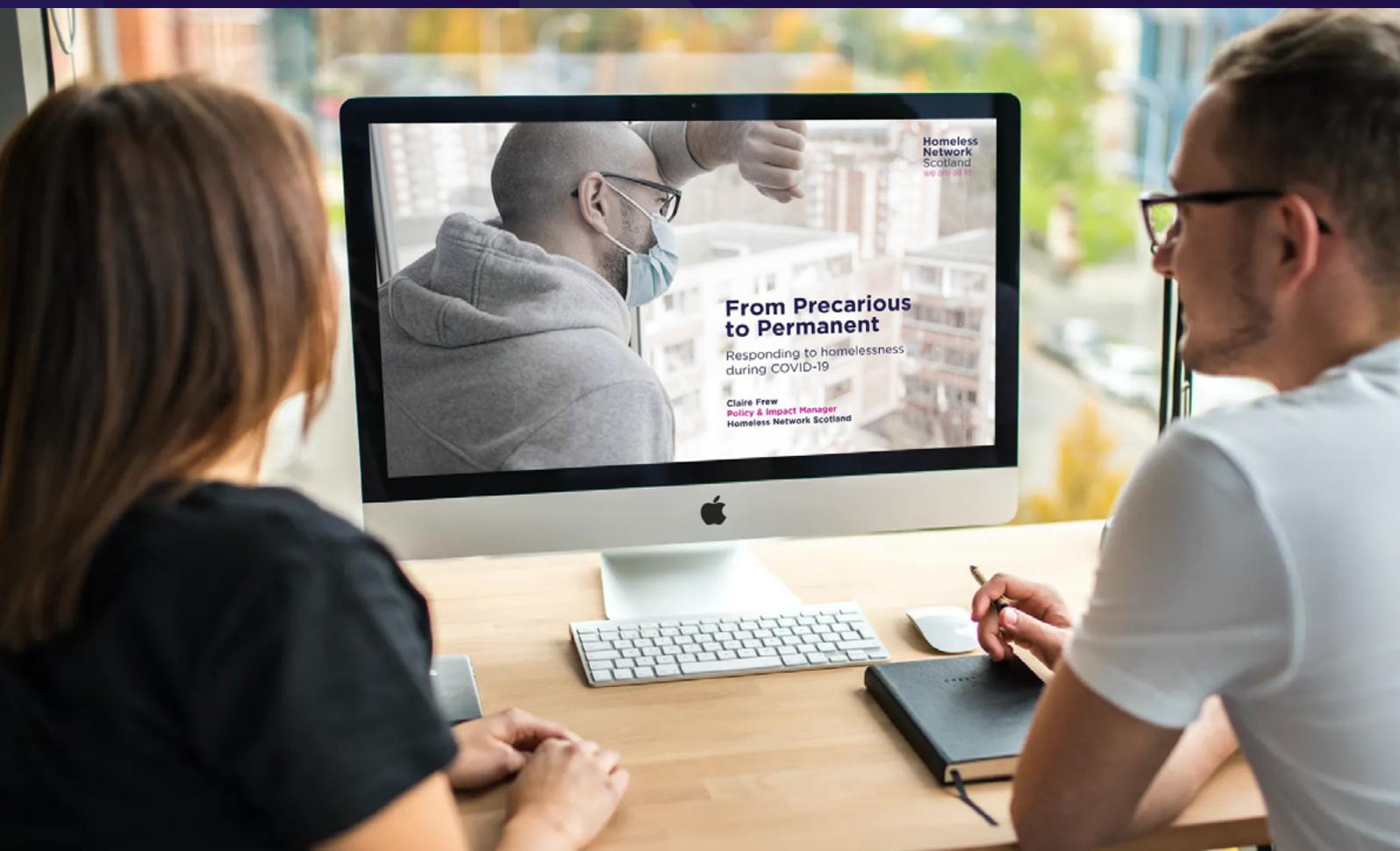


Homeless Network Scotland

we are all in



Our Impact

January to June 2020

Connect, Learn & Act on homelessness to end it for good

We entered 2020 with a clear focus on our priorities but by March, like everyone, we faced the reality of the Coronavirus pandemic and the national lockdown.

The realities of the public health crisis have already made us reassess our understanding of:

- a. what it is actually possible to achieve in terms of ending homelessness in Scotland and how quickly; and
- b. what an organisation like Homeless Network Scotland can continue to do under such challenging circumstances to create, contribute to and maintain positive impact.

