

End Furniture Poverty



How-to Guide

This guide offers more detailed information and advice for those who may be interested in adopting or adapting the initiative in their local area.

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Title	End Furniture Poverty.
Organisation	FRC Group.
Category	Fully Validated.
Poverty Impact	Mitigation., Awareness.
Introduction to the Project	
End Furniture Poverty is the social research and campaigning arm of FRC (Furniture Resource Centre) Group, a group of not-for-profit charities. End Furniture Poverty does not provide furniture, or grants for furniture directly, but provides a service to direct people experiencing furniture poverty towards the appropriate source of support to meet their furniture needs. The project also conducts social research to ascertain the extent to which furniture poverty is a social problem within the UK.	

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Initial Idea

Who had the initial idea?			
Shaun Doran (Chief Executive).			
How did the idea for the project come about?			
Realisation of the need to raise awareness of the problem.			
Were plans informed by any published reports / papers / research evidence or practice from elsewhere?			
No.			
Was anyone else involved in developing the initial idea of the project?			
FRC Group.			
Were those with lived experience of poverty involved in developing the initial idea of the project?			
No. There was no formal capturing of lived experience of furniture poverty at the outset. However, reports now involve canvassing the experiences of people experiencing furniture poverty to capture their lived experience. Recent research examines the reasons and circumstances why people find themselves in furniture poverty, describing their day-to-day experiences and the challenges faced when trying to escape furniture poverty.			
Was funding required to support the development of the initial idea of the project?			
No		Yes	xxx

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Please provide details of the funding that was used to support the development of the initial idea of the project.

Which organisation provided funding?	Not-for-profit commercial businesses and social businesses within the FRC Group.
How much was required?	Unspecified.
What was the specific source of funding? (e.g., particular grant or policy)	Unspecified.

Were specific resources – other than funding - needed when developing the initial idea of the project?

No		Yes	
Please provide details of the resources that were required when developing the initial idea of the project.			
Staff/Volunteer Time	N/A		
Facilities / Workspace	N/A		
Equipment	N/A		
Local Knowledge	N/A		
Food and Drink	N/A		

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What, if any, barriers had to be overcome when developing the initial idea of the project?

After a decade of austerity, and now the cost-of-living crisis, many people struggle with poverty in general. Often food, fuel and energy are prioritised, which impacts the level of support available to tackle the problem of furniture poverty.

There is also a tendency for some people to romanticise starting out with little or nothing - a mindset of “when I started out, I didn’t have any furniture” – which underplays the significance of the problem.

Tackling furniture poverty is a collaborative endeavour, and budgetary pressures faced by social landlords and local authorities also impact on the capacity to deliver solutions.

What, if anything, helped enable development of the initial idea of the project?

Support of the wider FRC Group.

How long did it take between having the initial idea and starting the project?

N/A: The project commenced immediately.

Who made the decision to introduce the project?

FRC Group.

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Early Development – Pilot Project or Feasibility Study

Was there a pilot project or feasibility study?

No	XXX
Yes, a pilot project	
Yes, a feasibility study	

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Accessing the Service and Engaging with Service Users

Is there a referral process?	
No	XXX
Yes	
Is referral the only way that potential clients are made aware of the project?	
Yes	
No	XXX
Other than referral, how do potential clients come to know about the project?	
Various means, including jobcentres, online searches, media coverage and events and blogs for organisations such as the Chartered Institute of Housing and the National Housing Federation. Contact is also maintained with influential figures such as MPs, councillors, and other charities.	
What is the most common way through which users typically access the service?	
Not specified.	
Do you take steps to keep in touch / reach out to service users?	
No	
Yes	
N/A	

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Working with People with Lived Experience of Poverty

Are those with lived experience of poverty involved in <u>delivering</u> the project?	
No	xxx
Yes	
Are people with lived experience of poverty involved in <u>managing</u> the project or project governance?	
No	xxx
Yes	
Are people with lived experience of poverty involved <u>in any other aspect</u> of the project? <i>If so, please describe below.</i>	
No	xxx
Yes	

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Leadership, Governance and Partnership Working

Who is responsible for managing the project?	
EFP works within the FRC. FRC has a board of trustees and is managed by a Chief Executive supported by a senior management team.	
Is this the only responsibility of the person managing the project?	
Yes	
No	xxx
Wider role and duties not specified.	
What proportion of the manager's overall workload is given over to this project?	
Most of it	
About half of it	
Just a small proportion of it	
Is there a Project Steering or Advisory Group?	
No	xxx
Yes	

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Are any other governance arrangements in place to review strategy and performance?	
No	
Yes	xxx
The FRC senior management team are the day-to-day decision makers, liaising with the Chief Executive on matters such as analysis and public affairs work, which has significant external costs. The senior management team report to the board of trustees.	

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Links to Wider Policies, Strategies and Statutory Requirements

In your opinion, is the project aligned with national and/or local anti-poverty strategies and priorities (e.g., local authority or health board priorities)?	
Don't know	
No	
Yes	
End Furniture Poverty contributes and works with other poverty coalitions and groups. For example, they are a member of the End Child Poverty Coalition and Claire is a trustee of the Re-use Network.	
In your opinion, has the project benefitted from being part of this anti-poverty strategy?	
Don't know	
No	
Yes	
Not specified.	

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Is the project part of any other strategy?	
Don't know	
No	XXX
Yes	
No specified.	
In your opinion, has the project benefitted from being part of this strategy?	
Don't know	
No	
Yes	
Not specified.	
Is the project delivering a service that is a statutory commitment?	
No	XXX
Yes	

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In your opinion, what has been the impact on the project of having this statutory commitment?	
Don't know	
None	
Negative	
Positive	
Not specified.	

