

Homelessness Prevention and Strategy Group Discussion Paper Participation Programme

1. With the publication of the High Level Action Plan in November, we committed to both introduce a lived experience programme and listen to people with lived experience and frontline staff as we implement the Action Plan.

- *We will listen and respond to people with lived experience throughout the implementation and further development of this Action Plan.*
- *We will listen to front-line staff and resource and support them to prevent and end homelessness.*

2. Following a discussion at the Homelessness Prevention and Strategy Group (HPSG) in March where the purpose, aims and principles of a Lived Experience Programme were agreed, we have been working to create an infrastructure that will support active, two way communication and engagement between HPSG, the Scottish Government team and both the frontline workforce and people with lived experience.

3. We have been supported in this work by Glasgow Homelessness Network (GHN) and Cyrenians who have developed a Participation Programme proposal that seeks to build on the existing GHN lived experience networks SHIEN and SHIFT and the Frontline Network supported by St Martin-in-the-Fields and hosted by Cyrenians in Scotland.

4. The Ending Homelessness Together Participation Programme will create a Change Team made up of around 20 members with a range of backgrounds and experience, including the following, who can connect to wider networks:-

- **People with lived experience of homelessness:** connecting more widely through SHIEN/SHIFT
- **People with frontline experience:** connecting more widely through the Frontline Network/Cyrenians
- **People with *both* lived experience *and* frontline experience:** peer support workers
- **Community & third sector organisations:** connecting more widely through SCVO and SCDC
- **Activists and Associates:** connecting more widely through community councils, tenant's associations etc.
- **Academics and Experts:** connecting to what works

5. It is envisaged that in determining membership of the Change Team will include 'change leads' from each of the five Housing Options Hub areas, whose role it would be to mobilise activity locally, ensuring geographic as well as experience spread. The change leads can be local government, third or independent sector representatives and do not have to be current active "members" of the Housing Options Hubs themselves.

6. It is proposed that the Change Team becomes a sub group of the HPSG allowing there to be direct two way communication between those living and working on the homelessness frontline and the group steering the implementation of the Action Plan. This will allow the HPSG to hear whether actions are working, how they could work better and tell us when change isn't having the effect it is supposed to. It will also allow the HPSG to test ideas and priorities with a live reference group. A further important role would be for the Change Team to be a conduit between HPSG and those experiencing homelessness and/or working on the front line to ensure effective communication of key messages arising from the programme.

7. The Change Team will focus on communication to support implementation of the Action Plan and will embark on roadshows in each of the five Housing Options Hubs areas. The local information gathered from these roadshows will help to create an accessible multi-functional digital platform to consult, communicate, test ideas and invite direct participation.

Workshop

8. A workshop was held on 3 September, hosted by GHN and facilitated by GHN, Cyrenians and the Scottish Community Development Centre, with the aim of testing and developing the proposal, seeking wider buy-in and promoting membership of the Change Team.

9. Around 70 people attended the workshop and an informal, enthusiastic and participative atmosphere led to an open discussion based around the Action Plan reimagined in plain language, badged as New Directions and coming under 4 main headings:

- People First
- At Home
- No Wrong Door
- Good Vibes

Discussion

10. We would invite HPSG members to comment on the design of the Participation Programme and consider whether they are content that the Change Team becomes a sub-group of the HPSG.

11. Should members be content that the Change Team become a sub-group of the HPSG, we would invite members to consider how we can best support two-way communication between the HPSG and the Change Team.

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