

Homeless Network Scotland

we are all in



Our Impact

January to June 2021

Connect, Learn & Act

on homelessness to end it for good

Among those most affected by the pandemic and its consequences are people without a safe and stable home of their own. And a frontline sector that supports and advises people and who've never stopped working.

During the first half of this year, we have been privileged to be a support-act for a remarkable sector that has continued to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic on people and who have enabled a successful vaccination roll-out programme across their services.

And we have been proud, through the Everyone Home Collective and All in for Change Team, to have created a platform for people to take their rightful place as strategic partners in determining what matters and what happens next. The launch of our Learning Lounge and incredibly well attended series of thematic events and conferences this period has also offered some 'time out' for colleagues and a mechanism to connect, learn and influence.

Crucially, we continue to see progress on homelessness with the ongoing growth of Housing First across the country, the successful implementation of the new Welcome Centres in Edinburgh and Glasgow, the coproduction of a new approach to design out destitution among people with no recourse to public funds, and the publication of an important set of recommendations to create strong legal duties to prevent homelessness in Scotland.

However, deep uncertainty remains about what the second half of 2021 holds for people already in the homelessness system, and those at new risk of homelessness due to the conditions created by the pandemic. The collective impact and responsibility needed to take on this challenge will be as important over the next phase as it was in the early days of lockdown.



Maggie Brünjes
Chief Executive

Connect

What we did

We connected with people across Scotland, the UK and Europe, participating in and facilitating conversations on ending destitution for people with no recourse to public funds, the future role of supported housing as part of our homelessness response, taking a place-based approach to preventing homelessness, and continuing to scale-up Housing First across Scotland.

Across Scotland

Branching Out: Growing, Improving and Connecting Housing First in Scotland



 **Branching Out Report PDF**
<https://bit.ly/3x0WVn2>

Almost **400** people registered to join us for the 2-day annual Housing First Scotland conference, connecting with over 30 speakers including the Scottish Government minister for housing and minister for drugs policy.

Branching Out offered a range of keynotes, live lounge discussions, ‘in conversation with’ sessions and videos with insight from sector leaders, politicians, and people with lived experience of homelessness who have benefitted from their own safe, secure tenancy with Housing First support.

Housing First Scotland: Connect Events

80 people joined 2 Housing First Scotland Connect events, bringing together people successfully scaling up Housing First across the country to share challenges, lessons and successes.

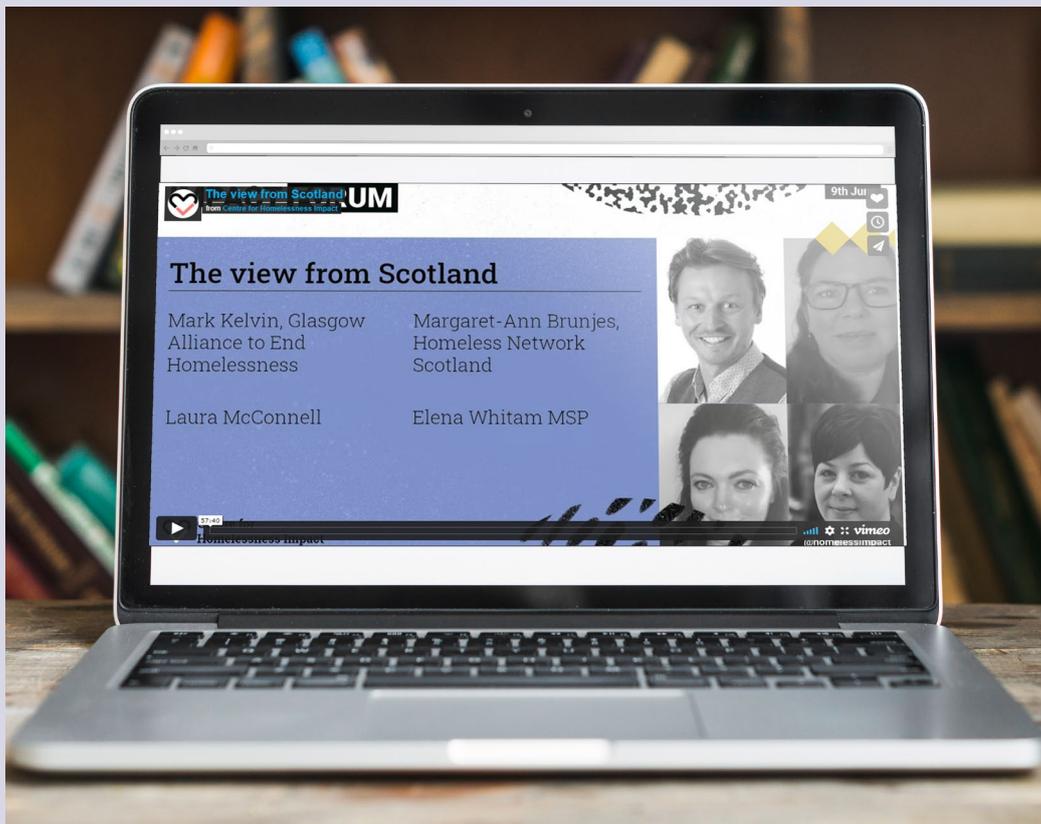
 **Connect Reports PDF**
<https://bit.ly/3wSsb7l>