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Funding

Has external funding been secured to support the work?	
No	XXX
Yes	
Please provide details of the external funding that was used secured to support this work?	
Which organisation provided funding?	N/A
What was the specific funding stream/source/scheme?	N/A
How much funding was secured?	N/A
For how long has funding been secured?	N/A

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Is future funding from the same external source a possibility?		
Don't know		
No		
Yes		
Is future funding from the same external source based on pre-agreed outcomes or outputs being delivered from this work?		
No		
Yes		
N/A		
Has a specific sum been secured from the host organisation to support this work?		
No		
Yes		XXX
Please provide details of the funding that was used secured from the host organisation to support this work?		
How much funding was secured?	Not specified.	
For how long has funding been secured?	Not specified.	

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Is future funding from the host organisation a possibility?		
Don't know		
No		
Yes		XXX
Is future funding from the host organisation based on pre-agreed outcomes or outputs being delivered?		
No		XXX
Yes		
What are the future - longer-term - prospects for this work if existing funding sources were no longer available?		
Not specified.		

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Staffing and Resources

Do existing staff from the host organisation contribute toward the work of this project as part of their broader work for the organisation?	
No	
Yes	
Not specified.	
Are existing staff from the host organisation paid extra (for example, taking on extra hours) to contribute toward the work of this project?	
No	
Yes	
Not specified.	
Have additional paid staff been employed to contribute toward the work of this project?	
No	
Yes	
Not specified.	
Are volunteers involved in delivering the project?	
No	xxx
Yes	
Volunteers have been used in the past, but never for the work that people already on the team are paid to do.	

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Are specific resources – other than staff/volunteer time and money - needed to support the delivery of the project?			
No		Yes	xxx
Please provide details of the resources that are required to deliver the project?			
Facilities / Workspace	N/A		
Equipment	N/A		
Local Knowledge	Collaboration with other organisations and charities. Campaigning involves the sharing of contacts and knowledge.		
Food and Drink	N/A		
Are any of the resources needed to deliver the project provided in-kind, rather than budgeted from project funds?			
No			
Yes			xxx
Local knowledge is provided by partner organisations.			
Were new IT systems, additional software, or upgrades existing software (databases, Apps) required to deliver this project?			
No			xxx
Yes			

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Was additional training – for staff or volunteers - required to deliver this project?	
No	xxx
Yes	

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Monitoring and Evaluation

Is there baseline data to describe what things were like before the start of the project?	
No	xxx
Yes	
Is the difference that the project is making measured or monitored by the host organisation?	
Yes	
No	xxx
Who within the host organisation is responsible for monitoring the impact of the project?	
N/A	
How often is the impact of the project monitored or measured by the host organisation?	
N/A	
What methods, techniques or strategies are used by the host organisation to impact of the project?	
N/A	

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What information is collected by the host organisation about the project?				
Number of users	Yes		No	
Profile of users	Yes		No	
Experience of users	Yes		No	
Outcomes for users	Yes		No	
Anything else	Yes		No	
N/A				
Has the data that has been collected by the host organisation been used to adapt the way the project works?				
				No
				Yes
Not specified.				
Has an external organisation been employed to formally evaluate the project?				
				No
				Yes
Crowe UK formally audit End Furniture Poverty's annual report.				

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Has the insight from the external organisation's evaluation been used to adapt the way the project works?	
No	
Yes	
Not specified.	
Is there an intention to employ an external organisation to evaluate the impact of the project in the future?	
Don't know / no current plans	
No	xxx
Yes	
Is there an intention to undertake your own formal evaluation in the future to estimate the impact of the project?	
Don't know / no current plans	
No	
Yes	

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Impact

To what extent have the aims of the project been achieved?	
Fully met	
Making progress toward meeting Aims	xxx
Not making progress	
Awareness of furniture poverty is increasing. A goal of EFP is to ensure that - especially in the current pressured times - furniture poverty is always acknowledged in anti-poverty debates and discussions.	
What difference has the project made?	
Awareness of furniture poverty is increasing. A goal of EFP is to ensure that - especially in the current pressured times - furniture poverty is always acknowledged in anti-poverty debates and discussions.	
Have conditions or demand changed since the project was introduced?	
No	
Yes	xxx
Demand for EFP has increased (as poverty has increased) due to austerity, the Cost-of-Living crisis, Brexit, and the COVID-19 pandemic.	
Has the project had the capacity to meet these changing conditions and demand?	
Yes	xxx
No	
Yes, although more people would be welcome to extend reach.	

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Has the project changed through time?		
		No
		Yes
What changed		
Why has it changed		
Has the project had any unexpected or unintended outcomes?		
		No xxx
		Yes
Not specified.		
In your opinion, is the project having an impact on tackling poverty?		
		No
		Yes xxx
Providing people experiencing poverty with a basic need.		

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Learning from Experience

What is working well?	
Gathering attention, and the willingness of others to acknowledge the problem of furniture poverty and work with us.	
What, if anything, is working less well?	
Need remains huge, with ever-growing numbers.	
What are the key learning points that you'd like to share with other practitioners?	
In regards to campaigning activities, having a robust evidence base to: Prove the validity of your claims and the level of need. Demonstrate that change is possible and can be impactful. . Partnership working is essential. It is not possible for a single organisation to tackle the problem of furniture poverty.	
Are there plans to develop or expand the project in the future?	
No	
Yes	
Interested parties can sign up to our mailing list for more information about future developments.	
How easily do you think this project could be replicated in another setting?	
With a strong evidence base and the building of partnerships, the campaign could be replicated elsewhere.	

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