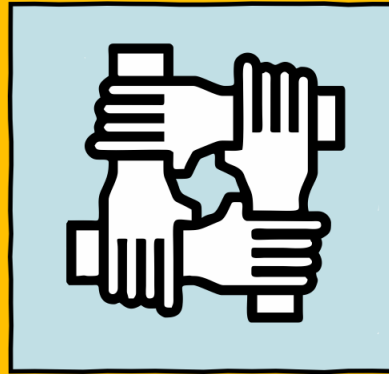


# Groundswell

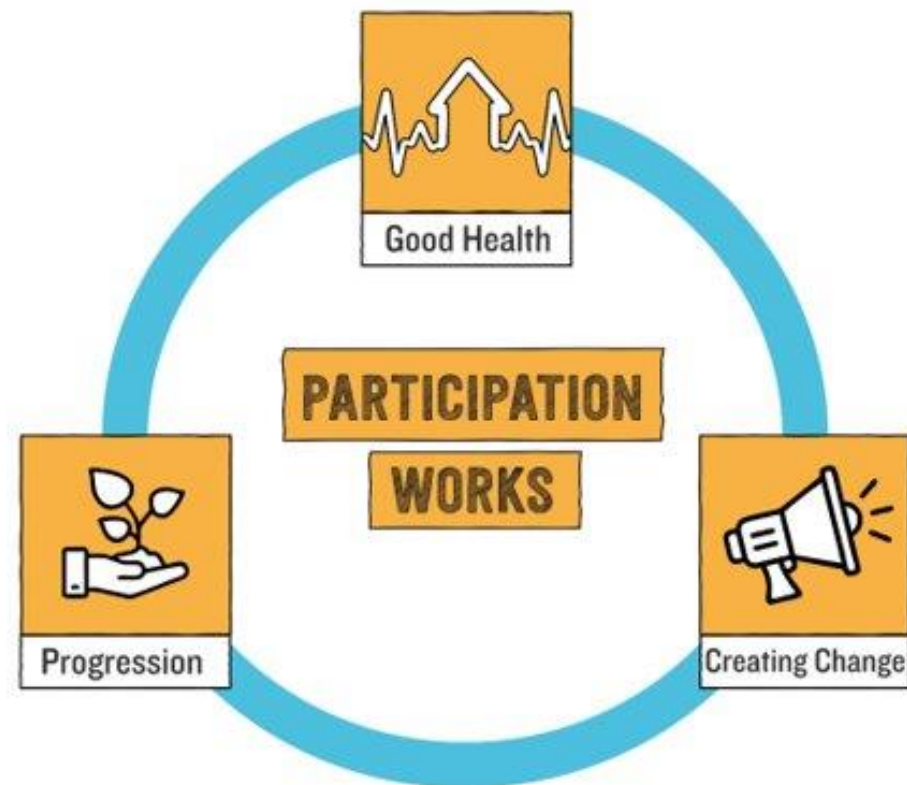
Out of homelessness

## An Introduction to peer research



# Introduction to Groundswell

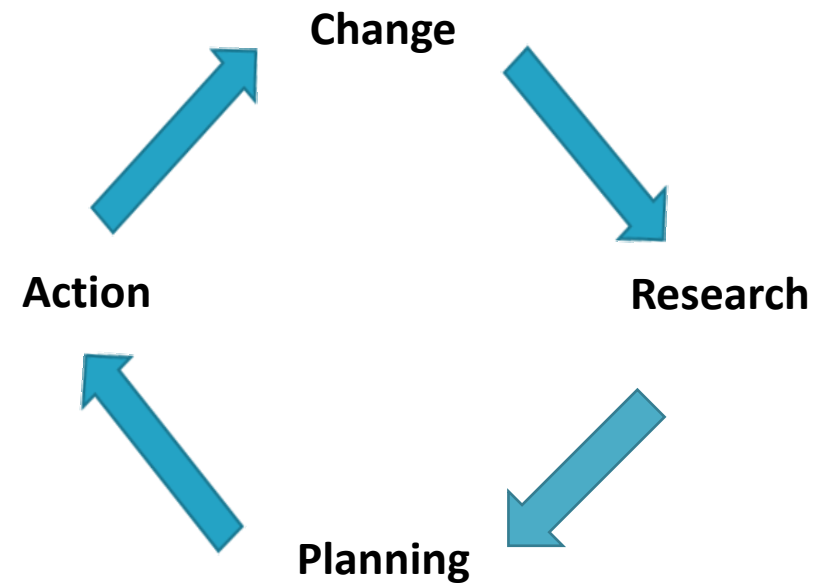
Groundswell exists to enable people who have experience of homelessness to create solutions and move themselves out of homelessness – to benefit our whole society.



