

Housing and Social Security (H&SS) Group Role and Remit – Draft

Last revised: Version 0.1 Date agreed:
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Background

1. The H&SS Group replaces the Housing Benefit Stakeholder Advisory Group (2010-2016) in order to bring a new focus on the issues and ministerial priorities relevant to the fifth Scottish Parliamentary term. These include:
 - Sustainable economic growth and tackling poverty.
 - Maintaining the 2012 Homelessness Target and tackling homelessness.
 - Encouraging well-functioning social and private rental sectors.
 - Building a Social Security System built on dignity and respect.

Role

2. The role of the Group is:
 - To support and advise the Scottish Government on the use of devolved social security powers in relation to housing.
 - To advise the Scottish Government on the impact of UK Government welfare reform and support mitigation activity to reduce any negative effects.

Responsibilities

3. Consideration of the issues around the interaction between housing and social security.
4. Advising the Scottish Government on its use of new powers relating to:
 - The way in which Universal Credit is paid.
 - The way in which the Housing Element of Universal Credit is calculated.
 - Support for housing costs for specific groups e.g. 18-21 year olds and under 35s.
 - Discretionary Housing Payments.
5. Advising the Scottish Government on the impact of proposed ongoing UK Government welfare reform.
6. Working with SG to seeking to influence the development of UK Government policy where appropriate and possible.
7. Promoting and developing good practice (including mitigation activity) across the sector in response to welfare reforms.
8. The Group will continue to have an interest in wider issues for the housing sector but for the most part these will continue to be taken forward through other groups

including the Joint Housing Policy Delivery Group, and its associated subgroups and the Temporary and Supported Accommodation Group.

Membership

9. Current membership is listed in Annex A, building on the membership of the HB Stakeholder Advisory Group. Other members may be invited as appropriate.

Ways of working

10. The Group will meet 4 times a year

11. Chair and Secretariat will be provided by the Housing and Social Security team within the Scottish Government.

12. The Chair will:

- Prepare the agenda for each meeting in collaboration with the membership.
- Ensure Scottish Government officials attend where relevant, and ensure that feedback from the Group is shared with the relevant teams within the Scottish Government.

13. The Secretariat will:

- Arrange meetings where possible for six months in advance.
- Ensure Agenda and Papers are available in advance of meetings wherever possible.
- Circulate minutes within two weeks of a meeting wherever possible.

14. Members will be invited to:

- Share their own research, and feedback from their organisations, clients or members to inform the formation of policy and to help the Scottish Government understand the impact of both UK welfare reform, and proposed Scottish Government policy.
- Comment on proposals by the Scottish Government for the use of new powers, and actions to mitigate UK Government welfare reform.
- As appropriate work with the Scottish Government to co-design relevant aspects of policy.
- Work with the Scottish Government to develop and share good practice to support those who require support with their housing costs.
- Support the relationship between the Scottish Government and the wider housing sector by disseminating information and bringing feedback to the Scottish Government from members own networks etc.

ANNEX A

Housing and Social Security Group Members

Tony Cain	ALACHO
Fiona Stringfellow	Blue Triangle HA
Keith Dryburgh	CAS
Rob Gowans	CAS
Ashley Campbell	CIH
Michael McClements	COSLA
Peter Meehan	COSLA
Kirsty McKechnie	CPAG
Beth Reid	CRISIS
Eric Mitchell	Disability Agenda Scotland
Colleen Rowan	Glasgow and West of Scotland Housing Forum
Robert Aldridge	Homeless Action Scotland
Yvette Burgess	Housing Support Enabling Unit
Ann Marie Devlin	ng homes
Catherine Louch	Prospect HA
David Corcoran	Regional Network Member
Rita Smart	Regional Network Rep
Rhona McGrath	Renfrewshire Council
Robert Hinds	Rights Scotland
Campbell Kinloch	Sanctuary HA
Elaine Byrne	Scotland's Housing Network
Tony Donohoe	Scotland's Housing Network
James Duffy	Scotland's Housing Network
Kirstie Corbett	Scottish Housing Regulator
June Deans	Scottish Local Government Partnership (SLGP)/Glasgow City Council
Jeremy Hewer	SFHA
James Battye	Shelter
Rosemary Brotchie	Shelter
Sharon McIntyre	Wheatley Group

Scottish Government Members (attendance as required)

Pauline Brice	Social Housing
Stephanie Criddle	Housing & Social Security
Chris Donaldson	Rent Service Scotland
Marion Gibbs	Homelessness
Owen Griffiths	Housing & Social Security
Julie Guy	Housing & Regeneration Research
Yvonne Harris	Housing & Social Security
Olive Hill / Kirsty LeGrice	Welfare Funds & UK Benefits
Josie Knowles / Kim Reimann	Social Security & Housing Access Stats
Ann Marie Stanley	Social Housing Regulation and Tenant Priorities
TBC	Private Rented Sector