

JULY REPORT TO HPSG

As we start to move towards normality again and we all begin planning for a better future, there have been lots of opportunities for the Change Team to influence and inform some of the planning. Having the opportunity for a conversation with the Housing Minister in early June set the tone for the weeks to come. Those productive conversations and the reforming of the Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Action Group (HARSAG) have been our focus.

CREATING CONSENSUS

When the Team were invited to comment on the HARSAG "Starter for 10" we realised that our discussions over the past few months covered the same issues that HARSAG were focusing on. For the Team, this is a positive indication that we're moving in the right direction and being forward-thinking and ambitious. The task then became to create consensus on what the Team's priorities are, to contribute to the HARSAG report.

For our June retreat, we brought the Team together to discuss and debate a series of 24 "priority statements", elicited from individual Change Leads since lockdown began. Change Leads decided which were most important to them and used the tool shown above to work through how they could be implemented.

With such a varied Team, it was a challenge to get to our final priorities, and important to the Team that we have a clear, concise message that is easy to understand and helps to move us forward in transforming the system while recovering from the pandemic.

We hope these priorities help us focus our energy moving forward and influence others to focus resources and energy where we believe it's most needed and most impactful.

YOUR TOP 3

Select the top 3 statements which you think should be prioritised by HARSAG and write the number in the boxes below

Answer the questions to help you determine if the statement is realistic and think about how we can make it happen.

STATEMENT NUMBER:	WHAT WOULD NEED TO CHANGE To make this a reality?	ARE THERE ANY CHALLENGES To making this happen ?	WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN / HEARD OF AN EXAMPLE OF GOOD PRACTICE ON THE GROUND ?

Change Team tool used to create consensus and identify routes to implementation



CHANGE TEAM PRIORITIES

We need to see a more compassionate society which understands the knock-on effects of childhood trauma and disadvantage and does not blame people for the start they had in life.

And until this is achieved, we must keep the momentum and energy built up during the pandemic and use it to change the homelessness system for good. The Change Team have worked together to develop their top priorities to move us closer to a Scotland without homelessness and becoming the compassionate society we believe we can be.

FOR PEOPLE CURRENTLY IN THE SYSTEM, OUR PRIORITIES ARE:

- For ending rough sleeping to continue to be at the top of the list when prioritising public spend.
- People having informed choices of where they want to live and strong community-based support to help people integrate into a community after an experience of homelessness.
- Continued person-centred relationships with people currently accommodated in hotel rooms coupled with a strong accommodation offer to prevent them from returning to rough sleeping.

FOR THOSE WHO WORK WITHIN THE SYSTEM, OUR PRIORITIES ARE:

- To work with the sector to create a clear set of shared values for all homelessness services to commit to.
- To see more resources to help people and services work in partnership with a common goal to end homelessness.
- To explore how support services could be less specific about the need they meet allowing more flexibility for people to choose what's important to them, with a focus on consistent, non-judgemental relationships and able to provide practical, pragmatic support when a need arises.

FOR THOSE AT RISK OF ENTERING THE SYSTEM, OUR PRIORITIES ARE:

- To see an end to night shelters and large hostels as an emergency response to homelessness and more suitable options being made available to people in crisis.
- Where there is pressure on housing stock, we want to see as many void properties as possible being allocated to households who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- Investment in communities to break down perceptions of undesirable neighbourhoods and build from the existing strengths of the community.

FOR THOSE LOCKED OUT OF THE SYSTEM, OUR PRIORITY IS:

• We want to see more in Scotland to make things easier for people with No Recourse to Public Funds.

And to help achieve all of this, we want to see decision makers learning from the current situation on the ground and those experiencing homelessness during the pandemic. As a participation model, the All in for Change Team is an effective route for information to flow between decision makers and those affected by their decisions and the Team would advocate that the model is adopted more widely in local authorities and other areas of government.