The PIEs Resource Pack
draft 24/4/2013

This "PIEs Pack" folder contains a selection of written material either on, or directly related to, the
development of "Psychologically Informed Environments".
These papers are in four main clusters:

1. Government guidance
2. The SPSP 21C "trilogy", plus a fourth.
3. Housing Care and Support's special issue on PIEs
4. Other useful documents and tools

NB: Journal articles are usually available either on subscription or on-line pay-per-item basis.
There are constantly new documents being produced with a variety of helpful observations. Many
of them can be accessed via a practice share website, the PIElink.
http://pielink.ning.com/

1: Government guidance

"Understanding Homelessness" was produced for, and published jointly by, the Dept of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and the Housing Learning and Improvement network (aka the Housing LIN), as a guide primarily for mental health team staff on assessment of people who are homeless.
http://www.housinglin.org.uk/Topics/browse/Homelessness1/Mental_health/?&msg=0&parent=5953&child=2667

In 2010, DCLG published, jointly with the National Mental Health Development Unit, good practice guidance titled "on meeting the psychological and emotional needs of people who are homeless" (more often known instead as the "complex trauma" guidance, as it was the first to promote that term in this context). This guidance was the first use of the concept of PIEs in print – though it referenced, as the source of the term, the paper by Johnson and Haigh that appeared some months later, the first in the SPSP21C 'trilogy' (see below).

At almost the same time, the Cabinet Office and Department of Health published "Inclusion Health", which focussed on the role of primary care in tackling health inequalities and exclusion, citing homelessness as one of the sentinel areas.

In 2012, in response to requests from the sector for operational guidance on developing PIEs, as promoted in the "complex trauma" guidance, the DCLG team that had produced that guidance then issued the follow up, called "Psychologically Informed Services for homeless people", which goes into greater detail on some key areas to consider, when wanting to develop services that are more
"psychologically informed",
http://www.southampton.ac.uk/assets/imported/transforms/peripheral-block/UsefulDownloads_Download/A6FD3BB1EB2A449987C12DF91EF3F73/Good%20practice%20%20Psychologically%20informed%20services%20for%20homeless%20people%20.pdf

2: The SPSP 21C "trilogy"

The first of the "trilogy" of papers which appear in the Journal of Mental Health and Social Inclusion (under the umbrella title "social psychiatry and social policy for the 21st Century", or SPSP21C) is the one that first develops the idea of psychologically informed environments in areas such as homelessness resettlement work.

http://www.emeraldinsight.com/journals.htm?articleid=1927413&show=html

The second of the trilogy relates the roots of that thinking in on-going work being promoted by the Royal College of Psychiatrists' on developing the values base of "enabling environments" (EEs); and the third discusses the place of enabling environments in operationalising other government agendas such as public health, a sense of belonging in a community, and even "the Big Society".

Those with an interest in the origins of the PIEs and EEs developments might also like to read the paper (from Housing Care and Support) by the Royal College of Psychiatrists' Enabling Environments Development Group, which describes the origins, aims and development of the RCP project, and the relationship and the common threads between concepts such as PIEs, EEs, and therapeutic communities ("TCs") etc. It is sometimes known as the fourth of the trilogy.


3: Housing Care and Support's special issue on PIEs

NB: These papers originally appeared in the journal of Housing Care and Support's special issue, Psychologically Informed environments: Vol 15. iss. 2

For Housing Care and Support journal's PIEs special issue, a dozen authors with particular expertise in the field were invited to offer a personal comment on the PIEs operational guidance. They were asked to be frank and if need be critical, or simply to express concerns, over the guidance and how it might be interpreted. An editorial introduces and comments on each paper.


1: The need for all services to be psychologically informed
Keith and Ian Walton, primhe

2: Meeting the needs of detached young runaways through psychologically informed environments
Emilie Smeaton, consultant

3: Developing a psychological approach: learning from a housing association pilot.
Aileen Edwards, Chief Executive, Second Step

4: Developing a psychological approach: learning from a housing service for homeless people
Pennie Blackburn, Clinical Lead, Second Step Wellbeing Service

5: Psychologically Informed Services: A response from the housing, care and support sector
Vic Rayner, CEO, SITRA

6: “Stuck in the middle with you” in (dis)stressed and traumatised organisations
Chris Scanlon & John Adlam, consultant psychotherapists

7: Psychology and the whole person: A response from social psychiatry and social therapy
Tom Harrison, rehabilitation psychiatrists

8: Psychologically Informed Services: A counsellor’s response
Jon Conolly, Great Chapel Street

9: Psychologically Informed Services: a response from an advocacy perspective
Annie Whelan

4: Some other useful documents

"More for Less: using PIEs and recovery to improve efficiency in supported housing " by Peter Cockersell of St Mungo’s appeared in the journal of Housing Care and Support. It puts the case for PIEs to commissioners who may be concerned to be assured that this approach aim to deliver services efficiently. It explicitly links the PIEs approach with the recovery model.
http://www.emeraldinsight.com/journals.htm/journals.htm?issn=1460-8790&volume=14&issue=2&articleid=1959148&show=pdf

"Psychology in the Environment" is an excerpt from Johnson and Haigh’s "Complex Trauma and Its Effects: perspectives on creating and environment for recovery". It argues that the "psychology" in a "Psychology in the Environment" need not be research or clinical psychology, but must include working with and encouraging ordinary human empathy.
http://www.complextfraumarecoveryenvironments.org/

"This is not a pipe" is a brief – and rather ironic – piece that first appeared in the SITRA bulletin, in 2007. It argues that the requirements of Transitional Housing Benefit – the original funding stream for Supporting People - have inhibited services from recognising the levels of psychological and emotional problems being managed, quite effectively, by homelessness resettlement services.
http://www.rjaconsultancy.org.uk/This%20is%20not%20a%20pipe%20v2iii%20+.pdf

"Well-being through design: transferability of design concepts for healthcare environments to ordinary community settings " is an article by two architects who have worked on healthcare re-design projects, looking at how far the same underlying ideas might be useful for those looking to modify the built environment in community settings. Many of these concepts are evidently applicable in hostel and similar environments.
http://www.emeraldinsight.com/journals.htm?articleid=17053508

The SP/EE grid is a usefulness tool, currently being pilotted, which allows staff to focus on specific areas where a more psychologically informed approach may be helpful. It identifies and plots, in
grid form, the four areas that the PIE operational guidance highlights, cross-referenced with the more values-and-evidence based approach of the Royal College of Psychiatrists’ Enabling Environments programme, which is used as the central elements of the psychological framework. (Any services wishing to try this, ask for a copy: robin.johnson@ntu.ac.uk)