Across the UK and Europe

We continued to connect with partners and colleagues across the UK and Europe by:

- Participating in the 40th anniversary event for our colleagues at Shelter Northern Ireland.
- Contributing to the View from Scotland session as part of a day focused on homelessness across the different UK administrations at the Impact Festival hosted by Centre for Homelessness Impact.
- Delivering a presentation on 5 Steps to Housing First in Scotland for 9 European cities focused on ending homelessness attending the URBACT ROOF network's winter school.
- Participating in the Frontline Network Annual Conference with members of the All in for Change Team.
- Facilitating a GB wide discussion on scaling-up Housing First with colleagues from Crisis, Homeless Link and Cymorth Cymru at the Branching Out conference.



Watch The view from Scotland

<https://impactfestival.homelessnessimpact.org/2021-events/the-view-from-scotland>

Members Events

We welcomed 103 people to our online Members Events, focused on ensuring no return to rough sleeping and considering the future of supported housing.

103
register for
Members
Events

Everyone Home Collective: One Year On

The 35 members of the Everyone Home Collective undertook a review of their first year, considering impact and planning for year 2.



Read Everyone Home — One Year On

<https://bit.ly/379MSRY>

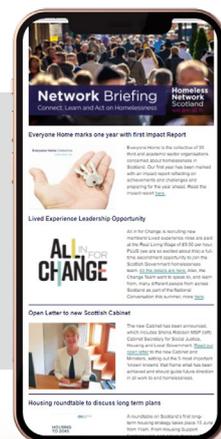
Network Briefings

Sign up to hear about our latest news and events.



Read Past Issues / Sign Up

<https://bit.ly/HNSBriefings>



Learn

What we did

To further embed our role as a knowledge-based organisation, promoting and sharing learning across our networks and partnerships, we launched our Learning Lounge and expanded our outreach to universities and colleges to raise awareness of homelessness amongst health and social work students.

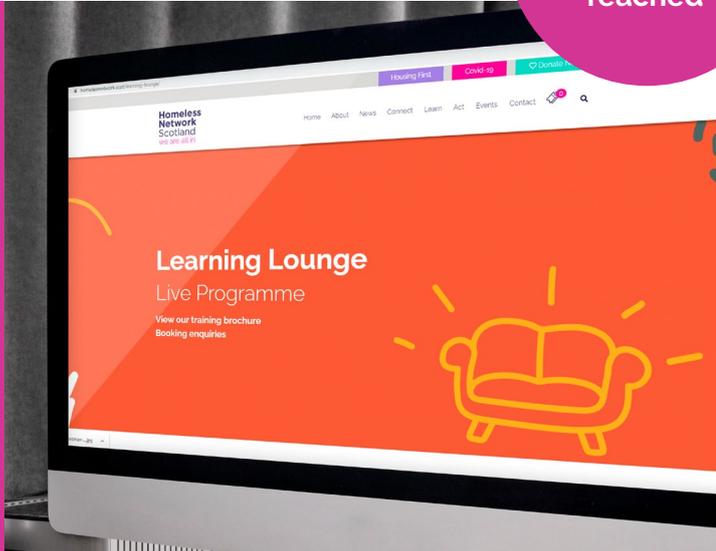
What impact we made

Learning Lounge

3X
more people
reached

“I really liked the way this online session worked with the platform that was used. I liked that you called up individual speakers and it wasn't a free for all in terms of participants talking all over the top of each other.”

