

ALL IN FOR CHANGE

REPORT TO HPSG
MAY 2020

WE MEET AGAIN

In a time of crisis and uncertainty the Change Team continue to drive change on the ground and meet up monthly, a testament to the determination and commitment of this Team to see an end to homelessness in Scotland even amid a global pandemic. Monthly retreats feel more important than ever, frontline workers are sharing new techniques and people with lived experience are sharing what really matters and makes a difference for them. The team have been reviewing what COVID-19 means for the 4 New Directions to End Homelessness (people first, at home, no wrong door, good vibes). There can be no going back on the gains that have been made (especially on rough sleeping), but the team is also clear that we can't stay where we are. We are delighted to present the latest messages from the Change Team.

5 CALLS FROM THE FRONTLINE

to protect people without a settled home

Having somewhere safe and secure to self-isolate, where people can maintain social distance is more important than ever. There are still many people without a safe home of their own and to best protect them, the Change Team have developed 5 calls to action:

More Housing Allocations



THE CHALLENGES ON THE GROUND

- In the rush to accommodate people safely, choice of accommodation/housing was not priority
- Households may be at risk of homelessness due to financial impact of COVID-19

CHANGE TEAM IDEAS AND SOLUTIONS – AND WHAT'S ALREADY WORKING

- The changes to Local Housing Allowance (LHA) have made the private rented sector more accessible, broaden the range of housing options available and should be kept
- Thoughtfully allocating social housing to ensure people can access positive people, places, and things as we move out of lockdown
- A strong focus on homelessness prevention, with no evictions into homelessness



Faster info on the ground

THE CHALLENGES ON THE GROUND

- Information and guidance become out of date quickly
- Information does not reach everyone who needs it

CHANGE TEAM IDEAS AND SOLUTIONS – AND WHAT'S ALREADY WORKING

- Accessible, accurate information could be included in community responses e.g. food parcel delivery
- Providing internet access and tablets/smartphones to people in services allows them to find their own information quickly

Keep company for positive mental health



THE CHALLENGES ON THE GROUND

- For some, social distancing has led to social isolation and mental ill health
- Support providers have had to change how they deliver support to people

CHANGE TEAM IDEAS AND SOLUTIONS – AND WHAT'S ALREADY WORKING

- For those struggling with telephone support, we can use outdoor spaces to safely meet in person when directed
- A focus on mental health and wellbeing and funding to support this focus when lockdown begins to lift



Think local

THE CHALLENGES ON THE GROUND

- Those who experience food insecurity have been a focus of community responses
- Community responses have been excellent, but often rely on donations, or are financially supported by those who volunteer

CHANGE TEAM IDEAS AND SOLUTIONS – AND WHAT'S ALREADY WORKING

- To make sure that great community groups and responses get proper support to continue after the pandemic
- In the longer term, strengthening social security so that fewer people must rely on foodbanks, day centres and free school meals.

Build digital skills and access



THE CHALLENGES ON THE GROUND

- Lockdown highlights how many of us don't have access to the internet or the skills to use technology
- Support is largely delivered over the phone and while it works for many it has created a shift that which for some, is difficult to manage

CHANGE TEAM IDEAS AND SOLUTIONS – AND WHAT'S ALREADY WORKING

- Providing smartphones/tablets and internet access to ensure we can keep supporting people is half the solution – we also need to provide relevant training and support to ensure people can use the technology
- Internet access is key for those in temporary accommodation to maintain links to family and social networks, could this become standard for temporary accommodation in Scotland?

These priorities from the Team are included in the Everyone Home Collective framework: <https://everyonehome.scot>

INFLUENCING CHANGE ONLINE

Some of the Team have found ways to keep influencing change in the right direction digitally by delivering webinars.

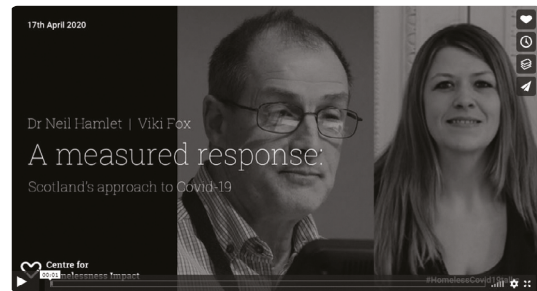
Since lockdown, All in for Change have featured in webinars hosted by the Centre for Homelessness Impact and Homeless Network Scotland, spreading the new directions, key messages and calls from the frontline to new and diverse audiences.

Recordings of these webinars can be at

- Homeless Network Scotland
Involving People in Change
<https://homelessnetwork.scot/learn>
- Centre for Homelessness Impact
COVID-19: A Measured Response
<https://vimeo.com/409426005>



David Pentland



Dr Neil Hamlet and Viki Fox



Poster advertising our national tour

ALL IN THE LOOP

Had we been operating as normal, Change Leads would be taking the 4 New Directions to End Homelessness on a national tour of those who need to influence their development – colleagues from housing, health, criminal justice, education, social work, local government and wider society. Given the circumstances, at the May Retreat we will reflect on the progress made by the Team so far and how best to move forward with our consultation in the safest and most inclusive ways possible.

ALL IN FOR CHANGE

THE CHANGE TEAM | KEEP IN TOUCH

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