We now leave this 6-month period facing a different picture in terms of what is ahead of us and how we help maintain some of the positive progress that has been made over the last period but also protect the principles that must now guide next steps.

And our organisational learning amassed over the period will play an important role in the ways in which we connect, learn, and act alongside people across the country to increase our impact going forward.



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Chief Executive

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Homeless Network Scotland is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee.
Charity registered in Scotland SCO03453. Company registered in Scotland SC112361.

Connect

What we did

We connected with people across Scotland, in person and virtually, facilitating conversations on plans to end rough sleeping across Scotland, prioritising permanent over temporary solutions for people experiencing homelessness, and agreeing priorities for our post-Covid recovery.

As with all of our work we attempted to place people and partnerships at the heart of our achievements.

What impact we made

Joining the Dots to End Street Homelessness in Glasgow



90 people attend Joining the Dots

82% of respondents felt positive after the event

90 people attended the Joining the Dots event in February 2020 in Glasgow City Chambers to connect with colleagues across the sector, including volunteers from grassroots organisations, and learn more about the importance of collaborative approaches and partnerships at a local, national and international level, the evidence base behind what works and what matters in ending rough sleeping, and the newly formed Glasgow Alliance to End Homelessness. 88% of attendees said they would recommend the event to colleagues

 [Joining the Dots PDF](http://bit.ly/JoinDots2)
<http://bit.ly/JoinDots2>

Network Briefings

To respond to the fast pace of change across the sector during the pandemic we changed our Network Briefing Schedule from monthly to weekly, publishing 10 extensive briefings between March and June.

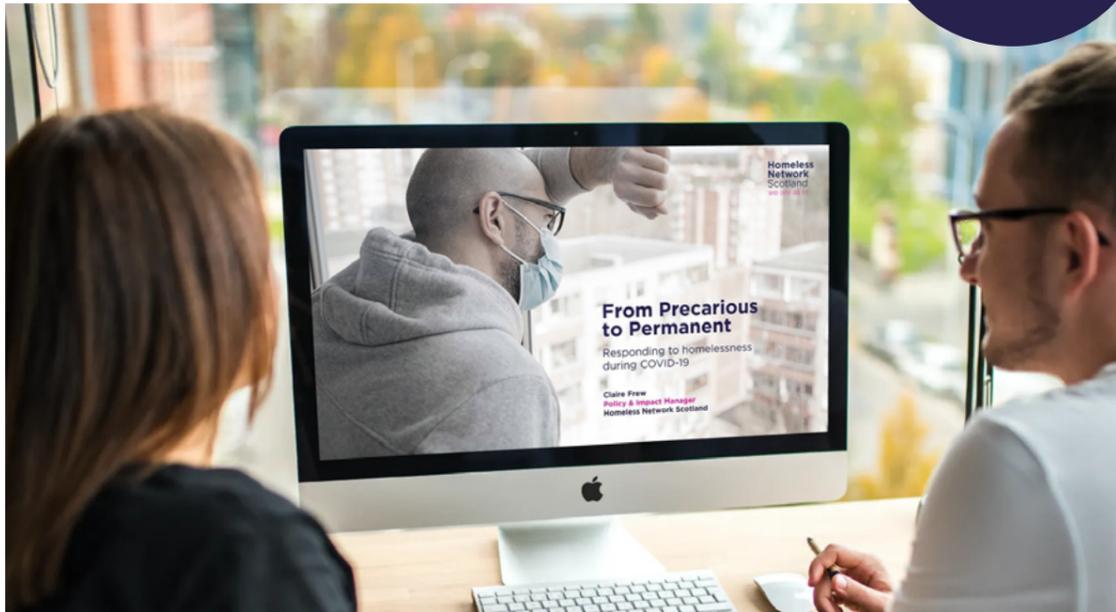
 [Read Past Issues / Sign Up](https://bit.ly/HNSBriefings)
<https://bit.ly/HNSBriefings>



From Precarious to Permanent Webinar Series

To stay connected to our networks across the country during the national lockdown, we established a free webinar series to share information about the responses to the Coronavirus pandemic and lessons for the future. We were joined by a total of 181 people for the 6 webinars in the series.

6
webinars
181
participants



 **Webinar Catch Up**
homelessnetwork.scot/webinars

Scottish Parliament Committees

We were invited to give evidence to two committees of the Scottish Parliament, connecting with MSPs on the Local Government and Communities Committee and Equalities and Human Rights Committee to share learning from the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on homelessness in Scotland and the importance of the priorities for recovery planning.



