

Homeless and inclusion health

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Background

The Faculty for Homeless and Inclusion Health (FHIH)¹ is an inclusive, free organisation for people caring for excluded groups such as:

- people who experience **homelessness**
- **Gypsies** and **Travellers**
- vulnerable **migrants** and **asylum seekers**
- people with experience of the **justice system**
- people with health-harming **substance use** issues
- people engaged in **sex work**.

Its primary purpose is to promote a rights-based approach to care for those experiencing exclusion, and evidence-based, trauma-informed and integrated healthcare services alongside practical social and emotional support.

Membership is open to people involved in:

- health and social care
- housing
- social work
- support work
- outreach provision
- commissioning
- research
- public health.

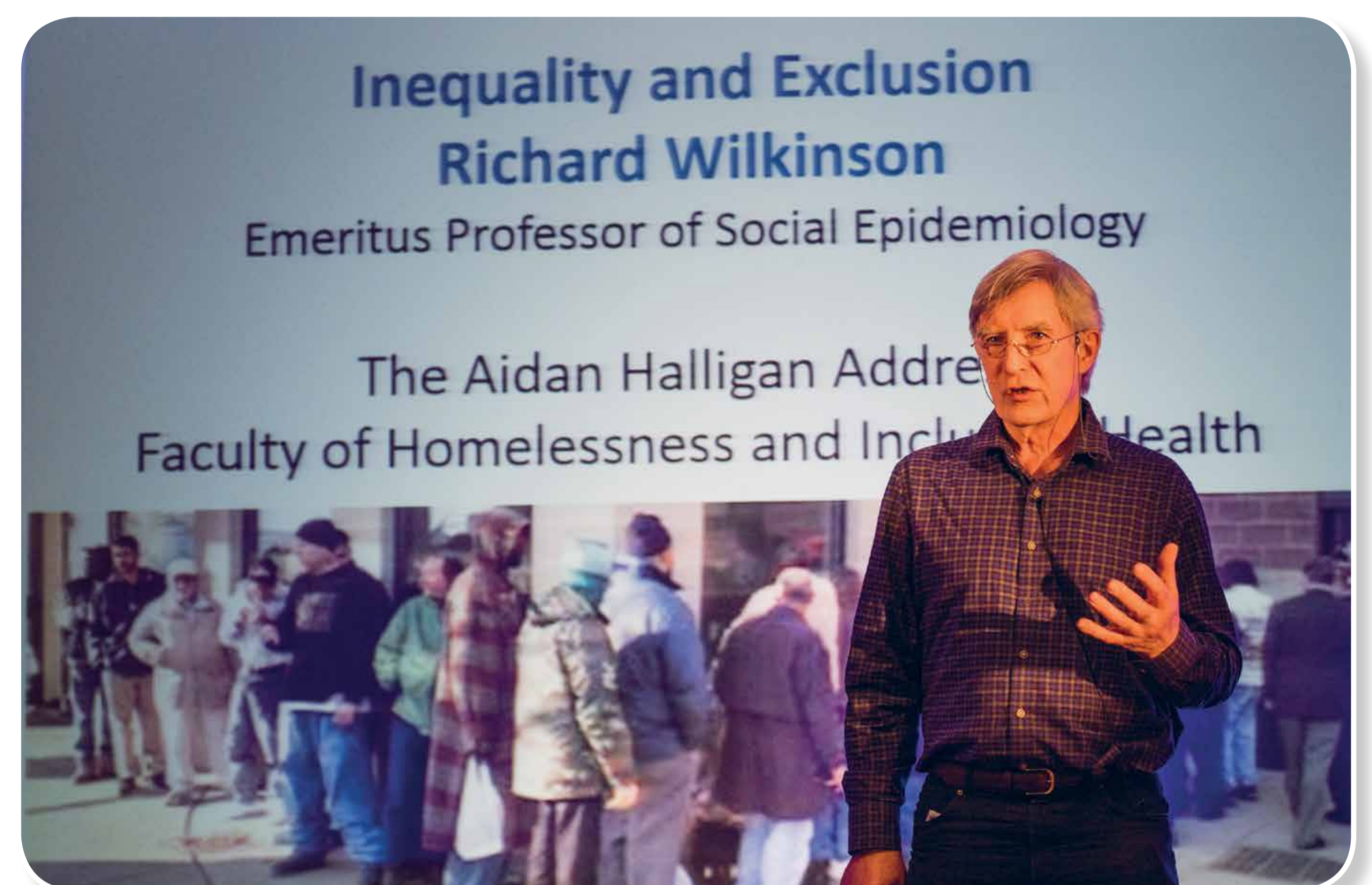
It also welcomes **people with lived experience** of exclusion.

The FHIH is hosted by Pathway, a UK charity that promotes a model of integrated care within NHS hospitals and primary care settings. The Scottish branch of FHIH was established in 2016 following the publication of the report 'Restoring the public health response to homelessness in Scotland'² and is supported by NHS Health Scotland and led by a multi-disciplinary steering group.

Activities

The FHIH has published national standards³ for health services (endorsed by the Royal College of Physicians), offers multi-disciplinary continuing professional development (CPD), runs an annual international symposium, and supports a network of regional homeless healthcare hubs and special interest groups.

The term 'inclusion health' has been endorsed by a statement of the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges and a series of papers in 'The Lancet'.^{4,5}



Professor Richard Wilkinson speaks at the FHIH's annual international symposium

In Scotland, FHIH has hosted a series of meetings and events in partnership with its members on themes such as:

- Making frontline integration work
- Preparing and caring for frontline staff in difficult roles
- Creating connections for inclusion health nursing
- The 'Health and Homelessness in Scotland' report (2018)
- Rural homelessness
- Preventing deaths in homelessness.

It has also been part of four successful annual conferences.

Impact

The range of perspectives represented at FHIH events shows that it has established a truly multi-disciplinary and collaborative approach to tackling poor health outcomes for people who are excluded. Connections made through its network have led to further cross-sectoral collaboration, support and professional development.

Further information

The Scottish FHIH has a growing membership. Join to receive regular newsletters with information about events and learning opportunities.

You can subscribe at: www.pathway.org.uk/faculty/join – be sure to tick the 'Scotland' box.

References

- 1 What is The Faculty For Homeless and Inclusion Health? Pathway: London. URL: www.pathway.org.uk/faculty
- 2 Hamlet N & Hetherington K. Restoring the Public Health response to Homelessness in Scotland. Scottish Public Health Network: Edinburgh; 2015. URL: www.scotphn.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Restoring-the-Public-Health-response-to-Homelessness-in-Scotland-May-2015.pdf
- 3 Service Standards for Commissioners and Service Providers. Pathway: London. URL: www.pathway.org.uk/standards
- 4 Luchenski S et al. What works in inclusion health: overview of effective interventions for marginalised and excluded populations. The Lancet, 2018; 391 (10,117): 266–280.
- 5 Aldridge RW et al. Morbidity and mortality in homeless individuals, prisoners, sex workers, and individuals with substance use disorders in high-income countries: a systematic review and meta-analysis. The Lancet, 2018; 391 (10,117): 241–250.