

## 2020 PRIORITIES: DISCUSSION PAPER

### Purpose of this paper

To propose for discussion a set of high level focus areas and related activity for HPSG priority attention in 2020.

### Background: Progress against actions in 2019

1. The table below gives an overview of the current status of the 49 actions set out in the 2018 Ending Homelessness Together Action Plan, grouped by the 5 overarching outcomes identified in the plan.
2. 8 additional actions which have been taken forwards this year but which were not included in the Action Plan are marked in *blue italics*. Of the 49 original actions, 10 actions have been completed in this year; 29 actions have been initiated and are in progress and 10 actions will start to be taken forwards from 2020.

Outcome	Action	Status
Person-centred approach	We will develop a lived experience programme	√
	We will explore options for taking forward Personal Housing Plans	●
	Ensure a child wellbeing assessment is undertaken, where children are homeless	●
	Organise event for local authorities and housing providers to share best practice	√
	Support frontline staff in their work with people experiencing homelessness	●
	Housing Options training toolkit - publication of first modules	●
	Public awareness raising and challenging stigma	●
	<i>Apply gendered analysis to actions</i>	●
Prevent homelessness from happening in the first place	Preventative pathways for at risk groups	●
	Preventing and responding effectively to youth homelessness	●
	Increase focus on tenancy sustainment	●
	Making homeless assessments more flexible	●
	We will embed a no wrong door approach	●
	Homelessness prevention to be embedded in Housing Beyond 2021	√
	Understand the impact of UK welfare reforms	●
	Set out plans for new public sector homelessness prevention duty	●
	<i>Improve outcomes for women experiencing domestic abuse</i>	●
	<i>SHORE standards implementation review</i>	●
	<i>Homelessness Prevention Fund for social landlords</i>	●
Prioritise settled housing for all	Rapid Rehousing Transitions Plans submitted – including EQIA	√
	All RRTPs evaluated and feedback provided	√
	Each RRTP will contain plans for Housing First	√
	Support 5 Housing First Pathfinder cities	●

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	Partnerships with health and justice bodies as embed Housing First	●
	Develop best practice examples of choice in settled housing	●
	Assess impacts of providing wide range of options in local areas	●
	Temporary accommodation funding framework	●
	<i>Third Sector bid fund to support transformational change</i>	●
Respond quickly and effectively when homelessness happens	Support development of model of frontline outreach	●
	Training and support for wider front-line staff	▲
	Support local winter planning	●
	Effective support to people engaged in street begging	●
	Press UK Government re migrant homelessness	●
	Prevent homelessness for those without recourse to public funds	●
	Clarify protection afforded to those without recourse to public funds	√
	Broader range of accommodation options in crisis situations	▲
	Share information about short term community hosting as crisis response	▲
	Publish options appraisal for new rough sleeping data collection	√
	Revise legislative arrangements for intentionality and local connection	●
	Amend intentionality definition – deliberate manipulation	▲
	Consult on extending Unsuitable Accommodation Order to all	√
	Introduce temporary accommodation standards	●
<i>Glasgow City Council voluntary review</i>	●	
We will join up planning and resources	Local authorities, housing providers and public bodies join up to prevent homelessness	●
	Update Code of Guidance	●
	Consider adding Code of Practice to Code of Guidance	▲
	Embed homelessness as a public health priority	▲
	Improve join up between health, social care, housing and homelessness planning	●
	Join up housing, employment and employability support	▲
	<i>Cohesive cross government response to Hard Edges report findings</i>	●
	<i>Work with local authorities and delivery partners on effective implementation</i>	●
Other actions	Publish equality breakdowns of existing homelessness data	√
	We will conduct impact assessments	●
	We will improve our homelessness data on protected characteristics	▲
	We will develop the evidence base	●
	We will undertake analysis of economic impacts	▲
	We will ensure SG data collections reflect the increased priority of tackling homelessness	▲

### **Proposed areas of focus for 2020**

3. Firstly, to ensure momentum across the breadth of the programme we propose that HPSG consider keeping a close focus on the following specific actions where work is expected to progress in 2020:-
  - Training and support for frontline staff
  - Broader range of accommodation options, including community hosting
  - Amend intentionality definition (more narrow focus deliberate manipulation)
  - Consideration to a Code of practice addendum to the Code of Guidance
  - Embed homelessness as a public health priority
  - Improve data collections and progress further analysis
4. In addition, in order to ensure that the Action Plan is delivered in a way which brings about our aim of ending homelessness, we propose that HPSG agree outcomes focused strategic priorities to support targeted consideration of key elements of the programme already underway. A suggested set of priorities for discussion, building on previously agreed priorities and discussions at September meeting, is set out below:-
  - **Actions to Prioritise Prevention:**
    - Support local partners to direct efforts and invest more in the prevention of homelessness wherever possible
    - Sharing ideas and learning on effective tenancy sustainment
    - RSL Prevention Fund to test and spread new approaches to prevention
  - **Actions to ensure we embed a focus on Settled homes:**
    - Supporting local partners in making the shift to rapid rehousing, including engaging key partners such as the Scottish Housing Regulator and health bodies
    - Embedding Housing First as the default for those with multiple and complex needs
  - **Actions to Join up across sectors:**
    - Engaging health and justice in meeting the needs of those with severe and multiple disadvantage at both national and local level
  - **Actions to support an Effective response:**
    - Development of a frontline model of outreach that supports people across the sector to deliver the changes being asked of them and to deliver an effective service – through resource, guidance, training etc
    - Development of the rough sleeping data collection system
  - **Actions to ensure our work is Person-centred:**
    - Ensuring the Participation Programme brings the voice of lived experience and frontline directly to the discussions of HPSG to inform decisions
    - Support local partners to develop and act on understanding of different groups e.g. women, young people, multiple and complex needs

### **Discussion questions**

- Do you agree with the proposed focus areas for 2020?
- What activities can you or others undertake in support of these priorities?