“It was excellent, really well delivered and interesting”



We launched our Learning Lounge, a specially curated programme of learning and training events for organisations across Scotland.

We reached over three-times as many people than in January to June 2020, with **135** people from **56** organisations attending **11** courses covering 6 key topics:

- A Day in the Sun: Homelessness Legislation in Scotland
- Building Relationships When Supporting People at Home
- Closer to Home: A Place-Based Approach to Preventing Homelessness
- Communications and Media in a Crisis
- Rough Guide to Homelessness Policy in Scotland
- Tools, Tips & Techniques for Involving People in Your Service

Outreach to Universities

Building on our partnership with Public Health Scotland, we sharpened and extended our focus on working alongside colleges and universities to increase knowledge about homelessness among health and social work students. We reached 615 students across the Universities of Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee, Strathclyde, and West of Scotland to increase knowledge about homelessness prevention, the social determinants of health, and Psychologically Informed Environments.

“It has given me an eye-opening experience into the trauma and discrimination faced by individuals who are homeless. This is important for me as I will be interacting with individuals in this situation as a future doctor and now, I am more aware of the challenges they face in their care.”

Act

What we did

We continued to turn our 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

Shaped
the new
duty to prevent
homelessness

Publication of Prevention Review Group report

Following our role with the Prevention Review Group and the Prevention Commission we were pleased to see key recommendations in the final report of the Prevention Review Group to the Scottish Government, including:

- Embedding choice and control into future duties to ensure they are not restrictive and leave people with no part to play in their own positive solutions.
- Developing a Duty to Ask, meaning that we simply start by asking people “what needs to happen to prevent you from becoming homeless?”
- Ensuring that new legal duties allow enough time to intervene to find sustainable solutions, and that offers of accommodation are stable and secure.

David Pentland, a member of the Prevention Commission, worked to support the outreach to politicians following the publication of the recommendations for strengthening legal duties to prevent homelessness.



“We need to target as far downstream as possible to stop people getting wrapped up in the bureaucracy of the homelessness system and the pain and suffering that brings them to the system”

David Pentland
All in for Change

Watch the Video Why does homelessness prevention matter?

David from the Prevention Commission on how we can do more to stop people losing their homes



Crisis Video

<https://bit.ly/36SyOvT>

Homelessness Prevention Training: Closer to Home

Following the publication of the Everyone Home Collective’s Prevention Routemap we launched the Closer to Home training module considering the value of a place-based approach to protecting homes and preventing homelessness. 35 people representing 19 organisations across the country attended the first phase of training delivery.

Transition to Rapid Rehousing

Branching Out:

A National Framework to start up and scale up Housing First in Scotland

We launched Scotland’s first national framework for Housing First in partnership with the Wheatley Group, Scottish Federation of Housing Associations, Cosla and the Scottish Government.



The Framework sets out the context in which Housing First can be successfully delivered, and acts as a guide to planning, commissioning and implementing the approach over the next 10 years. The Framework provides a range of information and insights on:

- The strong evidence base and rationale for Housing First.
- The relevant policy context, including the overlapping nature of Housing First that requires strong partnerships.
- Key learning from the delivery of Housing First across Scotland so far.
- Additional considerations to ensure sensitivity to the different forms of inequality protected by legislation.
- What is needed to ensure Housing First is effective, following proven principles and supporting new tenants in the best way.
- What each key partner brings and needs in order to plan, commission and deliver Housing First.



Branching Out
<https://bit.ly/3BoOhSD>



Cross Party Support for Housing First



In the run-up to the Scottish elections, we worked with partners and politicians to secure cross-party support for Housing First across the new parliamentary term. This ensures firm foundations for Housing First going forward, an important message that we were able to share widely through the national media.

Scotland's Housing First Pathfinder

- **129** people moved into their own Housing First tenancy between January and June 2021, a **54% increase** compared to the same period in 2020.
- At 30th June 2021, **84%** of people continue to sustain their tenancies, comparing positively with the international success rates of Housing First.
- Almost half of people still in their homes have been there for more than 1 year, and **60** people have now been in their home for more than 2 years.



