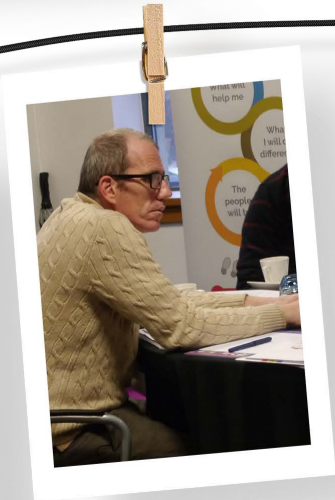
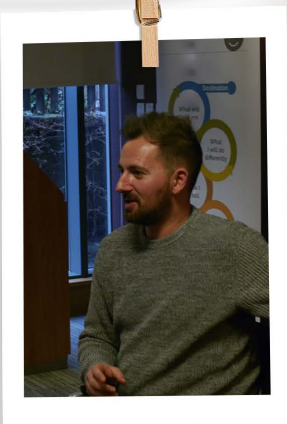
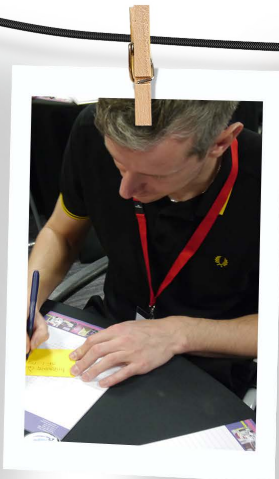


ALL IN FOR CHANGE

A YEAR IN REVIEW



WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES

12 months ago, we gathered for the first time as a group with the Scottish Government Team and Kevin Stewart MSP, Minister for Local Government, Housing & Planning to launch this new and innovative team.

As with any coproduction process we have all been open to different perspectives and experiences, uncertainty, and working the detail out as we go. But few could have predicted just how much uncertainty we would come to face and how adaptive and flexible the Team would become. This report outlines key areas influence and impact over the last 12 months and future plans, come what may!



FROM ARNOTDATE HOUSE TO GOING DIGITAL

We wanted to create the sense of a 'home' for the Team and in our early retreats we came together in Arnotdale House in the lovely Dollar Park in Falkirk. It felt important for us all to travel to meet together in the same venue and get to know each other, building our bonds as a team.

But by March the restrictions we were working under meant we had to go digital and this required us to think differently about how we work together, be flexible and take on shifting priorities. We experienced both benefits and challenges of working online and the full team worked hard to make the best of the situation, continue moving forward, and make it as easy as possible for people to participate.

*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*

David Reilly
Scottish Government



LEARNING FROM EVIDENCE

At the start of the Team's journey we identified being led by knowledge and evidence of what works as key to our success in implementing the changes in the Ending Homelessness Together Action Plan (EHT). To help achieve this, each month Dr Beth Watts from I-SPHERE at Heriot-Watt University, fellow change lead, guided the team through the evidence base behind each of the 4 New Directions: At Home, People First, No Wrong Door and Good Vibes.

This was an important phase of the Team's development, allowing people to explore their own experiences within the broader evidence base. This sometimes confirmed and added to what we thought, and at other times challenged us to think about the basis of our experiences and why we understand things in a certain way.

This phase of the Team's development focused on forming as a Team and identifying what we needed to effectively fulfil the unique role of overseeing the EHT implementation, while feeding back what is critical in practice on the ground.



INFLUENCING POLICY

Reviewing the first year of the All in for Change Team, we are delighted with the opportunities to influence homelessness policy in Scotland.

THE EVERYONE HOME COLLECTIVE

Calls from the Frontline went on to inform the initial work of the Everyone Home Collective.



OUR PREFERABLE FUTURE

Keep the benefit changes — At a minimum, maintain level of benefits brought in during COVID-19, including discretionary benefits.

Protect people with no recourse to public funds — Prevent destitution by ensuring access to decent and safe accommodation and the practical and emotional support people need. More clarity on what funds local authorities can use for people seeking or refused asylum. And a programme to support EU citizens to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme. Join up campaigns to lobby UK Government for a better deal for people seeking safety in the UK.

Think local — Build from the range of community and grass roots responses to COVID-19 supporting positive mental health, reducing social isolation, and providing practical support. These local structures will help all prevention efforts going forward.

Go digital — Increase access to digital technology and systems that reduce travel, bureaucracy and better assist people living and working with homelessness.


