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Date of Interview: September 2019



Jean Templeton serves as the Chief Executive of St. Basil's, a charity dedicated to combating youth homelessness. Born in Scotland, she experienced adversity early on when her family was forced to move to England due to bankruptcy. Despite the upheaval and challenges, Jean persevered, becoming the first girl in her family to attend university. Jean later pursued Social Administration, demonstrating early resolve to understand society's inequities.

Jean's career has traversed public sector roles that provided her a unique insight into the complexities of housing and societal problems. From local government housing to the West Midlands Probation Service, each role has shaped her understanding and empathetic approach towards the marginalized. "My career allowed me to see the multifaceted nature of societal issues, and how they intersect in complex ways," she shares, reflecting on her past roles.

Since assuming leadership at St. Basil's in 2000, Jean has merged her expertise and dedication to combat youth homelessness. St. Basil's, under her leadership, has evolved, adapting to changing needs, and offering tailored services to aid young people in transitioning from homelessness towards independence. As an advocate and strategist, Jean demonstrates how personal adversity can transform into a relentless drive for societal change. "Our work here," she says, "is more than offering a service. It's about understanding the underlying issues and giving these young people a chance for a better future."

Recognizing the importance of a universal offer for young people, Jean and her team have implemented the innovative Youth Hub model. This centralized access point provides young individuals with housing options, advice, and wraparound support, eliminating the need to navigate multiple agencies and streamlining the path to stability.

Under Jean Templeton's transformative leadership, St. Basil's continues to make a profound impact on the lives of vulnerable young people. By combining innovative housing solutions, a comprehensive support network, and a psychologically informed approach, the organization is breaking the cycle of youth homelessness. As St. Basil's forges ahead, Jean's unwavering dedication and compassionate vision ensure that every young person who walks through their doors finds not only a place to live but also a pathway to a brighter future.

Throughout the interview, Templeton emphasizes the importance of clarity of purpose and maintaining focus on the core mission. She underscores the need for a dedicated and skilled team, who are passionate about making a difference in the lives of young people.