Following the launch of the Shared Spaces research, commissioned by Homeless Network Scotland and funded in partnership Crisis Scotland, Turning Point Scotland and Action for Children, the Scottish Government's Housing to 2040 route map commits to learning from the research findings to ensure people can access the best accommodation and support option for them whether in a mainstream tenancy or in shared and/or supported housing.

To complement the Shared Spaces research, we launched a national conversation to involve as many people as possible in the discussion about the future role of shared and/or supported housing. 130 people across Scotland have already participated in the conversation so far, sharing their views on:

- In what circumstances, if any, is shared or supported accommodation the appropriate housing option for households experiencing homelessness?
- What should the shared and supported accommodation options required in these circumstances look like?
- What is the likely scale of such shared and supported accommodation options likely to be in the future?
- How well placed are local authorities and service providers to adopt these housing options at the scale required?

End Rough Sleeping and Destitution

No Return to Rough Sleeping

Building from the Everyone Home Collective's commitment to ensuring no return to rough sleeping, our first Members Event of 2021 focused on the progress made in ensuring that the progress made during the pandemic is sustained and built on.

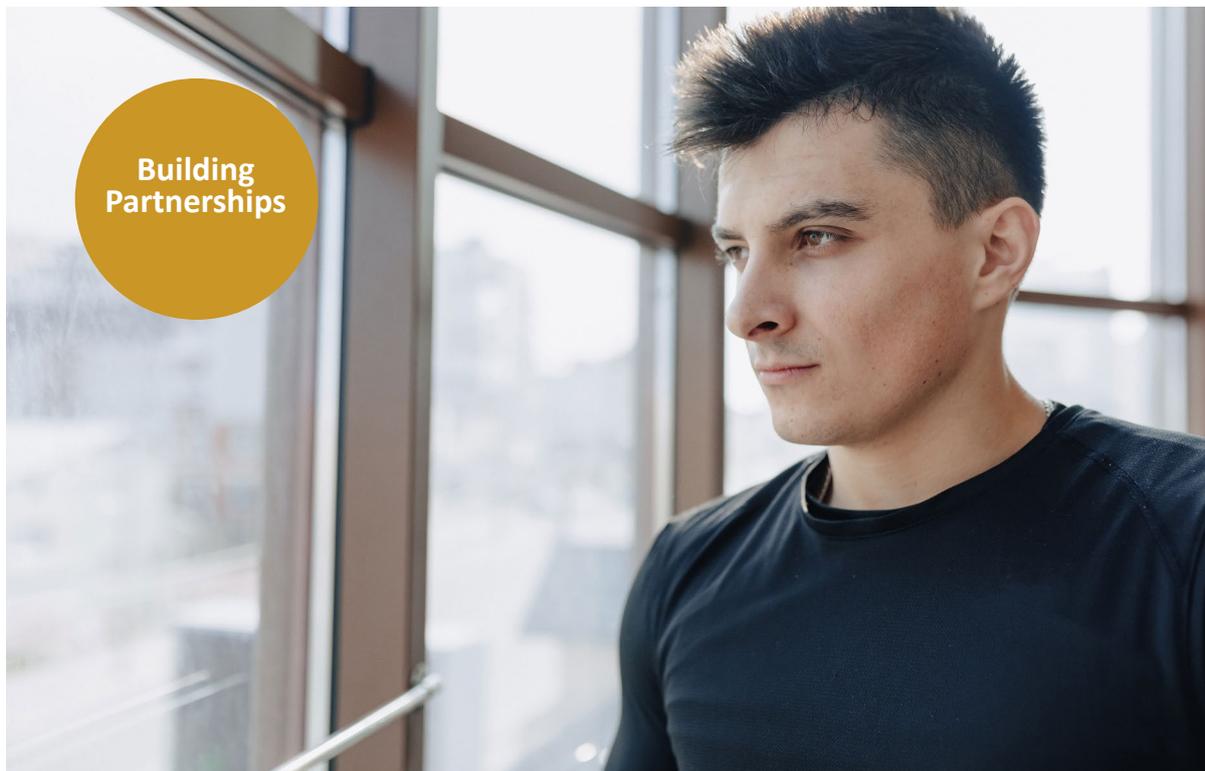
Over 70 people attended to event, hearing directly from:

- Simon Community Scotland and Streetwork about the challenges and successes delivering street outreach in Glasgow and Edinburgh.
- Bethany Christian Trust and Glasgow City Mission about the shift from dormitory style winter night shelters to the new model of welcome centres in Edinburgh and Glasgow.
- Professor Suzanne Fitzpatrick on learning so far from the IGH Vanguard Cities programme which aims to end street homelessness by 2030.