# What is Peer Research?

People **who have experience of the thing being investigated** are central to the research process including:

- Deciding what to investigate
- How to investigate it
- Carrying out fieldwork
- Analysing results
- Developing recommendations
- Implementing changes
- Holding decision-makers to account



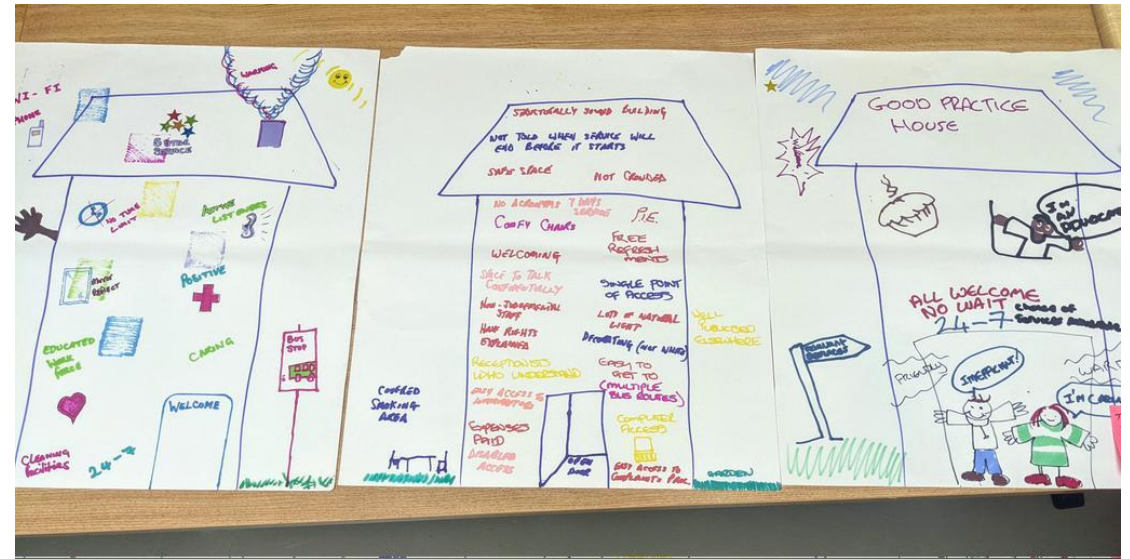
- Reference groups
- Research training
- Codesigning
- Sense-checking

- Aim for equality of relationships
- Foster a safe environment
- Go beyond consultation. If that isn't possible, don't oversell what the peer elements are





