

RSL Homelessness Prevention Fund Overview and Request for Proposals

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Context

Poverty is a key contributory factor in homelessness and is a precursor to homelessness for most (but not all) of those who experience it, whether they are single homeless people or the heads of homeless families.

Furthermore, many people experiencing homelessness suffer from **persistently low income in the long term**, whether receiving out-of-work benefits or in paid work.

Failing to prevent homelessness is not only costly for the public purse but hugely damaging and destructive for individuals.

Exhibit A provides a framework of current approaches to homelessness prevention.

Universal prevention, which combats the structural factors that contribute to economic disadvantage and inequality, offers **the most effective means** by which to counter both homelessness and poverty and reduce the links between them. It seeks to reduce the risk of homelessness amongst the general population by improving access to and supply of affordable housing, and/or reforming aspects of the 'welfare settlement'.

'Prevention' is recognised as central to achieving the objectives set out in the Ending Homelessness Together High-Level Action Plan (Scottish Government, 2018).

Every social housing provider at the very least is engaged in Universal 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 services across the other levels of prevention, as well as opportunities to connect with the community.

The RSL Homelessness Prevention Fund supports and extends this work.

The RSL Homelessness Prevention Fund is funded from two Scottish Government sources – the **Homeless Fund** and **Child Poverty Fund**. This funding arrangement signifies recognition of the evidence that homelessness and poverty are inextricably intertwined and provides an opportunity for social housing providers to contribute to this agenda.

This fund will be available from April 2020/21 and will be available in tranches of £0.5m per year over three years.

The fund will support three programmes of work¹:

1. Direct RSL proposals (45%)
2. Preventative Analytics and Case-finding (45%)
3. Action Research (5%)

This call for proposals relates to the first two work streams²

¹ Five percent of the fund will be reserved for expenses include (but not restricted to): participation of people with lived experience, training.

² The Action Research call for proposals will be administered separately. This will be paid in one lump sum at the beginning of the three year period