Scotland's Ambition to End Destitution and Protect Human Rights

Following the publication of the Everyone Home Collective's routemap on ending destitution and protecting human rights we have worked with key partners to design a new gateway to a safe destination, support and advice for people with no recourse to public funds.

Working with World Habitat, we presented to the Association of Charitable Foundations and invited a strategic partnership with progressive funders who want to bring about a step-change in how Scotland ends destitution and how that learning can be shared across the UK. This strategic partnership will safeguard people who want to stay in Scotland from the harm of destitution, exploitation, health inequality and homelessness.



More Lived Experience

Glasgow Alliance to End Homelessness

Creating
a platform for
lived
experience



We worked with 43 people with lived experience of homelessness to support the priorities of the Glasgow Alliance to End Homelessness including:

- Ongoing contribution to the Alliance Leadership Team and working groups covering coproduction, IT, communications, recruitment, service design, contracts & procurement, income & resource, performance & strategy, governance, assurance & risk.
- Designing and delivering engagement with frontline staff.
- Working with the Health and Social Care Partnership to develop trauma informed approaches to service provision across homelessness, criminal justice, addictions and mental health services.
- Supporting the work of the Health and Social Care Partnership to create an easy-read version of the Scottish Housing Regulator Improvement Plan for Glasgow.

"When the HSCP thought about how we conveyed the action we were going to take to continue to improve Homelessness Services, we wanted to ensure that we communicated this with people who use our service. To achieve this, we worked with GHIFT members to pull together a version of our plan that hopefully would connect with people who use services. Working with the members of GHIFT allowed us to reflect on how we set out the actions we would take going forward but in addition we were able to refine our thinking regarding the development of front-line homelessness services. The experience was really enjoyable, challenging and constructive. Having completed the service user version of the plan we have agreed that as we develop the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan, we will continue to engage with GHIFT to help us shape how we develop services together."