Linking
with the
Scottish
Parliament

 **Equalities and Human Rights Committee**
<https://bit.ly/2DpnQmq>

Local Government and Communities Committee
<https://buff.ly/36IYBWM>



Everyone Home Collective

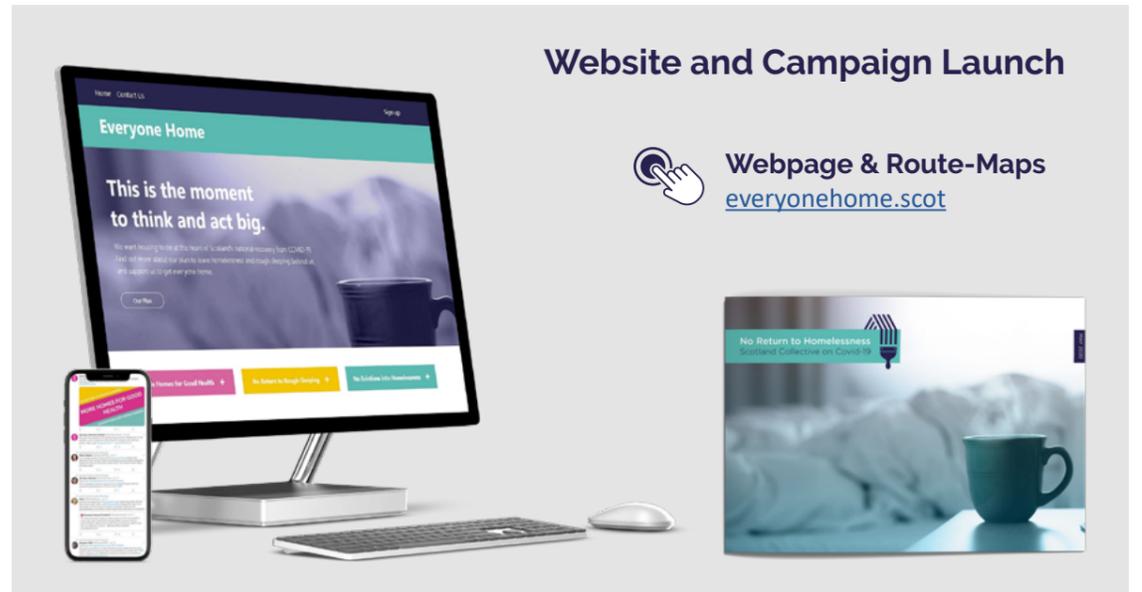
We convened the Everyone Home collective, bringing together (currently) 27 organisations to agree priorities for the post-COVID recovery plan for homelessness in Scotland:

- More Homes for Good Health
- No Return to Rough Sleeping
- No Evictions into Homelessness

These priorities formed the basis of the deliberations of the re-convened Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group which will make a series of recommendations to Scottish Government Ministers on tackling homelessness in Scotland following the Coronavirus pandemic. Homeless Network Scotland was a member of the HARSAG.

Website and Campaign Launch

 **Webpage & Route-Maps**
everyonehome.scot



Learn

What we did

We prioritised our role as a knowledge-based organisation, promoting and sharing learning across our networks and partnerships.

This included reviewing and sharing learning from the first full year of the Housing First Scotland Pathfinder Programme, and delivering training to frontline staff.

What impact we made

Training

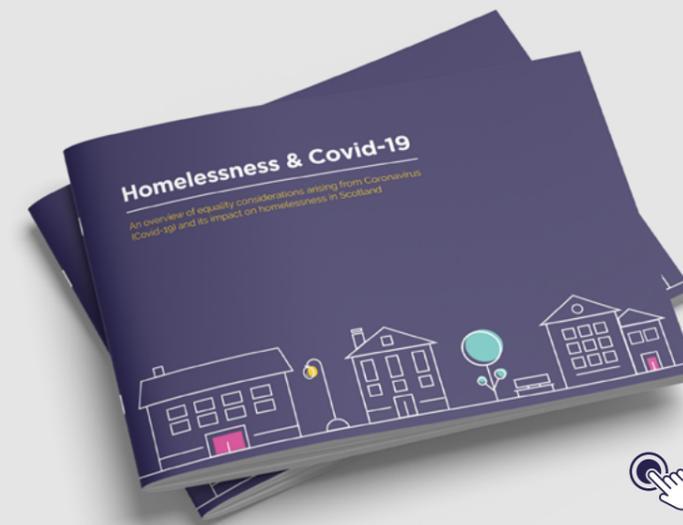
4X
more training
delivered



We delivered training to two local authorities on Psychologically Informed Environments and Trauma Informed Care. 74 people participated in these training sessions, an almost four-fold increase in the numbers of people trained during July to December 2019. 100% of participants reported improved awareness, knowledge and understanding of the importance of working in a trauma informed way to end rough sleeping and destitution.