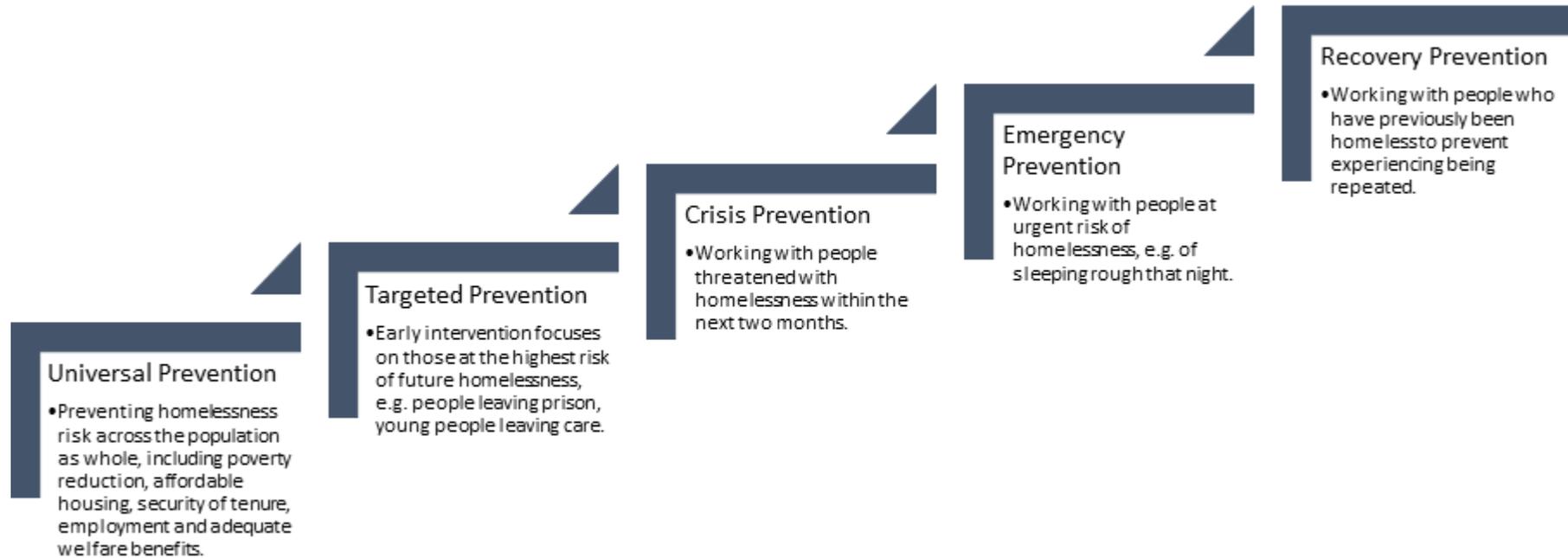
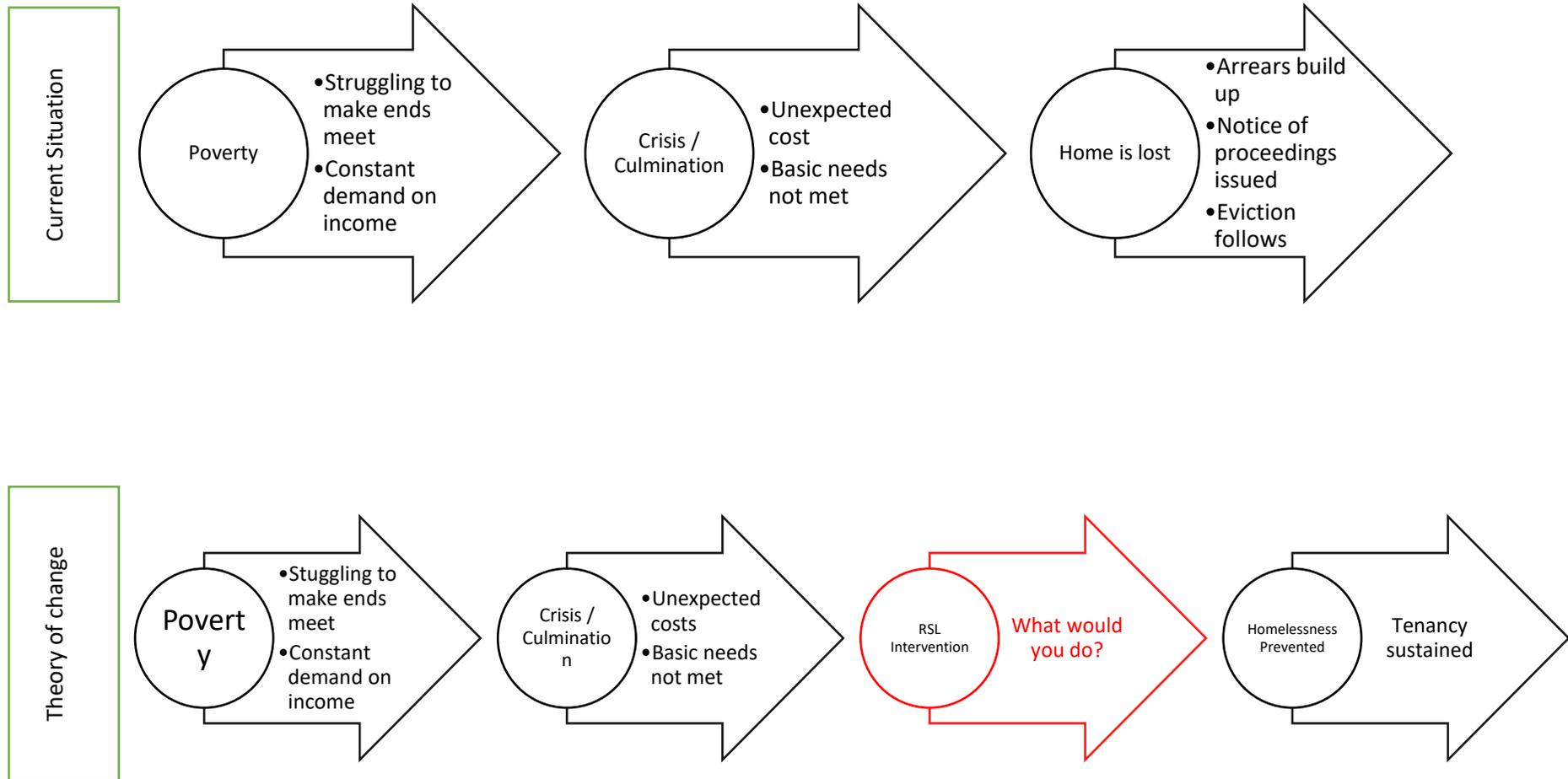


Exhibit B RSL Proposals Theory of Change



Direct RSL Proposals

Theory of Change

This request for proposals invites Scottish RSLs to submit short proposals for the RSL Homelessness Prevention Fund which will help **prevent homelessness for either existing tenants, new tenants who have previously been homeless, or people who would otherwise be homeless.**

In most situations, homelessness is caused by the impact of several different factors over time, rather than one single incident or cause.

