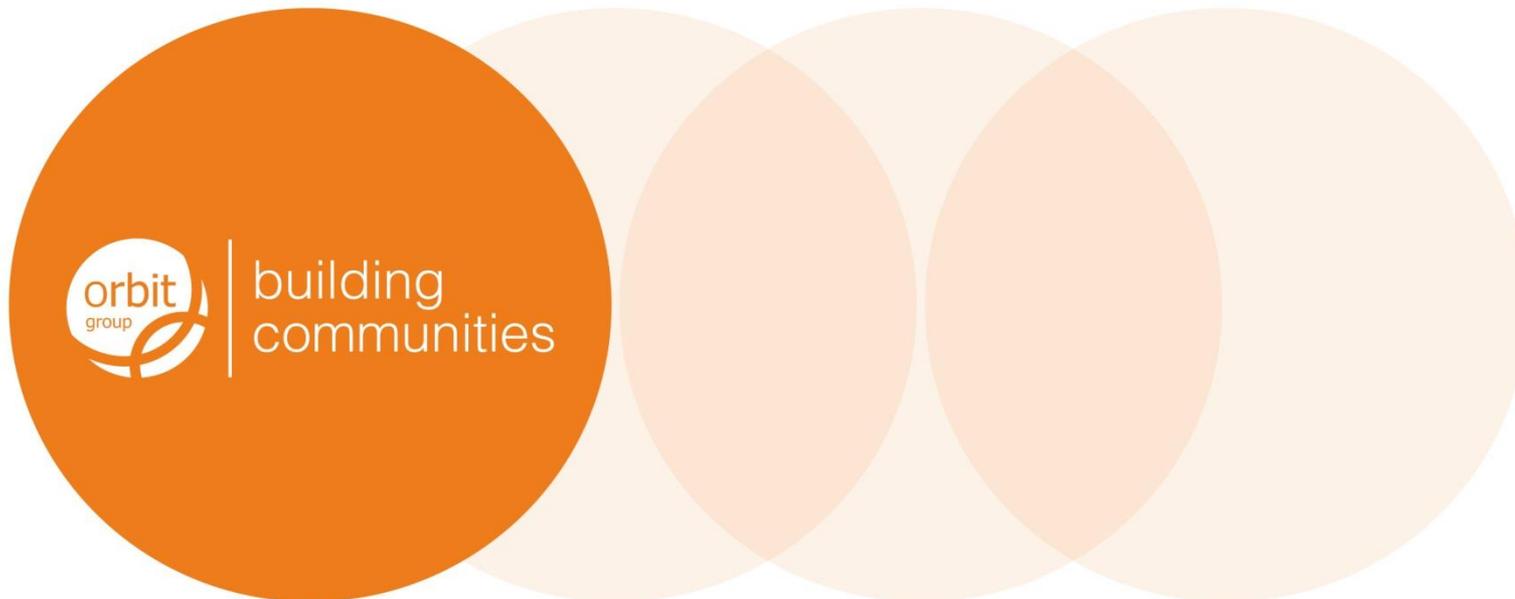


# The hidden needs of hoarding in communities

In partnership with Coventry University and Knowledge Transfer Partnership



# Today's objectives

- Define the four characteristics of Hoarding Disorder
- Outline three risks that Hoarding Disorder poses to the individual, the impact, and identify five reported individual and community needs, related to hoarding
- Explain the known and unknown economic impact of hoarding on housing providers, the NHS and Fire Service
- Suggest five ways that housing providers can take the lead in local conversations in identifying hoarding and meeting stakeholder needs
- Highlight Orbit's Hoarding Intervention Toolkit, training and consultancy service
- Conclusion with Q & A

