No affordable housing.

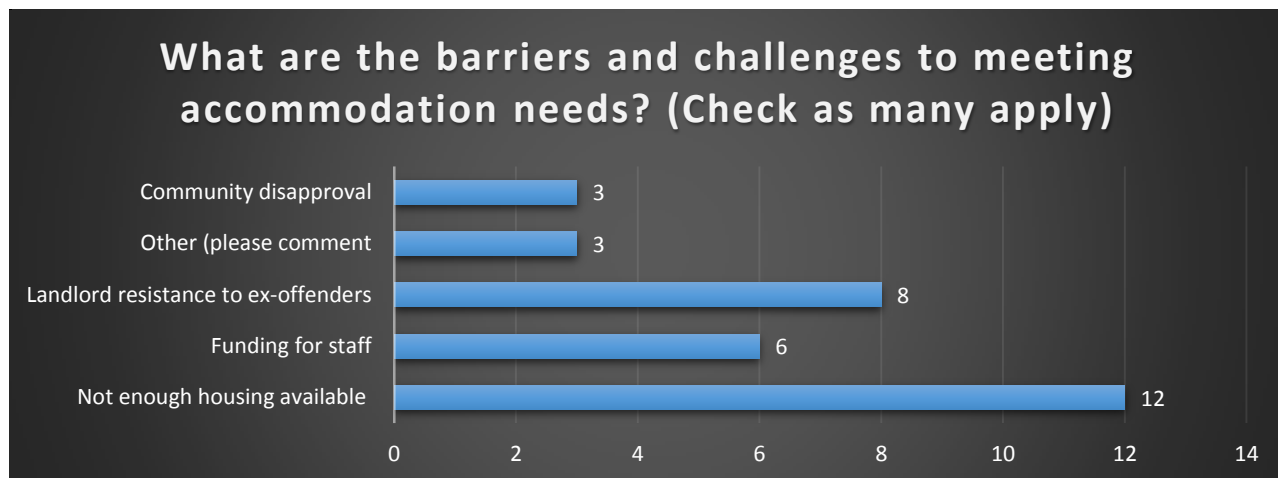


Figure 4: Bar graph depicting the barriers and challenges towards accommodation

- Question 7 asked the organizations what services they would like to see implemented, with 12 responding to housing support workers and long term permanent housing. There were 6 organizations that provided additional responses:
 - Transitional housing.
 - Housing plans created before someone is released from custody, which would involve housing support workers and support from custody staff.
 - Available safe affordable housing.
 - Better communication between custody institution and community agencies.
 - Money from the justice system.
 - More available housing (short or long term).

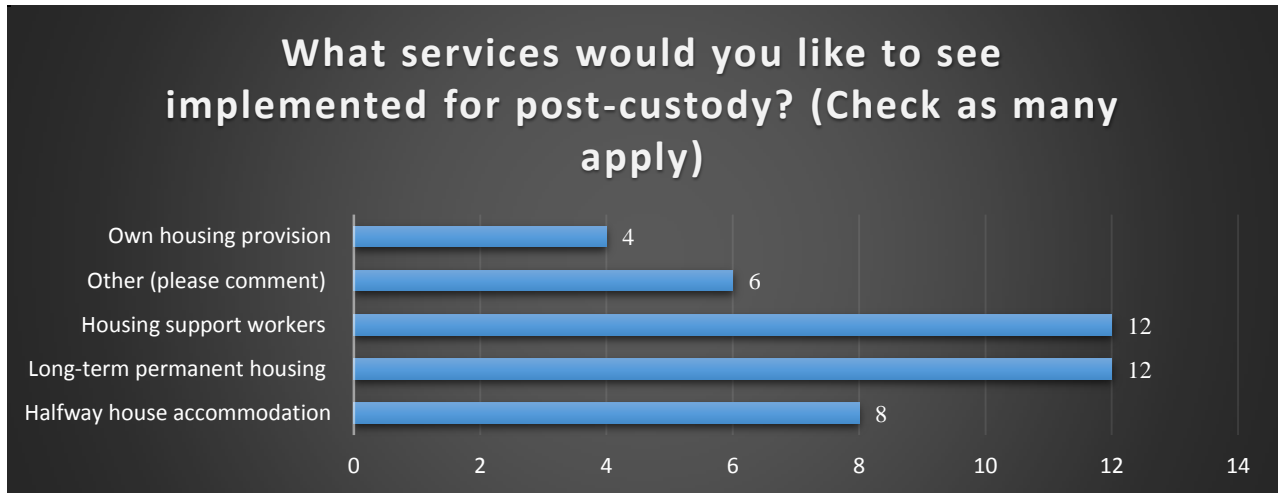


Figure 5: Bar graph depicting the services organizations would like to see implemented

