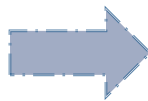


FACTSHEET: HOMELESSNESS



ACTIVITY: MYTHBUSTING!

Ask the group to stand in the middle of the room. When you share the following statements, get them to run to the front of the room if they think it's true, or the back if they think it's false (if it's a myth)



- People experiencing homelessness always live on the street. **MYTH!**
- More than 35,000 people experience homelessness in Scotland today. **FACT!**
- Being homeless is a choice. **MYTH!**
- Homeless people always drink alcohol or take drugs. **MYTH!**

- Draw a table with two headings: need and want.
- Have a group discussion about what safety and security mean.
- Have the group think about their day-to-day routines (in great detail) and list all the things that use on a daily basis that contribute to this feeling of safety and security. For each item, ask the group whether it is a need or a want and then add the item under the appropriate heading.
- Once you have enough items on the list, revisit the list as a group and cross of the needs and wants that might not be available to someone who is experiencing homelessness and is couch surfing with friends and family, moving from house to house every couple of days.
- Reflect on the privileges in both the need and want lists that the group has available to them that they may take for granted.
- Discuss as a group how not having access to their 'wants' and would impact their day, month and year. The group should begin to understand the bigger impact of not having the privileges that many of us take for granted.

Beyond the classroom

Challenge: Can pupils go without a few of their 'want' items for just one week?

- What will it feel like to go without? See if any pupils want to take the challenge as a way of increasing their understandings. Explain how doing something like this a great conversation starter, and may give them opportunities to practice talking about social justice issues with their friends and families. When you come back together, ask the pupils how they went in the challenge. Ask them to reflect on how it affected their mood, relationships etc. What would it be like to have gone without one of the items on their need list?



**Society of
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