

'Faithness' and the position of faith based organisations in Scottish homelessness systems



An ESRC large grant



Background

- **PhD studentship based at Heriot-Watt**
- **The role of faith and non-faith based organisations in delivering homelessness and allied services**
- **The impact of faith**
- **How homeless people experience faith-based services**

Contents

- 1.0 Recap of previous presentations
- 2.0 Aim and Research questions
- 3.0 Today's focus, research question three on 'Faithness' and:
 - 3.a Types of services and how they are delivered
 - 3.b Strategic positioning
 - 3.c Interaction with other providers
 - 3.d Service user experience
 - 3.e Sustainability
- 4.0 Questions?

1.0 recap of previous presentations

- Background of literature reviews
- Focus on service profiling and organisational/service mapping
- The levels of faith in the services identified in the profiling
- An explanation of faith markers

2.0 Aim and research questions

Aim

To assess the contributions that Faith Based Organisations (FBOs) make to single homelessness services in Scotland and, in particular, how faith influences what they do.

Research questions

- 1. What are faith based organisations (FBOs)?**
- 2. What role do FBOs play in the delivery of homelessness and allied services in Scotland?**
- 3. What difference does 'faithness' make to:**
 - a) The services they deliver and how they deliver them?
 - b) How organisations position themselves strategically?
 - c) How they are perceived by and interact with other providers in the sector?
 - d) How they are perceived and experienced by service users?
 - e) Their future sustainability and role?

3.0 Research questions and findings

Research questions 1 and 2: What are faith based organisations (FBOs) and what is their role?

Findings

- Large and small constituted organisations some working as part of the voluntary sector
- Long standing and new organisations set up, focus on needs of vulnerable people
- Faith based services (delivering services as part of larger religious organisations)
- Temporary accommodation providers, advice and information, day-centres, drop-ins, soup runs, food distribution, street outreach

3.0 Research questions and findings

Research question 3a: what difference does 'faithness' make to the services they deliver and how they deliver them?

Findings

- Contracted services have faith and secular interests
- Mixed income sources, government funding, donations (money, practical goods and gifts in kind)
- High volume, low intensity front-line access points (day centres and drop-in)
- Values are based on faith and social principles

3.0 Research questions and findings

Research question 3b: what difference does 'faithness' make to how organisations position themselves strategically?

Findings

- Similar to other organisations in that some seek to become strategic partners
- Range of target audiences, primary homeless and vulnerable people
- Interest in evidencing the quality of their services as part of regulatory frameworks
- Smaller services sometimes position themselves through sector networks

3.0 Research questions and findings

Research question 3c: what difference does 'faithness' make to how organisations are perceived by and interact with other providers in the sector?

Findings

- Sector cohesion is seen as important and organisations to work together
- Understanding of limited resources making connections desirable
- Dialogue about values/positions tend to be in background – the primary functions are to deliver services

3.0 Research questions and findings

Research question 3d: what difference does 'faithness' make to how organisations are perceived and experienced by service users?

Findings

- Human caring approach is appreciated
- Some service users have faith backgrounds
- Faith in background acceptable but less so if services are conditional on acceptance

3.0 Research questions and findings

Research question 3e: what difference does 'faithness' make to the future sustainability and role of organisations?

Findings

- Sustainability because of learning more about accessing resources, professional income generation
- Traditionally address gaps in provision (and at community level) and deliver low intensity services
- Strong networks of faith for resourcing (financial, volunteers and space)

The position of faith-based organisations in Scottish homelessness systems?

Conclusions

Interfaces happen at different levels:

Contractual arrangements with public sector to deliver statutory and allied services

Membership (and leadership) of cross-agency fora including policy making and strategic planning

Questions?



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