- Question 8 asked if organizations would like to see similar post-release planning as mandated in the federal system: with 12 responding yes, 2 responding no and 2 with no response.

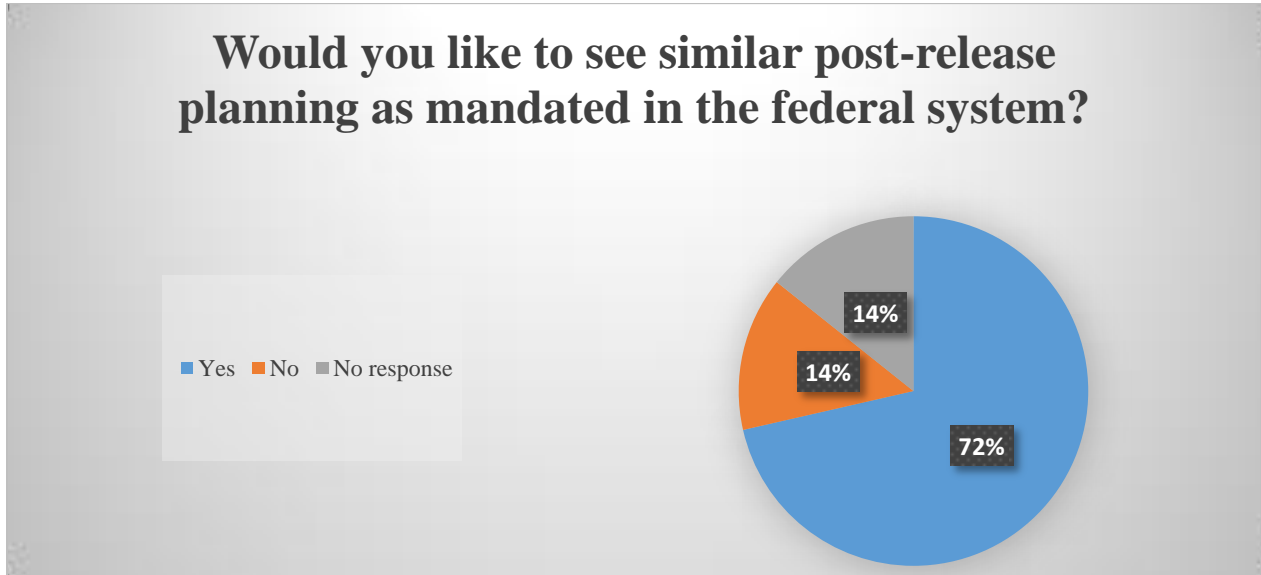


Figure 6: Pie chart depicting opinions towards wanting post-release planning

- Question 9 asked organizations to explain their decision for question 8. There were 8 responses provided:

- Federal halfway house.
 - Due to risks associated with further unnecessary institutionalization. Also, post incarcerated supervision is not necessary.
 - If someone does not have a stable place to live, with meaningful activities to engage in, their likelihood of success is low.
 - Anything if it will help us improve our services for our clients.
 - People are released to communities and agencies know nothing of the individual.
 - They need plans and supports in place in order to be successful.
 - I am aware that individuals are released from custody with no resources, and often without their belongings, medication, etc. Planning is completely missing from local jurisdiction.
 - I said yes because I think any release planning is beneficial to the person leaving incarceration.
- Question 10 provided a space for any further comments. There were 2 organizations with further comments
 - I don't think this is as much a post-custody issue as much as it is a staffing and rent supplement support issue, a housing stock issue and a global housing system capacity issue.
 - Free prescription renewal even without a health card for an extended period of time. They get "well" and on meds in prison and then are released with limited medication and no access to it.

