



Signpost

Services for prisoners and the homeless

What is Signpost?

www.signpost.services is a website that provides information for people leaving prison and those who are homeless. **Signpost** pulls together information about services that will help people find:

- Somewhere to live
- Support with your finances
- Suitable work or education
- Health Services
- People to support you
- Supportive Faith Communities.

It is designed to produce a paper document for people who don't have access to technology as well as online information.

Why has it been created?

There are hundreds of organisations which are willing to provide help to those leaving prison or who are without accommodation. These include government services, local authorities, charities, and commercial organisations. The issue for those helping people is where to find these services.

Signpost pulls together information on all types of services in one place and arranges it so that it can be easily accessed by chaplaincy teams, probation officers, charity volunteers – anyone looking to help those in need.

Why a web site?

Many organisations have paper leaflets that they give to those they support. The web site approach enables people to select just the services that they need in the locations that they will be living in, so that they get details that are relevant to them.

The database of information behind it is regularly updated to ensure that the information is current.

How could I use Signpost?

If you are helping a prisoner who is coming up for release, has just been released, or someone who is homeless, then you can ask them which services they are interested in. There is a leaflet on the web site that can be used to capture this – see links at the bottom of www.signpost.services. Once you have their request you can enter it into **Signpost** and produce a report tailored for them. You can then talk this through with the person you are helping and encourage them to start contacting the relevant service providers.

Are all the service providers vetted?

No. The information in **Signpost** has been taken from public web sites. No work has been done to check the quality of the services provided and no guarantee can be given as to the accuracy or timeliness of the information. **Signpost** will seek to review the information periodically, but services can change on a frequent basis, especially during the pandemic.

What areas does it cover?

Signpost lists over 200 nationwide organisations which provide services across all of England and Wales so it is a valuable source of information across both countries. Local information is also available for Greater London, the North East of England, and Greater Manchester – totalling over 1300 organisations in all – and work is underway to expand the coverage to other areas of the country.

David Cooke