# How?

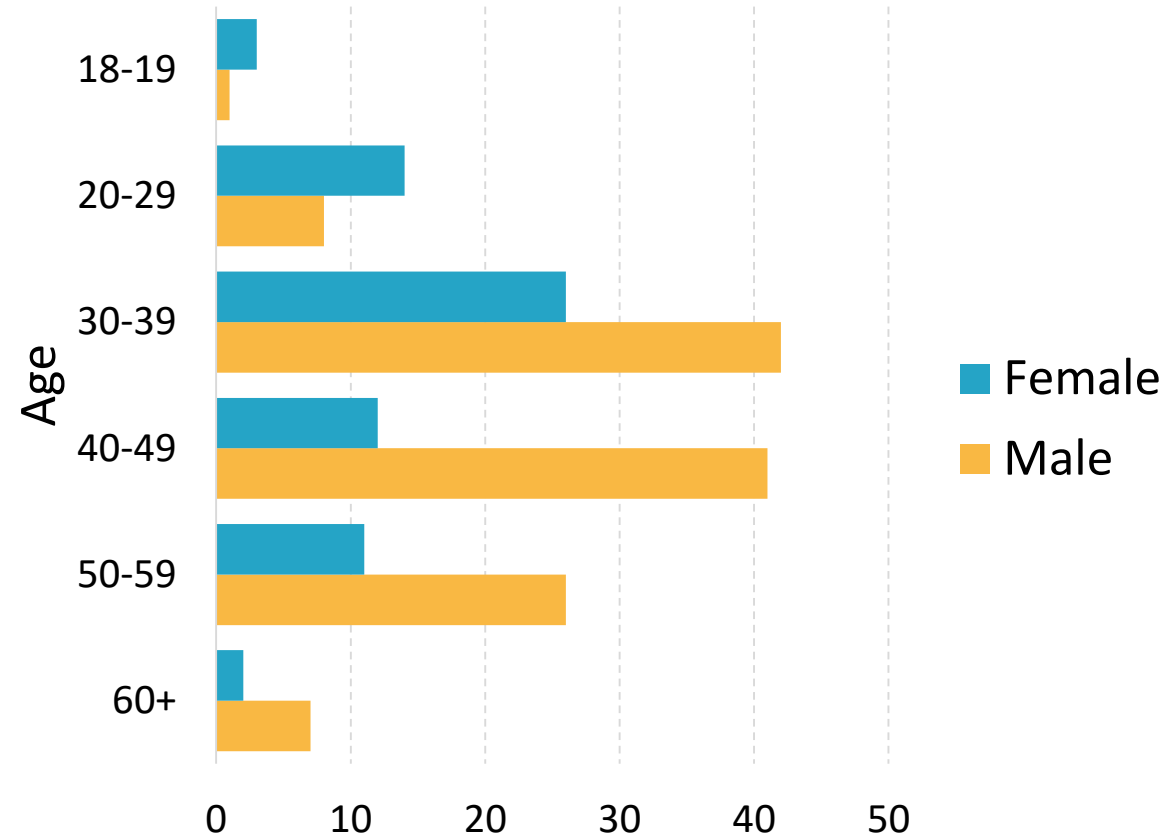


# Example 1 - #HealthNow research

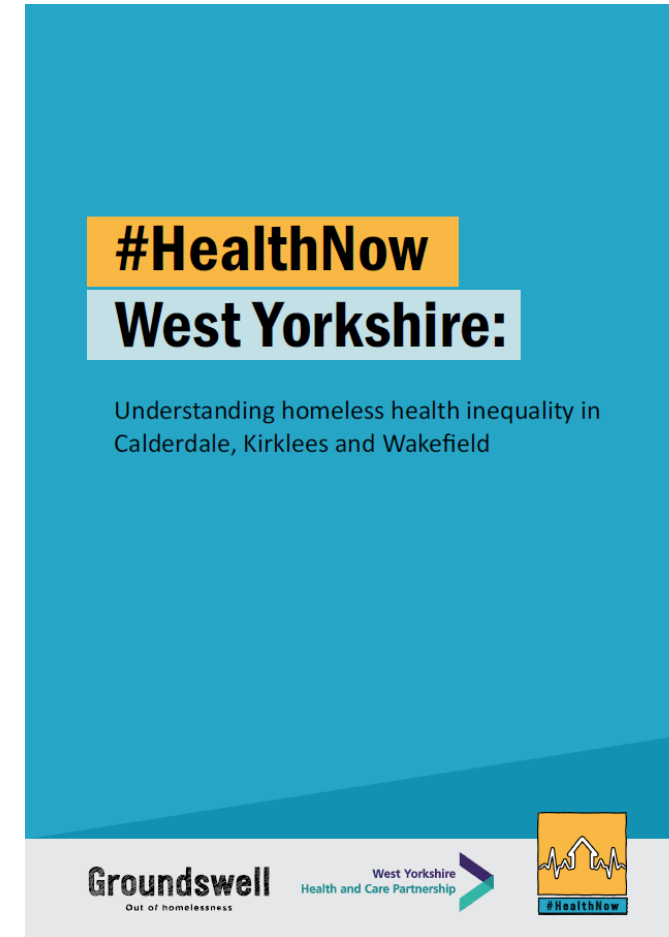
**Working with volunteer peer researchers to identify barriers to people experiencing homelessness accessing care and treatment locally, in three key partner cities, and develop action plans to eradicate those barriers.**