Discussion

The survey responses provide a more comprehensive view of what is occurring locally within the HKPR region. There seems to be a variety of services offered to individual's post-custody. These include housing support workers and placement workers, which are important in post-custody accommodation, since they help in the process of obtaining housing for those individuals. One of the comments on this question, was that these services are provided to all clients. This indicates that services should be developed that specifically help post-custody clients. When looking at question 4, which assessed how many organizations operated housing for individuals post-custody, there was only 1 organization out of 14 that operated housing. A suggestion from these findings would be, to create organizations within the region that specifically help post-custody clients or have more organizations dedicate their services to operating housing. Question 5 asked organizations what type of experiences post-custody clients deal with, this seems to reiterate the findings within the literature. As explained in Gaetz and O'Grady (2009), if there is any discharge planning, it is limited and consists of a planner providing a list of shelters or hostels. Due to the lack of planning, these individuals typically experience shelters or homelessness post-custody, which is clearly evident in the responses. Couch surfing is another variation of limited accommodation, because it is not permanent housing. The importance of this question, is that it reiterates problem's caused due to a lack of discharge planning. In terms of meeting accommodation needs, there are barriers and challenges that interfere with housing.

In question 6, barriers and challenges were addressed, with the number one response being not enough housing available. There is a limited amount of housing available already, which is affected further if you have a criminal record. This can affect not only eligibility but

also be due to landlord discrimination when a background check is conducted (Know your rights, 2010). The second highest response being landlord resistance to former inmates, is further justified by this information. Question 7 asked organizations, what services they would like to see implemented for post-custody. The top 2 responses were housing support workers and long-term permanent housing. This information can be supported by the findings from the grey literature review that indicate there is a lack of permanent housing (e.g., shelters) and support in finding accommodation. The importance of these findings is that more services need to be dedicated toward post-custody clients and that there needs to be more available options for long-term housing. Question 8 asked if organizations would like to see similar post-release planning as mandated in the federal system. As the comments indicated, most organizations responded yes to this question, due to the idea that any form of help for post-custody clients is better than none at all.

Programs mentioned within the result section, could be implemented in Ontario, to provide accommodation to post-custody clients. Programs like the Common Ground Model that rebuild existing properties or lease built properties, could be a feasible option in Ontario, where there are issues in funding. It also would help remodel abandon buildings in different communities. If this program is feasible in the United States and Australia, it could be feasible in Ontario. The program Homeshare might also prove to be valuable. This program is between homeowners and individuals post-custody, by exchanging work around the house for accommodation. In certain parts of Ontario that have farms, this could be a viable exchange. Programs like Scattered Site and Housing First have been established in Ontario already and have proven successful. Programs like Resi might not be as viable due to funding restraints, however, when looking at the reduction in re-offending this could be a benefit to the province of

Ontario. In addition, halfway and transitional housing were significantly discussed throughout post-custody literature, which might be indicative of the best practice for post-custody accommodation.

There were several limitations to this study. One limitation is that the sample size of the organizations was small, which would be a significant issue for statistical analysis. The questions might not have been specific enough, since organizations responded by saying they “provide these supports for all clients” or “not specific enough services”. Organizations also responded multiple times, which made it difficult when deciding which responses to exclude from the study. Questions that could have been added to the study include: What programs assist individuals post custody? How does your organization acquire funding? Most funding is comprised of donations or government-funding and it would be interesting to see how the organizations respond. In addition, possibly changing question 4 that asked if organizations directly operate housing for post-custody. It became apparent that organizations might have been confused by what the question was assessing. Future research could also be conducted that targets organizations that directly operate post-custody accommodation.

The survey questions could be adjusted to provide more accurate representations of what is offered in terms of services for individuals post-custody. For future research, having more organizations fill out the survey and trying to target more organizations that specifically operate post-custody accommodation. It would be important to add a few questions, as mentioned in the discussion. Lastly it would be important to disperse this yearly to the HKPR region and across the province, to see if the process of accommodation is improving.

