

# EMPOWERMENT THROUGH LITERACY

## A CHARTER FOR ADULTS WITH EXPERIENCE OF HOMELESSNESS

*We believe that literacy is a human right. It encompasses the ability to read with understanding, and to write to be understood. Literacy empowers adults affected by homelessness to take control of their own lives; without it their disadvantages are compounded.*

Adults experiencing low literacy and homelessness should expect:

### **1. A range of local options to be available**

- to develop their reading and writing skills
- to enrich their experiences of literature through shared reading activities

### **2. Homelessness and housing organisations**

- to recognise and address literacy needs as a core part of their work
- to provide access to the technology that will assist their literacy, communication and engagement with the digital world

### **3. Learning providers**

- to allocate the most skilled teachers and the most flexible provision to learners with the fewest literacy skills
- to offer sustained, specialist support for people with specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia
- to respond to the psychological needs of learners affected by trauma

### **4. National and local policy-makers**

- to make addressing their literacy needs a higher priority
- to allocate resources to achieve these expectations.