Homelessness & Covid-19 Equality Impact Assessment

Informed by a panel of expert reviewers, we published an Equality Impact Assessment to share an overview of the equality considerations of the impact of the pandemic on homelessness in Scotland. The framework identifies additional impact on protected characteristics and sets out mitigating actions in response.



Responding to
COVID-19

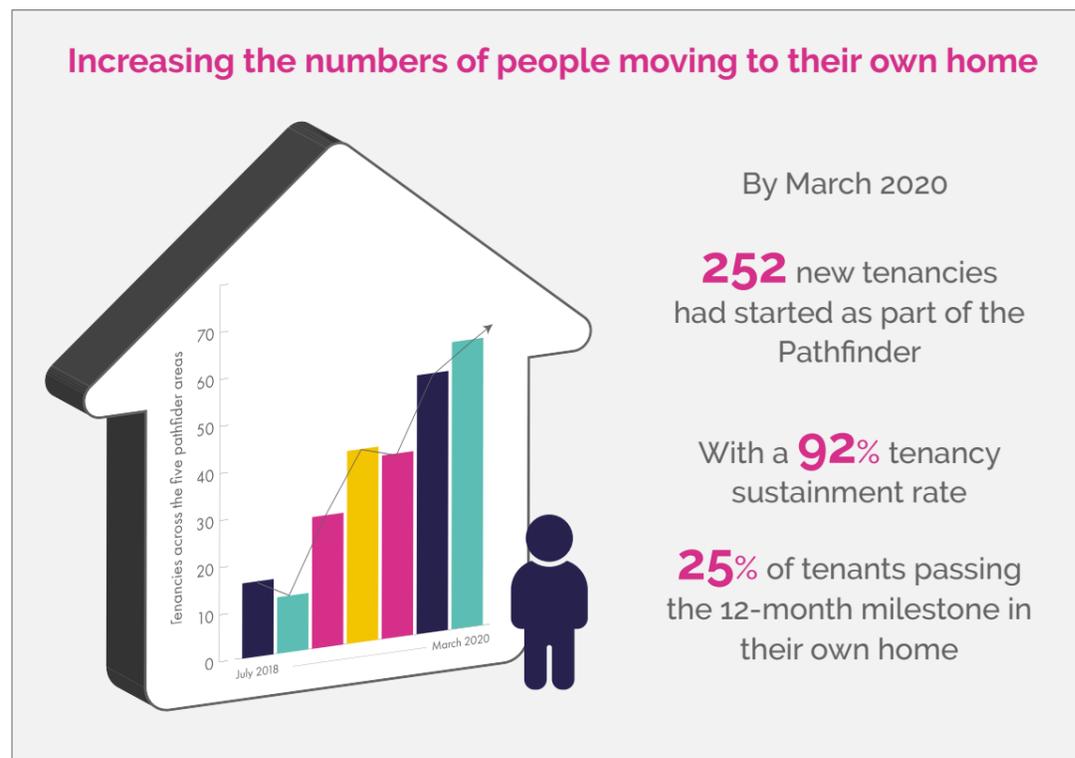
Impact Assessment PDF
<https://bit.ly/3icRKZQ>

