

# Mental health, destitution and asylum. PAFRAS briefing paper number 5

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## Aims

This briefing on mental health is part of a series that provides concise analyses of key policies and concerns relating to people made destitute through the asylum process.

## Methodology

Policy analysis, results of a mental health survey of destitute clients undertaken by agencies in Leeds and data from interviews with people who use the PAFRAS [Positive Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers] drop-in.

## Key issues

The paper describes the links between mental health, destitution and the asylum system. Asylum seekers are likely to have pre-existing mental health concerns before they arrive in the UK. Furthermore, destitution in the UK creates mental health problems. Destitution makes effective treatment difficult.

## Conclusions

Government plans to withdraw access to healthcare for 'failed' asylum seekers would make problems associated with mental health and destitution worse.

Web Link

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