One issue that became apparent when understanding provincial accommodation and the housing that is available, is that the right to adequate housing for everyone is not within the

Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. While this is not exactly relevant to this project, it is an important characteristic that needs to be amended. An issue that became apparent in the review and in the survey was not enough housing. This problem could be helped if the right to adequate housing became a law in Canada. Since it would require the country to construct more housing for the population. As mentioned in the introduction, there is currently a national housing strategy that has been implemented to help any vulnerable groups (e.g., homeless, post-custody). Everyone should have the right to adequate housing, no matter their history or background.

References

- Adult community corrections. (2014). *Auditor*. Retrieved from: http://www.auditor.on.ca/en/content/annualreports/arreports/en16/v2_101en16.pdf
- Aloisio, R. & Lafleur, R. (2014). Inmate reintegration: Current practices, challenges, and explanations. *Homelesshub*, 1-118.
- Ashcroft, J. & Daniels, D.J. (2004). Guide for developing housing for ex-offenders. *U.S. Department of Justice*. Retrieved from: <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/203374.pdf>
- Currie, J. (2004). Women offenders: Characteristics, needs and impacts of transitional housing. *Publications*, 1-123.
- Finding accommodation. (2018). *Citizens advice*. Retrieved from: <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/housing/finding-a-place-to-live/finding-accommodation/>
- Fontaine, J. & Bless, J. (2012). Housing as a platform for formerly incarcerated persons. *What Works Collaborative*, 1-23.
- Gaetz, S & O'Grady, B. (2009). Homelessness, incarceration, and the challenge of effective discharge planning: A Canadian case. *Homelesshub*, 1-22.
- Gallagher house. (2017). *Ontario halfway house association*. Retrieved from: <http://halfwayhouses.ca/en/region/ohha/facilities/3>
- Graffam, J. & Shinkfield, A.J. (2012). The life conditions of Australian ex-prisoners: An analysis of intrapersonal, subsistence, and support conditions. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 56(6), 897-916.
- Halfway houses. (2018). *Atlantic halfway house association*. Retrieved from: http://halfwayhouses.ca/en/region/ahha/page/frequently_asked_questions_1/
- Homeless code of guidance for local authorities. (2006). *Department for communities and local government*. Retrieved from: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7841/152056.pdf
- Housing first. (2017). *Homeless hub*. Retrieved from: <http://homelesshub.ca/solutions/housing-accommodation-and-supports/housing-first>
- Kightley, K. (2017). [Interview with Kerri Kightley, FourCast regional housing coordinator].
- Know your rights: Housing and arrests or criminal convictions. (2010). *Bronx Defenders*. Retrieved from: <https://www.bronxdefenders.org/housing-and-arrests-or-criminal-convictions/>
- Miller, S.B. (2017). Community corrections and the NIMBY syndrome. *Corrections services of Canada*. Retrieved from: http://www.csc-scc.gc.ca/research/forum/e022/022h_e.pdf
- Novac, S., Brown, J. & Bourbonnais, C. (2009). Transitional housing models in Canada: Options and outcomes. *Homelesshub*, 1-25.

- Ontario supportive housing. (2017). *Best practice guide*. Retrieved from: <http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page15259.aspx>
- Place to call home. (2018). *A plan to make homelessness history*. Retrieved from: <https://www.placetocallhome.ca/how-does-it-work.cfm>
- Reintegration in Ontario: Practices, priorities, and effective models. (2016). *John Howard Society of Ontario*. Retrieved from: <http://johnhoward.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Reintegration-in-Ontario-Final.pdf>
- Schmitt, C. (2014). *Life after prison: Re-entering society is no easy task*. Retrieved from: <http://www.dw.com/en/life-after-prison-re-entering-society-is-no-easy-task/a-18051657>
- Sommers, J.M., Rezansoff, S.N., Moniruzzaman, A., Palepu, A. & Patterson, M. (2013). Housing first reduces re-offending among formerly homeless adults with mental disorders: Results of a randomized controlled trial. *PLOS One*, 8(9), 1-8.
- Support workers. (2017). *Homelesshub*. Retrieved from: <http://homelesshub.ca/solutions/job-descriptions/support-workersfollow-support-workers>
- To, M.J., Palepu, A., Matheson, F.I., Ecker, J., Farrell, S., Hwang, S.W. & Werb, D. (2016). The effect of incarceration on housing stability among homeless and vulnerably housed individuals in three Canadian cities: A prospective cohort study. *The Canadian Journal of Public Health*, 107(6), e500-e55.
- Willis, M. (2016). Supported housing for prisoners returning to the community: A review of the literature. *Australian Institute of Criminology*, 1-41.

