

Social Landlords' Homelessness Prevention Fund – Discussion Paper

Strategic Context

In Protecting Scotland's Future – The Government's Programme for Scotland 2019-20, Scottish Government committed to "Prevent[ing] homelessness for low-income families through supporting the work of social landlords to prevent crisis points with a new £1.5 million Homelessness Prevention Fund".

This fund will be available from April 2020/21 and will be available in tranches of £0.5m per year over three years. More thought needs to be given if equal tranches will be the best way to use this money.

Aligning the homelessness and child poverty agendas provides scope to make a greater impact on the ambitious targets and objectives.

Why Housing Associations?

Every social housing provider at the very least is engaged in homelessness prevention by working in local communities to provide good quality affordable homes, providing a Scottish Secure Tenancy (SST) and directly providing or signposting to welfare rights services.

Many housing associations also offer other prevention services. The RSL Homelessness Prevention Fund supports and extends the work that RSLs across Scotland can offer.

Principles of Engagement

SFHA was invited to scope out the development and delivery of RSL Homelessness Prevention Fund at the Homeless Prevention Strategy Group Meeting in September 2019. To facilitate this role, SFHA adopted the following principles:

- Inclusive – bringing together the views of a wide range of key stakeholders from housing, homelessness and child poverty
- Consultative – sense-checking proposals across our networks
- Results focused – identifying realistic, deliverable proposals in the time-frames available

Outcomes of Stakeholder Meeting

Several themes emerged from the discussion:

- Theme 1. Micro-Intervention and Support
- Theme 2. Preventative Analytics and Case-finding
- Theme 3. Preventing repeat or risk of homelessness through targeted support
- Theme 4. RSL proposals
- Theme 5. Action Research

Potentially the fund could be allocated in a number of ways, which can change over the three-year programme. An initial suggestion for the allocation is outlined in the Table below.

Table 1 Suggested Budget Profile

Theme	Proportion of Fund	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3
Theme 1 Micro-Interventions	10%	£50,000	£50,000	£50,000
Theme 2 Preventative Analytics	40%	£200,000	£200,000	£200,000
Theme 3 Targeted Support	5%	£25,000	£25,000	£25,000
Theme 4 RSL Proposals	40%	£200,000	£200,000	£200,000
Theme 5 Action Research	5%	£25,000	£25,000	£25,000

Going Forward

Further consultation is anticipated until at least December 2019, with scope to consult further in early 2020. Proposals should be finalised Feb/March. SFHA are keen that the views of people with lived experience are reflected in the development of the proposals. SFHA will contact the Change Team supported by Homeless Network Scotland to explore how this might be achieved.