

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.

This document comprises the following sections (click hyperlink to skip to that section)







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- Working with People with Lived Experience of Poverty
- Leadership, Governance and Partnership Working
- Links to Wider Policies, Strategies and Statutory Requirements
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- <u>Staffing and Resources</u>
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- <u>Reach and Impact</u>
- Learning from Experience

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.





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





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.			al idea
Staff/Volunteer Time	N/A		
Facilities / Workspace	N/A		
Equipment	N/A		
Local Knowledge	N/A		
Food and Drink	N/A		





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?		
N	D	XXX
Ye	s	
Is referral the only way that potential clients are made aware of the project?		
Ye	s	
Ν	D	ххх
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		





Working with People with Lived Experience of Poverty

Are those with lived experience of poverty involved in <u>delivering</u> the project?		
	No	ххх
۱ ۱	Yes	
Are people with lived experience of poverty involved in <u>managing</u> the project or project governance?		
	No	ххх
N	Yes	
Are people with lived experience of poverty involved <u>in any other aspect</u> of the project? If so, please describe below.		
No	ххх	
Yes		





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		
Νο	ххх	
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?		
Νο	ххх	
Yes		





Are any other governance arrangements in place to review strategy and performance?	
Νο	
Yes	ххх
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

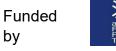
In your opinion, is the project aligned with national and/or local anti-poverty strat priorities (e.g., local authority or health board priorities)?	egies and
Don't know	
No	
Yes	
End Furniture Poverty contributes and works with other poverty coalitions and groups. For example, they are a member of the 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.	







Is the project part of any other strategy?	
Don't know	
No	ххх
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	







In your opinion, what has been the impact on the project of having this statutory commitment?

Don't know

None

None

Negative

Positive

Not specified.

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Funding

Has external funding been secured to support the work?		
	No	ххх
	Yes	
Please provide details of the external funding that was used secured to support this w		
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	

Funded



Is future funding from the same external source a possibility?			
	Don't know	,	
	Nc)	
	Yes	;	
Is future funding from the same external source based on pre-a being delivered from this work?	agreed outcomes or o	outputs	
	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.		





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 delivered?	outpu	ts being
Νο	XXX	
Yes		
What are the future - longer-term - prospects for this work if existing funding s no longer available?	ources	were
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?		
Νο		
Yes		
Not specified.		
Have additional paid staff been employed to contribute toward the work of this project?		
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Have additional paid staff been employed to contribute toward the work of this pr No	oject?	
	oject?	
Νο	oject?	
No Yes	oject?	
No Yes Not specified.	oject?	
No Yes Not specified. Are volunteers involved in delivering the project?		





Are specific resources – other than staff/volunteer time and money - needed to support the delivery of the project?			
No		Yes	s xxx
Please provide details of the resour	ces that a	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	ххх
		Yes	





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

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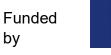






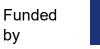
Monitoring and Evaluation

Is there baseline data to describe what things were like before the start of the project?	
Νο	ххх
Yes	
Is the difference that the project is making measured or monitored by the host org	anisation?
Yes	
Νο	ххх
Who within the host organisation is responsible for monitoring the impact of the p	project?
N/A	
How often is the impact of the project monitored or measured by the host organis	ation?
N/A	
What methods, techniques or strategies are used by the host organisation to imp project?	oact of the
N/A	





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?			t the way
No			
		Yes	
Not specified.			
Has an external organisation been employed to formally evaluate the project?			
No			
		Yes	ххх
Crowe UK formally audit End Furniture Poverty's annual report.			







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





Impact

To what extent have the aims of the project been achieved?		
Fully met		
Making progress toward meeting Aims	ххх	
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 - especia current pressured times - furniture poverty is always acknowledged in anti-poverty or and discussions.		
Have conditions or demand changed since the project was introduced?		
No		
Yes	ххх	
Demand for EFP has increased (as poverty has increased) due to austerity, the Cost- crisis, Brexit, and the COVID-19 pandemic.	of-Living	
Has the project had the capacity to meet these changing conditions and demand?		
Yes	ххх	
Yes	XXX	





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





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.