Appendix A

Effective options for post custody survey consent form

Faculty advisor Sharon Beaucage Johnson (sharonbeaucage@trentu.ca). Trent Community Research Centre supervisor: John Marris (johnmarris@trentcentre.ca).

I am conducting community based research with the assistance of the Trent Community Research Centre to develop an understanding on how post custody housing needs are being addressed within the Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge (HKPR) area, which includes Peterborough County, Kawartha Lakes, Haliburton and Northumberland County. This survey should take approximately five to ten minutes to complete. These questions will address areas such as:

- What services and support are available for post custody accommodation
- The experience of individuals coming out of provincial custody
- The barriers and challenges to meeting accommodation needs

There is no known risk associated with the survey, since the questions will be addressing your professional work. The information that you provide will help to address the research questions. The survey will not record your name, but we would like to identify your organization. This will help us share any innovative practices in the final report. There will be a space provided for filling out your organization's name.

By selecting yes, you are consenting to the terms above and to having the information used within the final report. If not, you can select no which will take you to the end of the survey.

Overall, thank you for your time.

Appendix B

Q.1

Do you consent

- Yes
- No

Q.2

What is the name of your agency?

Q.3

Do you provide any of the following services or support for post custody clients? (Check as many apply)

- Landlord/accommodation lists
- Housing placement workers
- Housing support workers (ongoing support once housed)
- Established agreement/arrangement with landlords
- Rent supplements
- Emergency accommodation
- Other (please comment)

Q.4

Do you directly operate housing for people post custody? (Please check one)

- Yes
- No

Q.5

Do any of your clients coming out of provincial custody, experience any of the following? (Check as many apply)

- Homelessness
- Shelters
- Couch surfing
- Challenges prior to accommodation
- Re-entering the criminal justice system
- Problems with leaving the area they were living prior to custody
- Other (please comment)

Q.6

What are the barriers and challenges to meeting accommodation needs? (Check as many apply)

- Funding for staff
- Landlord resistance to ex-offenders
- Community disapproval
- Not enough housing available
- Other (please comment)

Q.7

What services would you like to see implemented for post-custody? (Check as many apply)

- Halfway house accommodation
- Long-term permanent housing
- Housing support workers
- Own housing provision
- Other (Please comment)

Q.8

Would you like to see similar post-release planning as mandated in the federal system? (Please check one)

Yes

No

Q.9

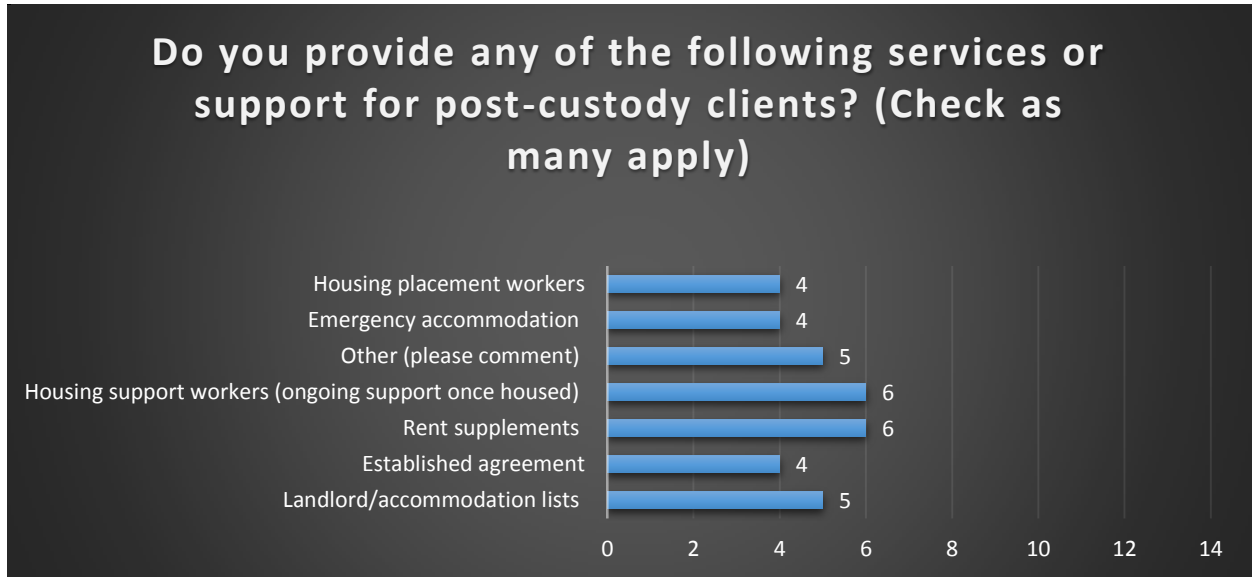
Please explain your choice for the question above

