

HPSG – 10 December 2019 – Minute of Meeting

Homelessness Prevention and Strategy Group – 9 am to 12 noon, CoSLA Offices

Attendees

Kevin Stewart MSP (Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning; Co-Chair)
Cllr Whitham, COSLA (Community Wellbeing Spokesperson; Co-Chair)
Jon Sparkes, Crisis
David Duke, Street Soccer Scotland
Gordon MacRae, Shelter Scotland
Sally Thomas, SFHA
Lorraine McGrath, Streetwork/Simon Community
Neil Hamlet, NHS Fife
Janice Stevenson, LGBT Youth Scotland
Sabrina Galella, A Way Home Scotland/Rock Trust Coalition
Shea Moran, Aff the Streets
John Mills, ALACHO
Kathy Cameron, COSLA
Catriona MacKean, Scottish Government
Hazel Bartels, Scottish Government
Melanie Goodfellow, Scottish Government
Paul O'Brien, Scottish Government
Kevin Wilkie, Scottish Government

Apologies

Peter Barry, SOLACE
Gavin Yates, Homeless Action Scotland

1. Members updates and minutes/actions of last meeting

Members were invited to give brief updates of some of the work they and their organisations have been progressing since the previous meeting in September. A summary of this can be found in Annex A. Going forward, these updates will be recorded in the programme progress report document and circulated to HPSG members ahead of meetings.

The minutes and actions of the previous meeting held on 12 September 2019 were agreed.

2. Personal Housing Plans

Gordon MacRae introduced the Personal Housing Plans (PHPs) paper. The paper sets out the proposal Shelter Scotland has developed in conjunction with Healthcare Improvement Scotland's iHub to work towards the Action Plan commitment on PHPs. The work will help to identify and evaluate the evidence on Personal Housing Planning from current delivery and development plans, towards the wider adoption of Personal Housing Planning across Scotland, by local authorities and Health and Social Care Partnerships. Gordon highlighted that PHPs would be done in conjunction with the individual or family who would retain ownership and then shared

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across the relevant organisations and services. There is also capacity to record equalities data within these plans.

This proposal was welcomed by the group, as it was a person-centred approach that would include a range of stakeholders working together. Jon Sparkes suggested it would be useful to look at the lessons learned in other parts of the UK and look to embed this as part of a cultural change and align it closely with RRTPs.

The proposed timescales were also welcomed and members suggested considering asking one Hub area to pilot this to test this approach and measure the impact it has, particularly on voluntary organisations. This would also allow time to plan how to scale up and share across Scotland.

The Minister asked members how best to capture the data and discussed the benefits of a Case Work system for this type of work. This would allow to identify quickly where improvements are needed and where things worked well and could even provide the platform for early interventions. This system could work alongside the Rough Sleeping data collection and PHPs, but asked officials to ensure this was all being considered in wider ongoing conversations around data capture.

ACTION:

- **Officials to discuss further with Shelter and provide an update at a future meeting, reflecting connections to other workstreams focused on capturing key information and supporting person centred approaches (SG homelessness team and Shelter Scotland)**

3. Prevention Duty

Jon Sparkes introduced the paper and provided members with an update on the work Crisis have undertaken so far to develop a public sector homelessness prevention duty. A working group was established and met for the first time on 18 November. The next meeting will focus on Health and Social Care Partnerships, and the progress of these discussions can be fed back at future HPSG meetings.

Members felt this was a good start but wanted to note that thought had to be given to how a future prevention duty would be enforced and the interaction this would have with regulation. Members were reassured that lessons learned from elsewhere in the UK were also being considered and this would help to strengthen our approach.

4. Homelessness Prevention Fund

Sally Thomas introduced the next paper which outlined the work SFHA have been undertaking on how to best target the new £1.5 million Homelessness Prevention Fund. SFHA have worked with stakeholders as part of the consultation to scope some initial ideas although further work is required to enable these to be turned into concrete proposals. They are still considering the best way to frame this fund and will liaise with the Change Team for their view on this.

Members asked SFHA to consider holding some money back in year 1 to undertake a cost-benefit analysis, which would allow some learning to be done for future years. The Minister also suggested learning from existing funds and use this to compliment

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what we have. Members felt this was an ambitious piece of work and welcomed the initial thoughts.

David Duke asked to see more work done around engagement, human connections and community relationship building. He suggested more investment in community workers would be beneficial and should be considered as part of this work. The Minister and members agreed there would be value in this and asked SFHA to consider how to export all the known best practice across relevant stakeholders.

Sally agreed to consider members input and use this to develop the next iteration of the proposal.

5. Updates and issues arising from circulated papers

Five papers were circulated for members to consider ahead of the meeting.

Members agreed that paper one, the programme progress report paper would be useful for future meetings and officials will ensure this is circulated to members to be populated ahead of future meetings.

The second paper to be considered was the winter initiatives update paper. Members agreed that whilst the interventions in place were helpful, we should all be working to a place where these are no longer needed. Cllr Whitham highlighted that the prevention work would go some way to tackling this. The Minister advised the group that officials will continue to monitor this throughout the year and make plans with stakeholders accordingly. Members also agreed that the recent SERCO evictions were worrying and that more action was needed from the UK Government around those with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF). The Minister suggested that following the General Election, it would be useful for HPSG to send a joint letter to the UK Government asking for action. Officials will take this forward.

