



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**This research has contributed to the growing body of evidence indicating links between homelessness and exploitation.**

The methodology used engagement with those working closest to the issue, such as front-line workers, utilising interviews and focus groups to gather evidence. The findings indicated a clear causal link between homelessness, in addition to other support needs and exploitation. The results from this initial research provided the foundation for the initiation of three distinct projects: a geo-targeted social media campaign, community awareness raising activity and the championing of a financial inclusion scheme. The report also makes recommendations that potentially have national reach in terms of their applications and implications.

## **Key findings**

- The most common vulnerability within the homeless community was drug dependency with no bank account second.
- The most common type of recruitment was befriending which often started with the giving of gifts to build trust.
- All types of exploitation were seen with criminal exploitation the most common, closely followed by sexual exploitation.
- The traffickers and victims had similar demographics, anecdotally traffickers tended to be older (although there was insufficient volume of data to see this robustly).
- Victims tended to use a different language to support organisations, using terms like “bullying” or “abuse” rather than “modern slavery” or “victim of trafficking.”