Q.10

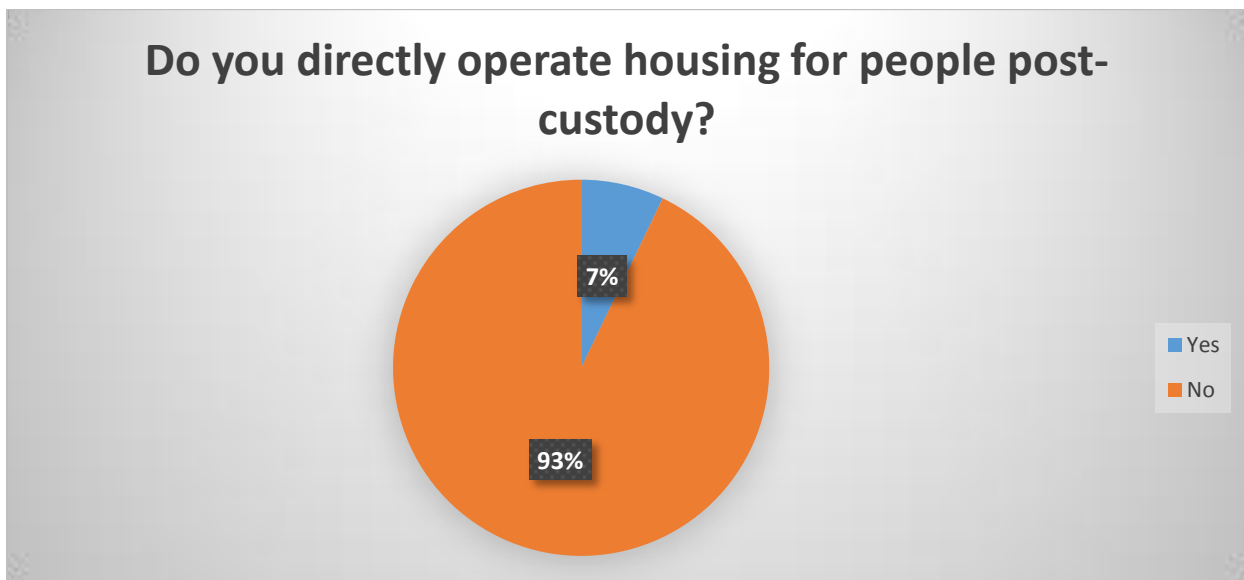
Any further comments?

Appendix C

Q.3 (figure 1)