- Training a group of researchers who have experience of homelessness
- Coming together to coproduce the research tool/survey and piloting the survey with each other
- Conducting interviews with people in various locations in each city
- Analysing the data together and producing local reports
- Peers presenting findings to local decision-makers and holding them to account for action plans.

# #HealthNow research demographics



# #HealthNow research





# Example 2 – COVID Monitoring Project

Groundswell researchers with experience of homelessness carrying out research to understand, track and include the voices of people experiencing homelessness in the national and local decision making processes during the pandemic.



## Example 2 – COVID Monitoring Project

Groundswell researchers with experience of homelessness carrying out research to understand, track and include the voices of people experiencing homelessness in the national and local decision making processes during the pandemic.

- Working with a reference group of people experiencing homelessness to develop project approach, priorities and steer project
- Meeting through zoom on a fortnightly basis across the duration of the project
- Conducting telephone interviews with people across the country
- Developing a citizen journalism approach to gathering insight and ensuring people's voices were heard
- Analysing the data together and producing a national report
- Ensuring a feedback loop



# Advantages and challenges

## Advantages

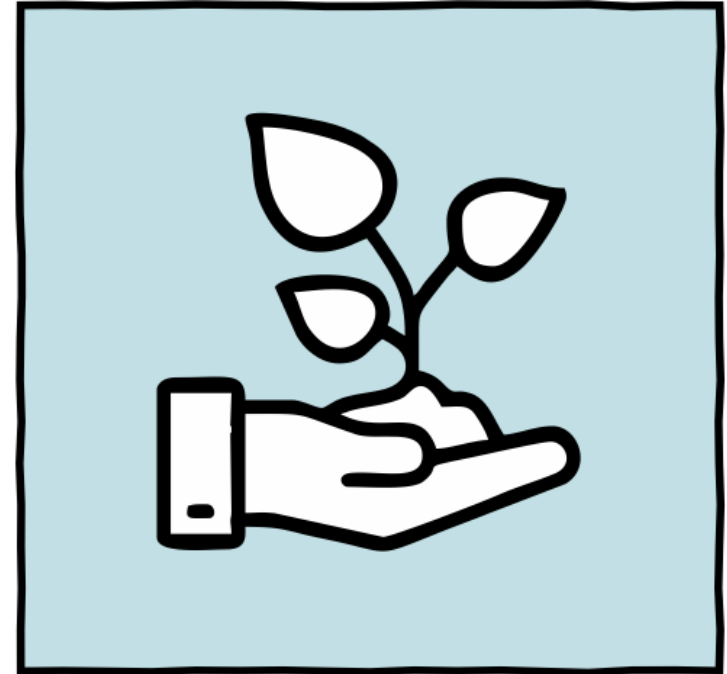
- Less power imbalance - bad experiences with professionals
- Easier to recruit participants
- Shared trust, empathy and sensitivity
- More likely to talk and be honest
- More likely solutions to be more appropriate and actually implemented
- Participants see people like themselves – can be inspiring for both
- Flexibility - adapt to communities
- Move away from idea of being objective - forces us to address bias/subjectivity
- Signposting - better connected to services/how to navigate system
- Real understanding of the problems people face.



## Challenges and implications

- It takes time and preparation
- Not as easy to maintain consistency
- Potential for bias and conflicts of interest
- Changes takes years – it can be frustrating for people when they do not see changes
- Researchers being in places/ situations they may want to forget about or hearing triggering stories

# Peer research experiences



# Thank You



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[www.groundswell.org.uk](http://www.groundswell.org.uk)



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