For people living in poverty, the pressures on income and health can be immense, and can be worsened by any number of things, or a culmination of many issues, such as delayed benefits, redundancy, irregular work, illness, an appliance breaks down, kids need a new jacket or shoes, or any other unexpected cost.

When living at risk of or in poverty, these events can be catastrophic, spiralling into unmanageable debt, arrears and potentially, homelessness, depicted in Exhibit B

Invitation for Proposals

Proposals for funding are sought from social housing providers that will help prevent homelessness. Proposals should reflect the role of poverty in driving homelessness and outline the theory of change which explains the intervention undertaken to support households at risk to prevent homelessness.

Proposals should target in households most at risk of poverty, which includes:

- Lone parent
- Families with 3+ children
- Child or parent with disability
- Young child in the household (<1 years old)
- Young parents (households where the mother is aged <25)

Proposals that incorporate or focus on the following are particularly welcome

- women facing homelessness and or those recovering from domestic abuse
- mental health as a driver or as a consequence of homelessness
- engaging with and supporting parents to understand the impact of homelessness on their children and young adults and/or helping to assess the needs of and support children experiencing homelessness

Programme Profile

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Total Budget Allocated	Up to £200,000	Up to £250,000	Up to £225,000
Maximum per organisation	Between £20,000 up to £100,000 per organisation	Between £20,000 up to £100,000 per organisation	Between £20,000 up to £100,000 per organisation
Scope of proposal			
Eligibility for Assistance	<p>As this fund should tackle child poverty as well as homelessness, RSL proposals should be targeted at those households most at risk of poverty, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lone parent ○ Families with 3+ children ○ Child or parent with disability ○ Young child in the household (<1 years old) ○ Young parents (households where the mother is aged <25) 		

Programme Requirements

Requirements	Details
Participation in SFHA Resilience and Sustainability Forum	<p>The SFHA Resilience and Sustainability Forum is a new peer network which allows participants to share challenges and approaches to tenancy sustainment and building resilience.</p> <p>The Forum uses the themes of Trauma-Informed Working and Resilience to inform discussions.</p> <p>There are 4 per year, usually held in Glasgow.</p> <p>The rationale for this is to share challenges and progress from the programme with other stakeholders from across the sector, as well as gain support and insight from other delegates.</p> <p><i>Please note, SFHA membership is not required to attend this Forum.</i></p>
Record and report information on spend and impact	Information on the money spent as well as impact made will need to be recorded and reported systematically using monitoring framework that will be agreed.
Use of an outcome monitoring tool, such as 'Better Futures Outcomes'	Proposals should look to use an outcome monitoring tool to help capture interventions and impact for clients. Please include a description of outcomes monitoring tool you will use. .
Work with Social Insight Coordinator to measure impact	<p>The Social Insight Coordinator is based at SFHA and is working to help housing organisations develop a way to record and report the impact housing organisations make to the lives of individuals and communities.</p> <p><i>Please note, SFHA membership is not required to access this resource.</i></p>
Mapping of community assets, resources and connections	Proposal should outline the links that exist or will be made with community as part of the programme.
Links and protocols with community advice and support with proactive case management	Proposals should show evidence of referral process and case management process
Support from local authority partners and alignment with Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans	Proposals should include a statement of support and alignment from local authority

Active Inclusion – Preventative Analytics and Outreach

Theory of Change

Newcastle City Council have developed a preventative response to homelessness using a range of techniques including partnership work, multi-disciplinary teams and preventative analytics – which has been called [Active Inclusion Newcastle](#).

Examples of this type of work have also started to emerge in Scotland, and this is another opportunity to test and learn how a service like this might operate in Scotland.

Crucial to this approach are two factors

- the use of preventative analytics, using emerging software and algorithms to identify people and households at risk of homelessness
- A dedicated multi-disciplinary response which proactively offers support and assistance to those at risk of homelessness before a crisis point is reached

Invitation for Proposals

Proposals are invited from Scottish Housing Associations – either operating as an individual organisation or part of a consortium - outlining how they might make use of data analytics to identify people at risk of homelessness and establish and run an inter-disciplinary 'Active Inclusion team' for their area, as depicted in Exhibit C.