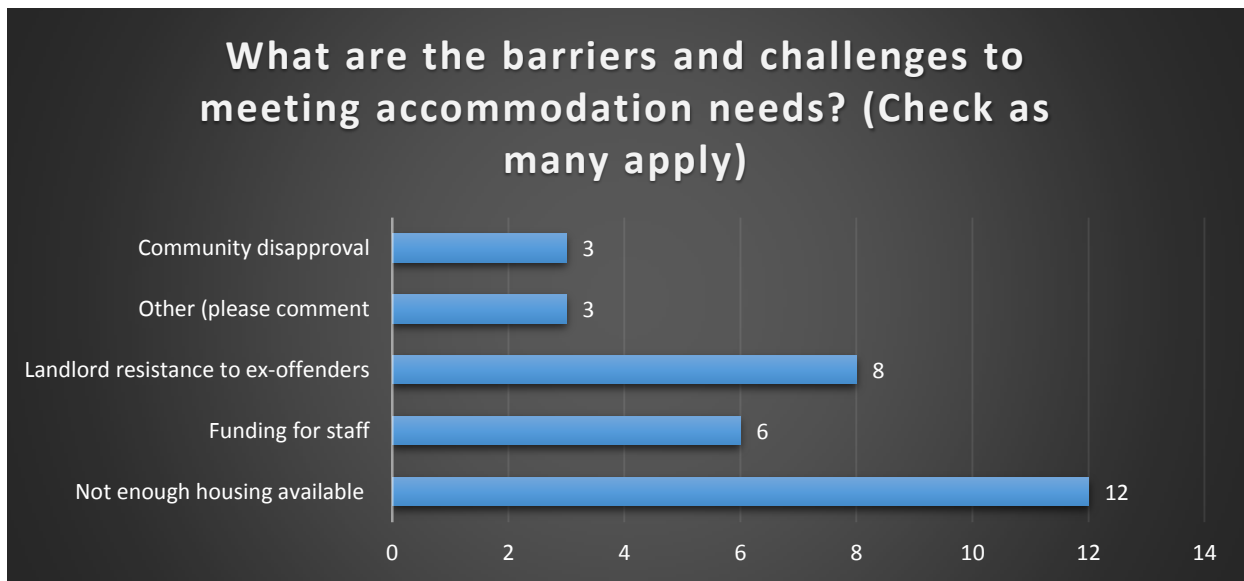
Q.4 (figure 2)



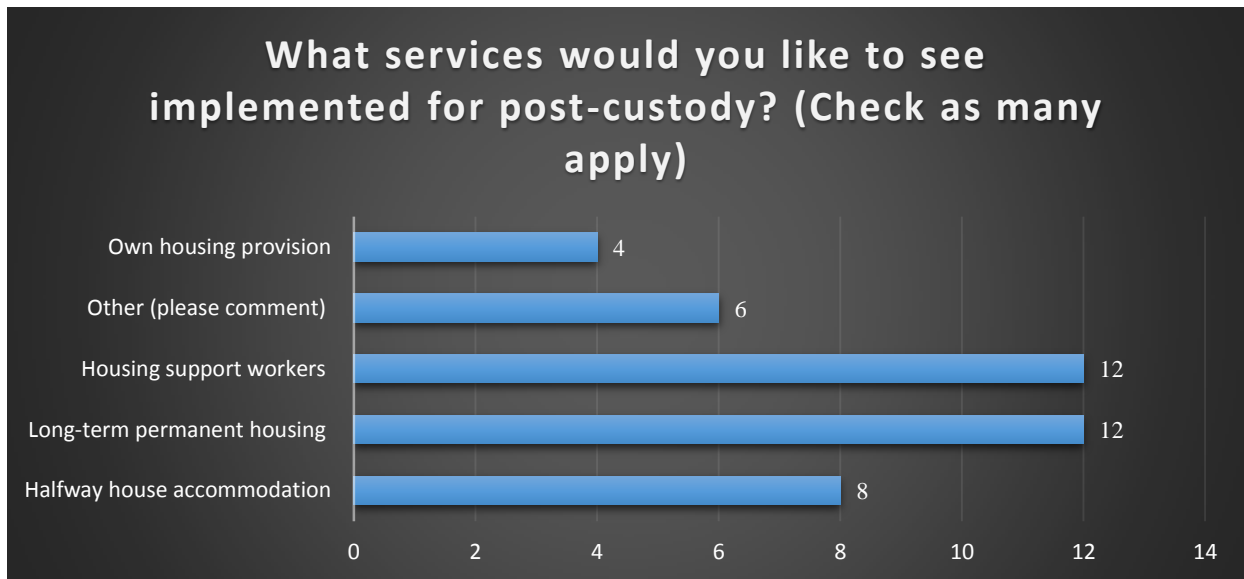
Q.5 (figure 3)



Q.6 (figure 4)



Q.7 (figure 5)



Q.8 (figure 6)

