

Would You Rather...? Activity

Aims: To think about the impossible choices many homeless people face

Task: Ask children each question, starting trivial and moving into the thought-provoking. Allow children to vote by running to end of the room, vote with balls in buckets A and B, hands up for each option etc.

Discussions: Lead debates after each answer as to why they felt strongly or could not decide. Invite them to think of homeless people they have encountered in the community and what decisions they have to make on a daily basis. Research regional and up to date statistics on Shelter's website about the housing emergency.

Would you rather...?

- have the superpower of invisibility or be able to fly?
- a world that was made out of lego or your favourite foods?
- eat pizza every day or never eat pizza again?
- have feet for hands or hands for feet?
- win the lottery or live twice as long?
- live with 7 cows in your living room or a panda in your bedroom?
- never watch TV or never play computer games /use social media?
- never have a pet or not have a bathroom in your home?
- always have cold showers or never have a hot meal again?
- not have enough money to pay for your home or not have enough money for food for you and your family?
- sleep in a room full of strangers or sleep alone on the street?

Reflections:

For many young people, they don't have a choice. It is not what they would rather but what is the only option:

- Going to school not knowing where you will sleep that night
- Going to school tired because you live in noisy temporary accommodation
- Getting poorly because your housing has disrepair but can't afford to move
- Sharing a room with your whole family (overcrowding) because there are not enough houses for you to move into a bigger home in your neighbourhood
- Having half your family live elsewhere because there is not enough housing for you to all live together
- Having to travel hours to get to school because you have been housed a long distance from school
- Having to keep out of certain rooms in your house because they are in disrepair and not safe
- Having to live in homes without adaptations for disabilities because there are not enough available adapted homes