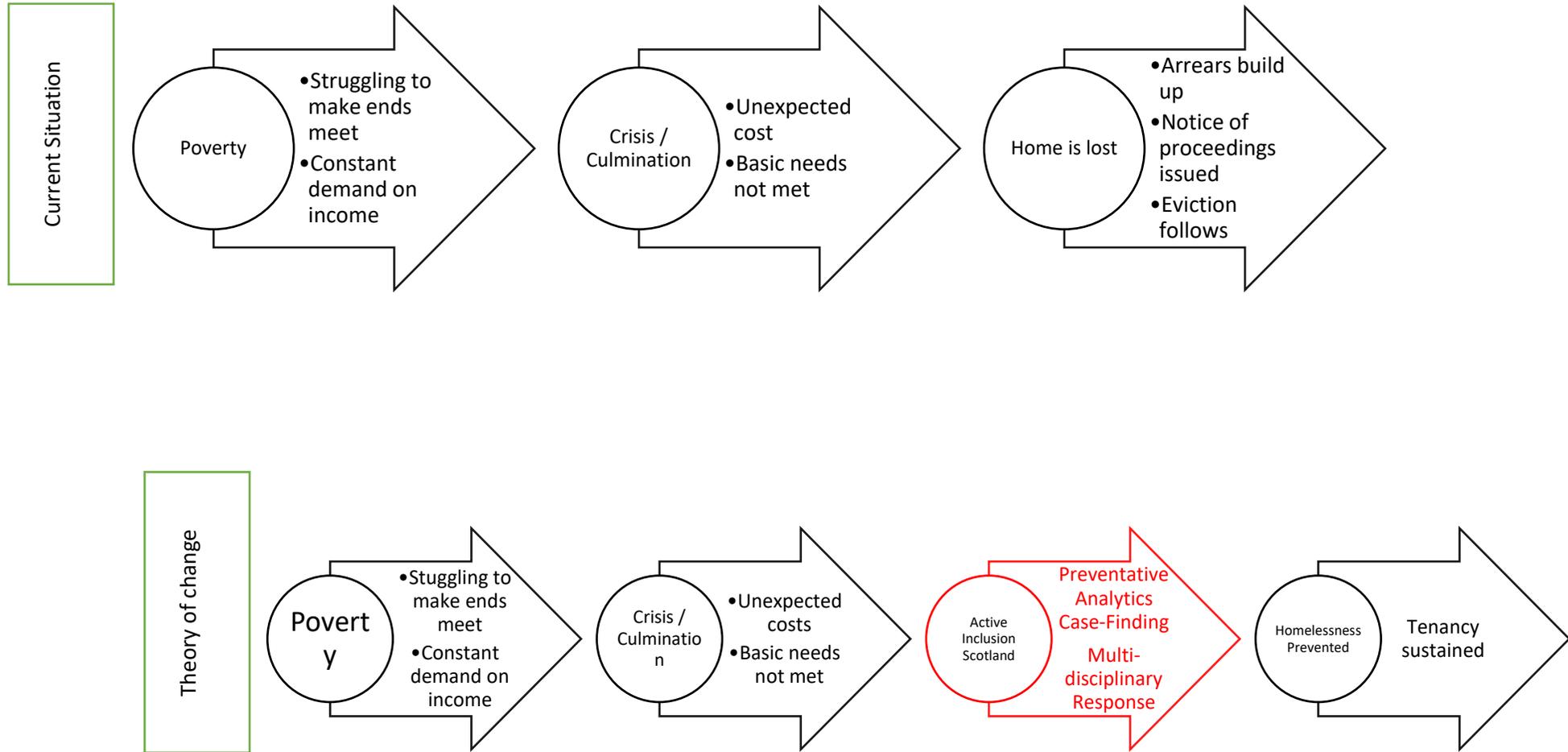
Proposals should target in households most at risk of poverty, which includes:

- Lone parent
- Families with 3+ children
- Child or parent with disability
- Young child in the household (<1 years old)
- Young parents (households where the mother is aged <25)

Proposals that incorporate or focus on the following are particularly welcome

- women facing homelessness and or those recovering from domestic abuse
- mental health as a driver or as a consequence of homelessness
- engaging with and supporting parents to understand the impact of homelessness on their children and young adults and/or helping to assess the needs of and support children experiencing homelessness

Exhibit C Active Inclusion Scotland Theory of Change



Programme Profile

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Summary of intervention	Using data sharing and preventative analytics to case-find people at risk of homelessness and offer outreach assistance to prevent homelessness.		
Budget Allocated	Up to £225,000	Up to £225,000	Up to £225,000
Funding scope	Multi-disciplinary team (based in RSL) Office and base Software and IT requirements Training Contingency		
Eligibility	Households targeted for outreach activity should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lone parent ○ Families with 3+ children ○ Child or parent with disability ○ Young child in the household (<1 years old) ○ Young parents (households where the mother is aged <25) 		