Housing First

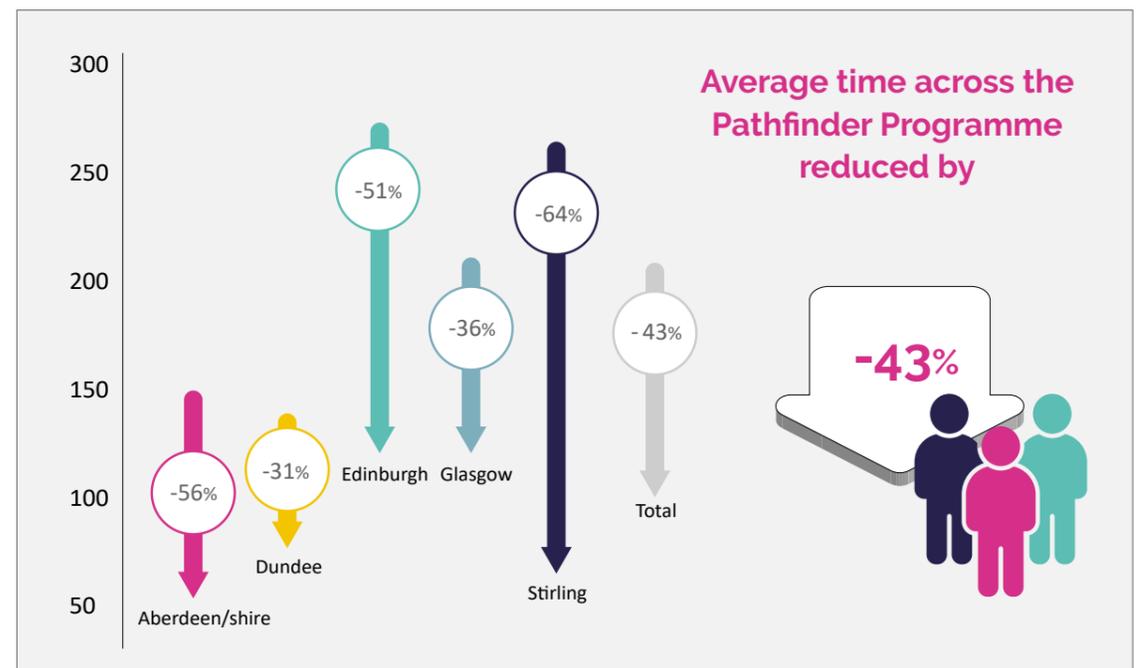
We distilled the end of year one learning from the Housing First Scotland Check Up report.



Which showed progress towards all programme goals including:



[Housing First Annual Check-Up PDF](https://bit.ly/33t1n2D)
<https://bit.ly/33t1n2D>



- Goal 1**
Increase the number of people moving into their own safe, secure home
- Goal 2**
Reduce the time taken for people to move into their own homes
- Goal 3**
Increase tenancy sustainment and reduce repeat homelessness

We are achieving our **goals**

Act

What we did

We continued to turn out connections and learning into action, ensuring we do more of what works and what matters, shifting away from what doesn't.

What impact we made

Prioritise Prevention

We established the Prevention Commission, a group of people with lived and frontline experience of homelessness from the All in for Change Team, to consider the development of new legal duties to prevent homelessness in Scotland. Five meetings of the Commission have been facilitated, reporting to the Prevention Duty Review Group with a particular focus on the importance of new legal duties being flexible and rooted in people's own priorities and preferences.



With a 'task and finish' remit funded by Crisis, the Commission continues to influence the thinking of the Review Group who adopted our proposals to create a 'duty to ask and act' to prevent homelessness.



Meeting Reports

homelessnetwork.scot/prevention-commission

Transition to Rapid Rehousing

76 people moved into their own homes as part of the Housing First Scotland Pathfinder and 88% of people continue to sustain their tenancies. While this represents slight decreases compared to the second half of 2019, the biggest contributing factor to the decrease is the halt or pause in housing allocations and lettings and the switch to remote working as in response to the national lockdown.



End Rough Sleeping and Destitution

The Everyone Home Collective developed and published its first route-map to end the need for night shelter and hotel provision in Glasgow and Edinburgh, setting out a clear way forward to embed our responses to rough sleeping firmly within the country's transition to Rapid Rehousing. The route-map provides an evidence-based plan for meeting the immediate challenge of our post-pandemic recovery, while safely designing-out the need for night shelter accommodation in the longer term, representing a significant contribution to the systems change required to end rough sleeping and destitution.



Route-Map 1 PDF

everyonehome.scot/pdf/route-map.pdf



Tackling Material Disadvantage

There is no good time to be short of money, but during a pandemic must be among the worst. We wanted to help put some choice and control back in people's hands by making over 1,000 cash payments of £100 to people affected by homelessness. The 'Staying In' Fund was made possible through a grant of £100K from Scottish Government's Wellbeing Fund with thanks to SCVO and the Hunter Foundation. The award permitted us to use the money in the most effective way possible, and in this case simply providing cash or vouchers to people was the preferred option.