# What is Compulsive Hoarding?

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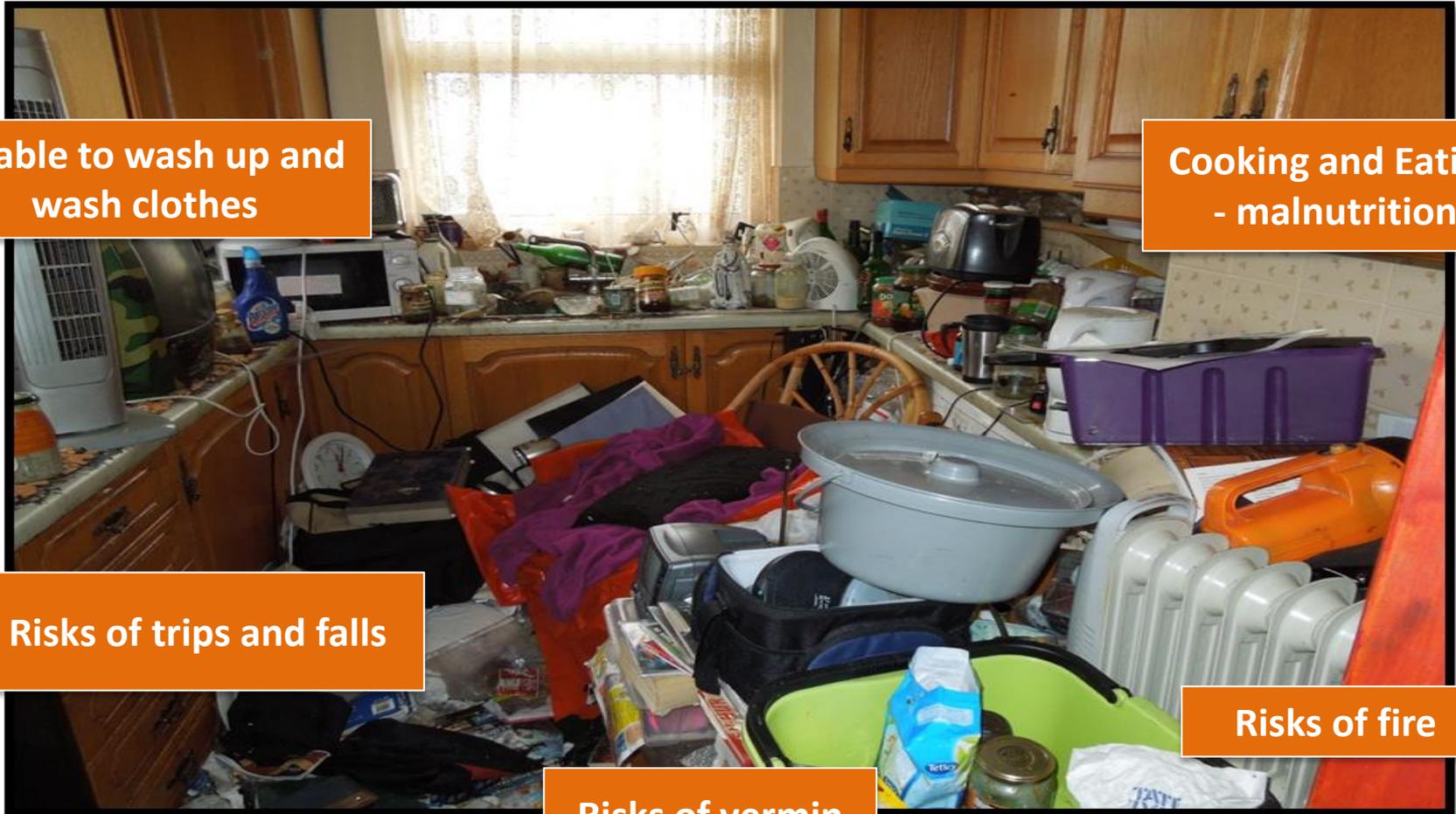
## Definition - Frost and Hartl (1996)

- The inability of individuals to dispose of items that may or may not have a meaning to others
- Having rooms at home that are no longer fit for purpose
- The impairment of a person's functioning (both physical and psychological)
- Excessive acquisition

## Key details

- Estimated prevalence is around 2- 4 % of the population
- 92% of people who hoard have at least one other Mental Health Condition
- Including Schizophrenia, Eating Disorders, OCD, Dementia, Psychosis and Prader-Willi syndrome. (Hoarding UK, 2013)

