

## Reducing Inequalities in Wound Care for Vulnerable Populations

Health inequalities continue to be a significant challenge across the UK, with homeless individuals facing serious barriers to accessing timely and effective healthcare. In Kirklees, it is estimated that over 400 people are currently sleeping rough or living in temporary accommodation, many of whom suffer from chronic health conditions. According to Public Health England, homeless people have a life expectancy that is, on average, 30 years shorter than the general population – underlining the urgent need for targeted interventions.

### Project Overview

The Reducing Inequalities in Wound Care for Our Vulnerable Population initiative, funded by the [Q Exchange Project](#), is being delivered by the Locala Tissue Viability Nurse Team. This project aims to address disparities in healthcare access and outcomes by providing tailored wound care services to vulnerable groups, especially homeless individuals and those with substance misuse issues.

The project's innovative approach brings wound care directly to the community through Locala's clinical van. By reaching people where they are, the initiative breaks down barriers to care and ensures that timely, effective treatment is available to those who need it most.

In one inspiring case, a service user referred a friend to the van, who is now receiving mainstream wound care. Their wounds are healing, showing the tangible impact of this project.

At the project's midpoint, 20 new patients have been engaged, surpassing expectations.



### Why Projects Like This Matter

The health inequalities faced by homeless individuals are stark, yet often overlooked. With limited access to preventative care, conditions like chronic wounds can worsen, leading to severe complications. Projects like this demonstrate how meeting people where they are – both physically and emotionally – can bridge these gaps and deliver life-changing care.

The work of the Locala Tissue Viability Team, supported by the Q Exchange Project, highlights the importance of personalised approaches to tackling health inequalities. It is making a real difference in Kirklees, and sets a powerful example for other communities to follow.