Discussions turned to frontline interventions during winter and Shea asked for more information on what these currently are and Hazel agreed to provide this information.

The third paper to be discussed was the RRTP subgroup update. Neil Hamlet pointed out that that presentation by Peter Knight on health and homelessness was particularly useful in highlighting the importance of this link. Members also wanted to note that event held on 3 December, “Sharing Ideas on RRTPs”, had been very useful. As a result, the Minister has asked officials to look at replicating this type of event including out with the central belt to ensure wider reach.

The fourth paper to be discussed was the Change Team update, which was welcomed by all members. The group were also invited to stay following the HPSG meeting to meet with the members of the Change Team, which was being launched.

The fifth and final paper discussed was the update on the Annual Report. Catriona highlighted that a draft would shortly be brought to HPSG members and that their input would be useful. Catriona also highlighted that there would be planned comms activity once this had been published, which was welcomed by members and it was noted that the breadth and extent of work taken forwards on homelessness in 2019 –

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as demonstrated by the annual report - might encourage similar groups to progress their work quicker. Neil wanted to suggest that linking with Peter Knight for health data to include in the report might be helpful and wanted to highlight the importance of housing and a home as a strong foundation throughout life. Neil would explore this.

ACTION:

- **Officials will prepare a letter to the UK Government about the action needed on those with No Recourse to Public Funds. (SG homelessness team)**
- **Hazel will provide Shea with details around the frontline interventions that are currently in place. (SG homelessness team)**
- **Neil will explore whether health and homelessness linked data could be made available for inclusion in the Annual Report.**

6. Health and homelessness

Catriona introduced this paper and set out how we intend to improve the join up between local health, social care, housing and homelessness planning. It was highlighted to members that there is a recognition that this goes beyond just hospitals and covers mental health, ACEs and justice too. Neil suggested that we use the term well-being rather than health to ensure we are taking consideration of this and reminded members of the importance of the Hard Edges report and how this contributes to this work.

Members were also asked to consider how best to take this work forward and ensure we include all of the relevant stakeholders. The Minister suggested that the best way to do this was to feed in to the Local Governance Review. He asked members to identify clear aims and to work with officials to draft a paper to be submitted. The Minister also suggested he could take forward discussions with the Health Minister once the group had established clear aims. Neil, Lorraine, Cllr Whitham, and John Mills agreed to support this work.

Members asked for more information on the context and background of the Local Governance Review and the Minister tasked officials with providing this.

ACTION:

- **Officials will prepare a paper to be shared with the team leading on the Local Governance Review. (SG Homelessness team and HPSG members)**
- **Officials will provide HPSG members with a short paper on the context and background of the Local Governance Review. (SG Homelessness team)**

7. Proposed priorities in 2020

Catriona introduced the paper that sets out the proposed priority areas for 2020 and asked for feedback from members. It was highlighted that a number of work streams were being progressed and that we want to keep the momentum going in to 2020. Members agreed with this and were content with the proposed areas.

The group asked for further consideration to be given to other housing models for those that may not fit the Housing First model. The numbers are small but

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considering community hosting sites and shared tenancies would be useful and starting now would allow these to be tested. The Minister agreed with this approach and asked for members to think about looking at the good practice and work that already exists across Scotland when taking this forward.

Members also asked for more work to be done on empowering the frontline and rolling out a national training model. The group also asked for officials to continue to drive forward the public perceptions work.

A number of members asked for greater consideration to be given to the issue of the housing supply. The Minister reassured members that the housing to 2040 report was progressing a number of work strands that would address that and that net supply increased last year following the abolition of the Right to Buy scheme.

Support for all and individuals rights, person-centred approaches, integrating data and community based socialisations were also suggested by the group. The Minister wanted to note that significant progress has been made and that this was achieved through continued partnership working. Officials will consider members views when taking these proposals forward in 2020.

8. AOB

Catriona has recently been appointed as the acting deputy director for Better Homes, but will still be supporting this work.

Hazel will also be leaving the homelessness team at the end of the year.

The next meeting will be on 10 March 2020.

Summary of members updates

David Duke	Engaging with Homeless Network Scotland on the development of the change team.
Jon Sparkes	Progressing the Prevention duty work, campaigning for Local Housing Allowance, supporting RRTP analysis and progressing work on migrant homelessness.
Lorraine McGrath	Launched the Paw for Thought report and working on winter outreach and frontline engagement.
Sally Thomas	Progressing the Homelessness Prevention Fund work.
Gordon MacRae	Working on the 'Are You With U Campaign' and the community organisers approach in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen.
John Mills	ALACHO AGM, took part in the RRTP sharing ideas event and focussing on prevention work in Fife Council.
Janice Stevenson	Working on a range of tools to engage with young people to help them understand their housing rights.
Shea Moran	Working on raising the profile of Aff the Streets and looking at various funding streams to progress work.
Sabrina Galella	Supporting the development and implementation of the Care Leavers pathway and progressing work on a youth homelessness prevention pathway.