# Sufficient impact



Unable to wash up and wash clothes

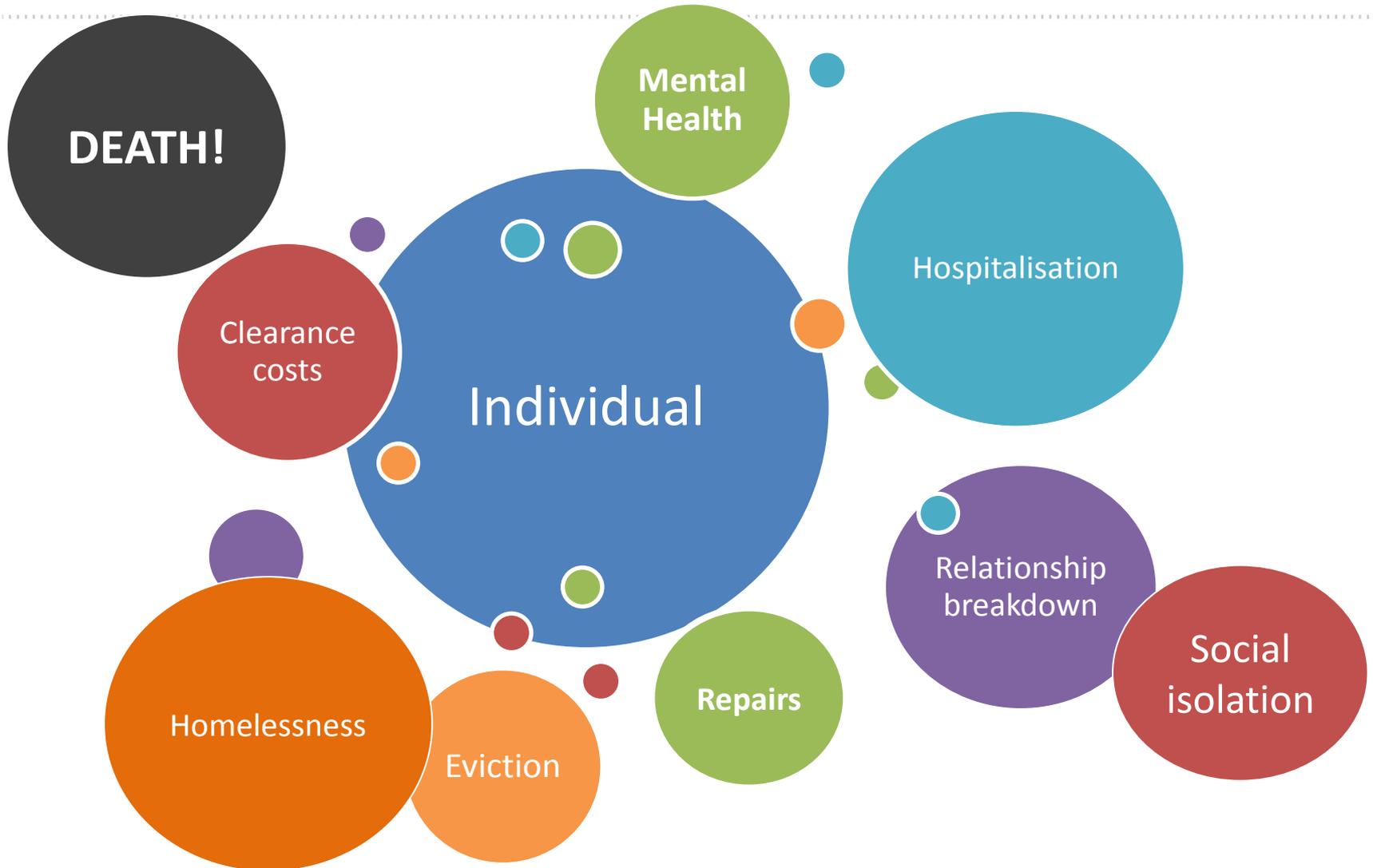
Cooking and Eating - malnutrition

Risks of trips and falls

Risks of fire

Risks of vermin

# Impact of Hoarding on the individual



# Individual and Community needs

## Clients report:

- Lack of understanding of Hoarding Disorder amongst service providers
- Lack of specialist support provision
- Discrimination and stigmatization from service providers and bullying within communities

## Neighbours and communities report:

- Problems with 'bad smells' and vermin
- Concerns for health and safety



# So What?



# Economic impact on service providers



# Economic impact – the unknowns

## The 'knowns'

- Chief Fire Officer's Association (2014) estimate 25-30% of fire fatalities involve hoarding.
- Each fire fatality costs the UK 1.375 million (DCLG, 2014)

**The total economic cost of hoarding in the UK is unknown**

**“There are known knowns. These are things we know that we know. There are known unknowns. That is to say, there are things that we know we don't know. But there are also unknown unknowns. There are things we don't know we don't know.” Donald Rumsfeld**

# How can the housing sector take the lead?

- Develop organisational policies and procedures
- Train frontline professionals to recognise Hoarding Disorder so they can respond more effectively
- Record reported cases, alongside social and economic impact – and share the information!
- Set up local multi-agency working groups to identify prevalence rates, service availability, gaps in service provision and to manage and share risk
- Joint fund specialist case workers

Training and consultancy is available through  
Orbit's Compulsive Hoarding Project

# Hoarding intervention and prevention – Toolkit use in practice



## Benefits:

- Empowers customers to address their hoarding behaviours and improve their long term quality of life
- Reduces the social isolation experienced by customers with hoarding tendencies and their families
- Reduces the risks to individuals living in or near the property
- Reduces the economic impact on service providers

# Conclusion

- Compulsive hoarding is a hidden, misunderstood and debilitating condition that poses great risks to individuals
- The total economic impact of hoarding on the public, private and voluntary sector is unknown, but is likely to be extensive
- Co-ordinated action is required to meet the needs of impacted stakeholders
- Orbit's Frontline Worker's Toolkit, training programme and consultancy was developed to reduce this impact and improve the long term quality of life of clients

# Contact

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- Twitter: @OrbitHoardingPR



# Discussion Time – any questions?



# References



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