Gary Quinn, Glasgow Health & Social Care Partnership

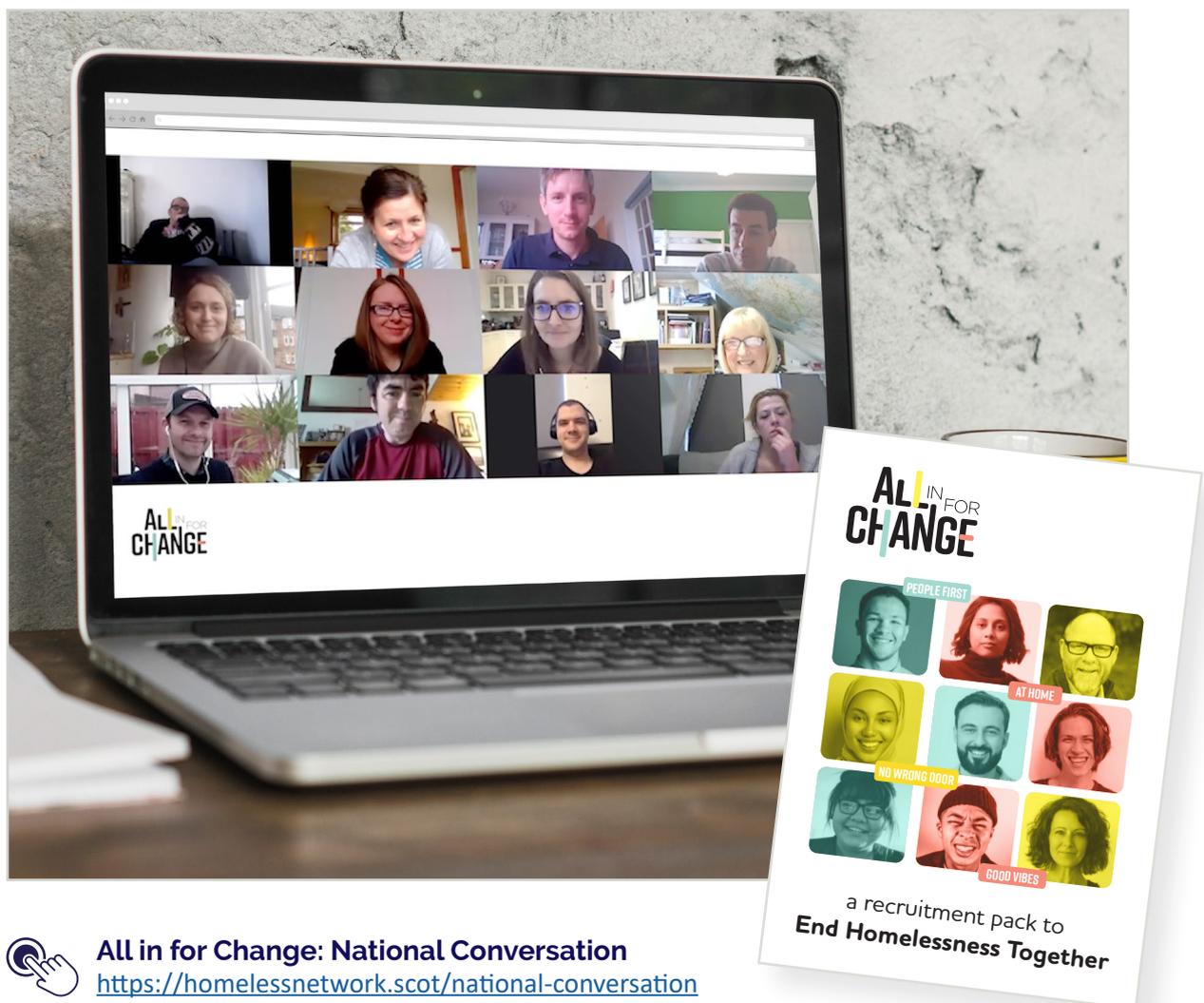
Systems and Culture Change

All in for Change

The All in for Change Team with lived and frontline experience of homelessness have continued to make progress in the implementation of the 4 New Directions of People First, At Home, No Wrong Door and Good Vibes. Between January and June the team:

- Contributed to the updated Ending Homelessness Together Action Plan following the new recommendations from the reconvened Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group.
- Participated in important discussions about the development of a right to adequate housing in Scotland, plans for funding for digital infrastructure and support for people experiencing homelessness.
- Launched a National Conversation to link with as many people as possible across Scotland to better understand our progress in delivering the 4 New Directions.

Building on the success of the All in for Change programme so far, we recruited 11 new Change Leads from across the country to the team to extend our reach and bring a range of fresh perspectives.



All in for Change: National Conversation
<https://homelessnetwork.scot/national-conversation>

New System Alliance

In partnership with Mayday Trust, Platform, Changing Lives and the National Lottery Communities Fund we continued to deliver the New System Alliance, which saw a 16% increase in the number of people and organisations becoming allies striving for a new response for people going through tough times.

And through monthly Conversations that Challenge sessions we connected with over 100 people across the UK committed to changing the current system, discussing challenges and setting individual and collective actions for change.



Tackling Material Disadvantage

Winter Warmer Fund

Building on the success of last year's Staying In fund which distributed £100,000 directly to 1,000 people experiencing homelessness, we were delighted to secure funding from the Scottish Government's winter support package to get money directly into the hands of people living in temporary accommodation across Scotland.

The Winter Warmer fund distributed £50 to 1,000 households staying in temporary accommodation during the pandemic. A full impact report on both funds is in development and will be published soon.

*"Thank you very, very much!
You're saving my life! Bless you"*

Winter Warmer Fund applicant

"I was delighted to receive your email and so was my tenant. When I called to him to tell him the good news he was over the moon, stating that this is first time through the homeless system and that this has been a scary time however he stated that all the staff have been very supportive in keeping him positive. He went on to tell me that this is second positive thing to happen to him since being in this situation, he said he feels that things are going turn out ok for him, so thank you very much!"

Winter Warmer Fund applicant



**Homeless
Network
Scotland**
we are all in

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