Better recognition for key workers — Incentivise and reward great frontline workers, benchmarking across the housing support and accommodation network.

Deliver collective impact — Build on joint working during COVID-19 by reducing competitive culture and inefficiencies in the homelessness system.



ROUNDTABLE WITH KEVIN STEWART MSP

In June, the Change Team were able to take the knowledge gathered on the ground and translate it into policy, using the views and concerns of their networks to inform some key conversations. The first was a roundtable with MSP Kevin Stewart, where Change Leads were able to question, discuss and highlight the issues brought forward by people who work with or experience homelessness. Just some of the points of discussion:

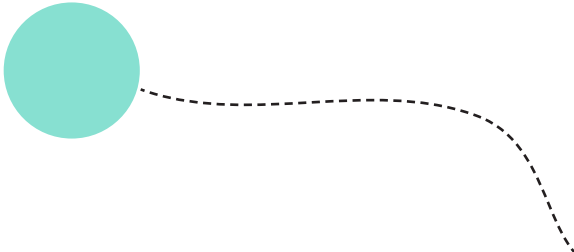
- How will those people accommodated in hotels be supported post-lockdown so that no one returns to rough sleeping?
 - Can we keep positive changes, such as weekly methadone prescriptions?
 - can we make sure no one is evicted into homelessness, restarting the cycle?
 - Can we support young people with care experience/homelessness experience to access technology, creating equality and connections to peers and opportunities?
 - How can we address systemic racism where it exists, including overcrowding and destitution among communities due to immigration and asylum, which are reserved matters?
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UPDATED HOMELESSNESS TOGETHER ACTION PLAN

The Team were invited to comment on the updated action plan and opted to take this opportunity to bring focus back to one of the original objectives of All in for Change that we had to postpone during the pandemic, to embark on a national consultation with people working and living with homelessness to learn and feedback what will help and hinder the progress towards the actions in the plan.

Having reflected back on the messages from the Team over the last 12 months and the priorities raised, the Team are in strong support of the updated EHT particularly as it includes many of the priorities from the Team, minimising the risk of evictions into homelessness, increasing availability of financial support for those who need it, ending the use of traditional night shelters and supporting people who are locked out of the system due to No Recourse to Public Funds rules.

Recognising our priorities in high-level government documents encourages future involvement as we can be sure that there is meaningful progress on the horizon and gives the Team real focus for the upcoming national consultation, as we work to find out what is required to make these actions into reality for people experiencing homelessness in Scotland. The consultation exercise will form the focus of the Team's work in the new year.





HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING ACTION GROUP


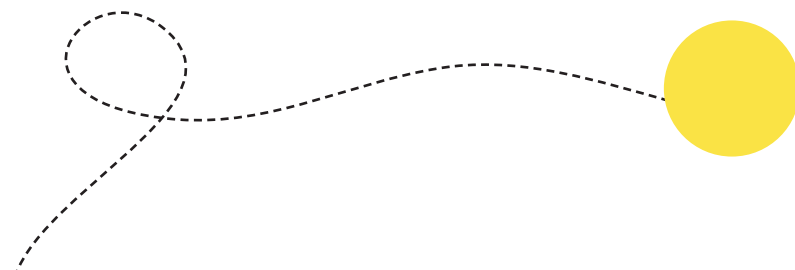
And within a couple of weeks, the Team were asked to participate in a crossover meeting with the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group (HARSAG) as part of their consultation process to inform their recommendations. Change Team members were able to present their priorities – outlined below – and crucially, these were included in the updated HARSAG recommendations as Annex 4, published in July.

Change Team Priorities for HARSAG Recommendations

For people currently in the system:

- 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.
- 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, the Change Team's priorities are:
- 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 more flexible for people to choose what's important to them, with a focus on consistent, non-judgemental relationships.

For those at risk of entering the system, the Change Team's 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, the Change Team's priority is: We want to see more in Scotland to make things easier for people with No Recourse to Public Funds.
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ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- The opportunity to shape the job description for the Team Leader position within the Homelessness Team at Scottish Government
- Putting our name behind campaigns like Crisis' "No one should be punished for being homeless" petition
- Reaching further using technology, presenting at the Centre for Homelessness Impact conference and the Homeless Network Scotland conference
- Widening our influence e.g. sitting on the Scottish Government Residential Rehabilitation Working Group, Prevention Commission as part of the Prevention Duty Review Group.



THE CHANGE TEAM | KEEP IN TOUCH

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