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**Using evidence to end homelessness: the UK Centre for Homelessness Impact Evidence Portal**

**Presenting Authors**

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**Objectives/aims**

With rising homelessness figures across the UK, how to effectively tackle it has become an increasingly prominent policy objective across all levels of government. This has prompted the creation of new institutions, like the forthcoming Centre for Homelessness Impact. One strand of the Centre’s work is Evidence Gap Maps, a visual representation of what relevant evidence is available on particular topics and issues. Through a systematic and structured evidence retrieval process, evidence of interventions is graded and categorised against outcomes. This tool has been used in international development and health, but until now, has not been used to examine the field of homelessness and the policy areas this encompasses.

This panel will present the first Evidence Gap Maps and Evidence Portal in homelessness, outline what they tell us, and how they benefit decision making. The discussion focuses on the first two areas explored: Effectiveness Studies and Implementation Studies to provide a visual presentation of the evidence, identifying where evidence exists, and where there are gaps in knowledge. These two maps and the Evidence portal will be used to illustrate how these methods are effective tools in designing outcome-based strategies, policies, programmes, and practice.

**Methods**

Dr Ligia Teixeira from the Centre for Homelessness Impact will be joined by Dr Howard White from the Campbell Collaboration who is leading on the homelessness maps, alongside Professor Suzanne Fitzpatrick and other experts from the US and Australia.

This session will begin by recounting the background that led to the initiative and the development of the maps and evidence portal and challenge participants to have an honest conversation about how to use evidence to truly deliver results. We believe that by using co-creation as one of our vehicles to mobilise change we’ll be better equipped to tackle a complex issue like homelessness in innovative ways – much better than any of us would be on our own.