

Homelessness Policy

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Homelessness Legislation and
Measurement



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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Ending Homelessness Together

High Level Action Plan

- Everyone needs a safe, warm place they can call home
- 70 HARSAG recommendations
- Joint COSLA and Scottish Government plan
- Published 27 November 2018
- Followed by a parliamentary debate on 29 November
- Sets out 5 year programme



Actions focus on

1. Providing a person centred approach to support individual needs
2. Putting prevention first, to minimise the risk of people becoming homeless
3. Joining up planning and resources
4. Ensuring a quick and effective response by frontline workers
5. Prioritising the provision of settled and mainstreamed housing
6. Measuring impact and improving evidence

Outlines 49 actions across the 6 focus areas



Homelessness vision:

Everyone has a home that meets their needs
Homelessness is ended



National Performance Framework: Our Values
"We are a society which treats all our people with kindness, dignity and compassion.."

To end homelessness we will:

Embed a person-centred approach

MY SUPPORT IS FLEXIBLE AND BUILDS ON MY STRENGTHS AND SUCCESSSES

I ALWAYS HAVE CHOICE AND CONTROL

I AM LISTENED TO, VALUED AND TREATED WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT

Prevent homelessness from happening in the first place

I CAN FIND SUPPORT QUICKLY IF I NEED IT, BEFORE REACHING CRISIS POINT

I AM HELPED TO KEEP MY HOME, WHICH HELPS ME FOCUS ON OTHER GOALS

MY HOUSING OPTIONS ARE CONSIDERED WHEN MY OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE

Join up planning and resources to tackle homelessness

I KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP

I EXPECT SERVICES TO WORK TOGETHER, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ME

I TRUST THAT THE RIGHT PEOPLE ARE INFORMED ABOUT MY NEEDS AND EXPERIENCES

Respond quickly and effectively whenever homelessness happens

I EXPECT MY HOUSING CRISIS TO BE RESPONDED TO WITH URGENCY

THE HELP I GET IS RIGHT FOR ME, AND REDUCES THE RISK OF HOMELESSNESS HAPPENING AGAIN

Prioritise settled homes for all

I CAN EXERCISE MY RIGHT TO ACCESS AND MAINTAIN A SAFE AND SECURE HOME

I BUILD AND MAINTAIN POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS AND AM PART OF THE COMMUNITY



National Performance Framework: Our Values

'We are a society which treats all our people with kindness, dignity and compassion...'



We respect, protect and fulfil human rights and live free from discrimination

We tackle poverty by sharing opportunities, wealth and power more equally

We live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe

We grow up loved, safe and respected so we can realise our full potential

We are well educated, skilled and able to contribute to society

Housing & Regeneration Outcomes Vision:

All people in Scotland live in high quality sustainable homes that they can afford and that meet their needs

Well- functioning housing system:

- Availability and choice
- Homes people can afford
- Growth of supply

High quality sustainable homes:

- Safe and warm
- Resource efficient
- Promote well-being

Homes that meet people's needs:

- Accessing a home
- Keeping a home
- Supporting independent living

Sustainable communities:

- Economically sustainable
- Physically sustainable
- Socially sustainable

Homelessness vision:

Everyone has a home that meets their needs

Homelessness is ended

- Homelessness is only ever rare, brief, and non-recurrent due to effective prevention and rapid response when people have become homeless or are at risk of homelessness
 - Homelessness is not caused by policies that impact on the people of Scotland
- Where temporary accommodation is required it is for emergency or very specific reasons only; it is of a high standard and it is fit for the specific purpose required
 - Nobody sleeps rough

Embed a person-centred approach

Prevent homelessness from happening in the first place

Join up planning and resources to tackle homelessness

Respond quickly and effectively whenever homelessness happens

Prioritise settled homes for all



Ending Homelessness Together Fund

- £50 million over 5 years that will support the delivery of the Action Plan.
- We have allocated £23.5 million (and from the health portfolio) for rapid rehousing and Housing First
- Up to £6.5 million of this allocation is supporting our partnership with Social Bite to deliver Housing First pathfinders to support over 800 homeless people



Homelessness Prevention and Strategy Group (HPSG)

- Co-chaired by political leadership from both the Scottish Government and COSLA
- Will oversee the delivery of the High Level Action Plan
- Ensure we deliver the actions it sets out
- HPSG last met on 4 December, next meeting 14 March
- Workshop session to discuss and agree next steps including:
 - Priority actions
 - Roles of group members in delivering the Action Plan
 - Governance, Evaluation and Reporting
- Sub Groups
 - RRTP
 - Winter planning



Legislation

- Consulting on local connection and intentionality provisions in homelessness legislation (31 Jan – 25 April)

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- Narrow definition of ‘intentionality’
- Update Code of Guidance and consider Code of Practice addendum
- Develop new homelessness prevention duty



Temporary accommodation

Extending Unsuitable Accommodation Order

- 2018 Programme for Government
- Restricting time in temp to 7 days
- Consultation to be launched in spring 2019 – questions on definition, timescale, implementation and enforcement

Standards for temporary accommodation

- Enforce and monitor standards in all tenures
- Consultation spring 2019 – questions on advisory standards in new Code of Guidance, monitoring, enforcement, regulation and legislation



Evidence

- New rough sleeping data collection – Options Appraisal
- Evidence strategy:
 - Equality evidence
 - Evidencing impact
 - Lived experience programme
 - Prevention pathways
 - Report to Parliament



Housing First and Rapid Rehousing

Rapid rehousing

- 32 local authorities submitted Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans
- Scottish Government assessing these currently
- Next steps to be announced

Housing First

- 5 Pathfinder cities
- Collaboration with Social Bite, Glasgow Homelessness Network and Corra
- Formal evaluation being developed



Winter Actions

- Safeguard people sleeping rough during winter – part of HARSAG recommendations
- Actions in 2017 included: increasing night shelter and frontline outreach capacity, Flexible Emergency Funds
- Frontline Winter Planning Group
- New initiatives: link worker, national signposting website, rural outreach