Kelly Storm, Service Manager
at Salvation Army, said:

"On a practical level people have been able to buy things like clothes, which they would not normally buy for themselves, items for their tenancies to help make their house feel more like home and also forms of entertainment, such as phones and DVDs, which have helped combat isolation during the lockdown period.

We have been able to encourage people to shop in their local stores and supermarkets as well which has helped them connect with their communities. The fund has had an incredibly positive impact on all. For those really feeling the effects of increased isolation and boredom, this was a huge pick me up and really lifted their spirits."

£100k
distributed in
Scotland



More Lived Experience

We created a structure for people with lived experience to play a full role in the creation of the Glasgow Alliance to End Homelessness, with this period bridging the recruitment and delivery phases. Following extensive training, we supported 6 people with lived experience to play a full and equal role in:

- selecting the membership of the Glasgow Alliance to End Homelessness
- the newly established Leadership Team
- the newly established Mobilisation Team and Working Groups.

"The Glasgow experience was one of the best examples of alliance development that I have seen. The contribution made by people with lived experience from GHIFT towards reaching the final decision strengthens the process significantly and provides additional reassurance for the HSCP that the right outcome was achieved."

Linda Hutchison, Founder of LH Alliances

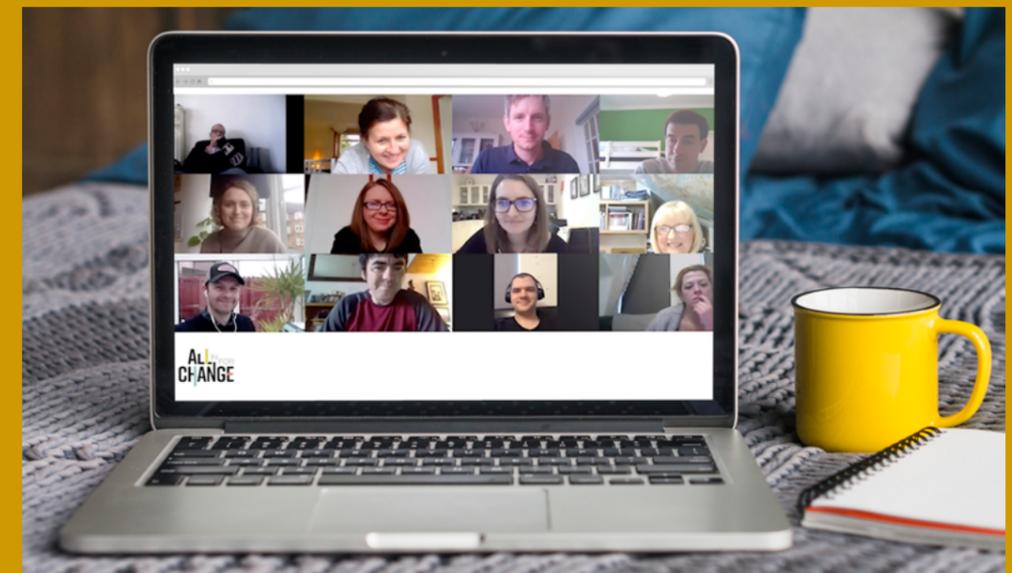
6
people
supported in
forming
GAEH

More Lived Experience — All in for Change

We supported 10 people with lived experience of homelessness across Scotland in their role in the All in for Change Team, shifting our focus to online gatherings during lockdown.

"I bet today's session was one of the first pieces of pre-organised joint work that has carried on regardless of COVID and approximated the purpose and feeling of what we were doing in person. It's a model of good practice and that's down to Michelle ... and David's brilliant organisation, motivation, and outstanding skills ... They are both outstanding and a real credit to Homeless Network Scotland!"

(David Reilly, Scottish Government)



We supported people to report directly to the Homelessness Prevention & Strategy Group, and meet with Kevin Stewart MSP, the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning.

"For me, it felt like we went straight to the main man, not having to go through the ranks. I've been worried about how people in hotels will be accommodated when we move out of lockdown and I definitely feel he took our message on board. Kevin is genuine and easy to talk to and made sure we were comfortable to speak our minds."

(Derek Jaffrey, Change Lead)

Adapting to
COVID-19



Read the All in for Change Briefings
homelessnetwork.scot/change-team

**Homeless
Network
Scotland**
we are all in