

## 2020 PRIORITIES

### Purpose of this paper

To provide members with an update on the current staffing situation within the Scottish Government Policy Team; set out our plans for priorities in 2020; and invite offers from members to support work to continue in the meantime.

### Current staffing in the SG Policy Team

Following Catriona MacKean's recent promotion to Head of the Better Homes Division, Janine Kellett has now joined the team as the Unit Head of the Homelessness and Housing-related Social Security Policy Team.

Hazel Bartels' post currently remains vacant and has recently been advertised. As a result, there will be a staffing gap which will result in an additional challenge on delivering the programme over the coming months.

Catriona and the Team Leaders have had on-going discussions with the Minister about this since the end of 2019 and he understands the impact of staffing changes. Filling the vacant posts has been a top priority, but it will inevitably take time for Janine and Hazel's replacement to settle into the role and get up to speed. As a result, Mr Stewart accepted it was right that we pause certain work streams.

This was also highlighted to members at the most recent HPSG meeting on 10 December 2019.

### 2020 Priorities

We are currently prioritising the following activities which relate to Action Plan commitments:

1. Continue to ensure a robust frontline outreach response in Winter 2019-20
2. Funding, supporting and monitoring the implementation of Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans, including Housing First throughout Scotland (non-pathfinder) – both on progress and spend
3. Monitoring the progress of the Housing First Pathfinder Programme
4. Launch of work on Domestic Abuse Pathway
5. Development of Unsuitable Accommodation Order legislation and continued engagement with local authorities most significantly impacted by changes
6. Development of plans for data collection/case management system
7. Continued engagement with development of Housing to 2040, including as they take forward work on housing and human rights
8. Engagement with stakeholders on local connection provisions and drafting of Ministerial Statement and consultation paper
9. Supporting the Crisis development work for a prevention duty
10. Overseeing Shelter and iHub work on Personal Housing Planning
11. Supporting SFHA as they develop proposals for £1.5m RSL Homelessness Prevention Fund

12. Maintain support for the A Way Home Scotland coalition as they continue to develop the youth homelessness prevention pathway
13. Public perceptions including setting up an event for editors to launch the style guide for communicating about homelessness

We are also prioritising the following activities, which have arisen since Action Plan publication:

1. Support the set-up of the £4.5m Third Sector Bid Fund and arrange payments to successful applicants
2. Voluntary review of Glasgow City Council's failure to offer TA and wider issues around failure to accommodate
3. Development of response to women in homelessness, plus broader equality considerations
4. Potential work relating to homelessness and human rights legislation
5. Working with Health, Justice and Children & Families on joined up response to Hard Edges (for people with severe and multiple deprivation), including our collective response to the new homeless deaths statistics

We are proposing to pause work in the following areas until later in 2020, but would invite offers from members to support this work to continue:

1. Developing a clear national picture of the impact of Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans including intended impact and theory of change
2. Develop a project plan and set up a steering group for the complete overhaul of the Code of Guidance
3. Wider prevention work, including supporting local partners to direct efforts and invest more in the prevention of homelessness whenever possible
4. Development and implementation of a frontline model of outreach to train and support people across the sector to deliver the changes
5. Exploration of evidence of economic impact of the actions set out in the Action Plan
6. Consideration of other housing models e.g. community hosting, shared tenancies, including learning from good practice in Scotland and elsewhere and testing the new approaches (shared tenancies consideration is being taken forward through the Unsuitable Accommodation Order development work)
7. Engagement with faith groups engaged in support to people sleeping rough
8. Multiple complex needs/hospital discharge pathway
9. Set up a working group to explore legally enforceable temporary accommodation standards framework
10. Work on understanding and developing options for new temporary accommodation funding model
11. Confirm legislative options for possible development of Code of Practice addendum to the Code of Guidance
12. Completing the SHORE implementation review with local authorities. Work has commenced, and the first meeting took place in February but will now progress at a slower pace and aim to be completed by Autumn
13. Implementation of the care leavers pathway
14. Veterans prevention pathway: this will be taken forward later in 2020 by the Scottish Veterans Housing Group, with Scottish Government support.

## **Support from HPSG members**

The Minister is understandably keen to progress our programme as quickly as possible, which is why the team have considered our current work programme in terms of the impact of the work in the long, medium and short term.

We have also considered areas where we can work with colleagues in other areas of SG or external partners to ensure meaningful work continues over the coming months, putting us in a stronger position once the SG team is in a position to return to the work later in 2020.

Our proposals align closely with discussions held at the last HPSG meeting and we anticipate being in a position to progress all the work listed in 2020. However, we are proposing that new work on some of the priorities, identified by HPSG, could be supported and progressed by members in the meantime.

So we would like to ask members what activities can you or others undertake in support of these priorities?