Programme Requirements

Requirements	Details
Participation in SFHA Resilience and Sustainability Forum	<p>The SFHA Resilience and Sustainability Forum is a new peer network which allows participants to share challenges and approaches to tenancy sustainment and building resilience.</p> <p>The Forum uses the themes of Trauma-Informed Working and Resilience to inform discussions.</p> <p>There are 4 per year, usually held in Glasgow.</p> <p>The rationale for this is to share challenges and progress from the programme with other stakeholders from across the sector, as well as gain support and insight from other delegates.</p> <p><i>Please note, SFHA membership is not required to attend this Forum.</i></p>
Record and report information on spend	Information on the money spent as well as impact made will need to be recorded and reported systematically using monitoring framework that will be agreed.
Use 'of outcomes monitoring tool, such as Better futures	<p>Proposals should look to use an outcome monitoring tool to help capture interventions and impact for clients.</p> <p>Please include a description of outcomes monitoring tool you will use. .</p>
Work with Social Insight Project Coordinator to measure impact	<p>The Social Insight Coordinator is based at SFHA and is working to help housing organisations develop a way to record and report the impact housing organisations make to the lives of individuals and communities.</p> <p><i>Please note, SFHA membership is not required to access this resource.</i></p>
Case selection strategy	Outline of how eligible households will be identified and approached
Links and protocols with community advice and support with proactive case management	Evidence of referral process and case management process

Support from local authority partners and alignment with Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans

Proposals should include a statement of support and alignment from local authority

RSL Homelessness Prevention Fund – Proposal Template

Proposals for the Direct RSL Proposals can be made online at
 Proposals for the Active Inclusion Scotland can be made online at

The questions asked are outlined in the template below.

Applications are welcome from Registered Social Landlords across Scotland.
 Applications are welcome from single organisations or collaboratives.

Application Template

Lead Organisation Name	
Contact Name	
Contact Email	
Contact Telephone Number	
Single Organisation	
Local Authority area (s) covered	
Describe your proposal	<i>Briefly outline your proposal, including your theory of change</i>
How will this prevent homelessness?	<i>Briefly outline why your proposal will help prevent homelessness.</i>
Describe how you intend to deliver this programme, including any plans to involve or promote community connections and involvement and how you will target eligible households.	<i>Outline how you would approach delivering this programme, eg, provide office space, recruit multi-disciplinary team, work with partners, agree data sharing protocols, involve community groups, etc.</i> You can also highlight any other services or programmes that you could align with.
Total cost of programme	<i>Outline how much the programme will cost in total</i>
Amount requested from RSL Homelessness Prevention Fund	<i>Outline how much you are asking for from the RSL Homelessness Prevention Fund</i>
Match funding or funding in kind	<i>Outline if you are including any match funding or funding in kind.</i>
Local authority partner(s) endorsement	Provide a short statement of support from your local authority partner
RRTP Alignment	Outline briefly how this programme would align with your RRTP
Rural or island	Please indicate if you operate in a rural or island area
Outcomes monitoring tool	Please indicate the outcomes monitoring tool you will use.
Commitment to sharing practice and evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Any other supporting information	Outline any other information that could support your application

Assessment

Applications will be received by SFHA and shared with the assessment panel.

The applications will be assessed and scored by a panel (SFHA, SG, ALACHO, Shelter, Change Team (HNS)) using the scoring matrix outlined in Exhibit D.

The proposals will ranked in relation to score. The approach to awarding will be to fund as many high quality proposals as possible.

Exhibit D Scoring Matrix

Points	1	3	5
Outlines how eligible households will be targetted	Lack of clarity	Quite specific	Very specific
Proposal – Theory of Change	Lack of clarity	Quite clear	Very clear
Tackles / Responds to Women facing homelessness or fleeing domestic abuse		Some focus on women / domestic abuse	Very focused on women / domestic abuse
Tackles / responds to mental health and preventing homelessness		Some focus on mental health	Very focused on mental health
Supports parents to support children in relation to homelessness		Some focus on support for parents to support children	Very focused on support for parents to support children
Approach	Minimal Detail	Medium detail	Very Detailed
Partnership working	No partnerships or referral process in place	Some partnership or referral process in place	Wide range of referral processes in place
RRTP Alignment	No alignment	Some alignment	Good alignment
Any other information			
Rural or island		Yes	
Potential top score			43