



Homeless Network Scotland we are all in

annual report & accounts 2020-21



message from the chief executive

We should expect that all formal reflections and evaluations that follow this unprecedented period recognise the remarkable response from a homelessness sector in Scotland that more than met the moment. We'll do our bit to make sure that becomes a matter of record.

During this year, Homeless Network Scotland has been privileged to be a support-act for a sector that continues to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic on people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. And we have been proud, through the Everyone Home Collective and All in for Change Team, to have created a diverse platform for people to take their place as strategic partners in determining what works, what matters and what happens next.

We knew that one of the most useful roles for Homeless Network Scotland early in the pandemic was to create opportunities for a wider network to connect, learn and act together. We convened the Everyone Home collective, bringing together (currently) 35 third and academic sector organisations to agree priorities for the post-COVID recovery plan for homelessness in Scotland. Our priorities formed the basis of the deliberations of the re-convened Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group which made a series of recommendations to Scottish Government Ministers, and which resulted in the updated Scottish Government/ COSLA Ending Homelessness Together Plan in October 2020.

To stay connected to our wider networks across the country, we established a free webinar series to share information about the responses to the pandemic and lessons for the future.

Several hundred people have joined our webinars and training this year and the launch of our Learning Lounge has offered some 'time out' for colleagues and a mechanism to connect, learn and influence.

Despite the challenges, 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 next year 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

Homeless Network Scotland

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Homeless Network Scotland

Our Mission

We help grow the policy and system changes needed to resolve homelessness in Scotland.

Our Approach

As a network, we create opportunities for people who live and work with homelessness to:

Connect Learn Act

Connecting people and places to drive change

Connect **Learn** Act

Learning from evidence and each other's experiences

Connect Learn **Act**

Acting on what works and what matters

Our Team Impact Measures

- Prioritise Prevention**
 Preventing homelessness early, proactively and targeted at the greatest risks and drivers.
- Help the Transition to Rapid Rehousing**
 Housing options in line with local need, so that homelessness is reduced and ultimately ended.
- End Rough Sleeping and Destitution**
 Championing and supporting services which are trauma and evidence informed.
- Provide a Platform for Lived Experience**
 Ensuring the insight of people with lived experience of homelessness drives solutions.
- Systems and Culture Change**
 Helping create a joined-up system for people going through tough times.



connect

Across the year we continued to prioritise connecting with our existing partners and developing new relationships to support our future activity and impact.

500

We connected with 500 members of the wider homelessness sector through Scotland's largest annual homelessness conference online over three days





400

And almost 400 people across our two-day Housing First Scotland Conference

80

We connected with over 80 Housing First Pathfinders and Leaders across Scotland at our online regular Connect events

160

We connected with 160 people across the sector through our member events covering the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group (HARSAG) and updated Ending Homelessness Together Action Plan (EHT) and no return to rough sleeping and considering the future of supported housing



Everyone Home

We facilitated and **connected** the Everyone Home Collective: The **35 members** of the Everyone Home Collective created **4 route maps** covering:

- Ending the need for communal night shelters in Scotland
- Scotland's Ambition to End Destitution & Protect Human Rights
- Can the Scottish Parliament Come 'Two Terms' with Homelessness?
- Protecting Homes in Communities: a place-based approach to preventing homelessness

The Everyone Home Collective also undertook a review of their first year, considering impact and planning for year 2. Read the route maps and impact report here: everyonehome.scot



Across the UK and Europe

We continued to connect with partners and colleagues by:

- Participating in the 40th anniversary event for our colleagues at Shelter Northern Ireland.
- Participating in the Westminster All Party Parliamentary Group on Ending Homelessness with Dr Sam Tsemberis (founder of Housing First) and Andy Burnham (Mayor of Greater Manchester) to launch the Housing First enquiry
- 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.
- Presenting at the Northern Ireland Annual Housing Conference to discuss Rapid Rehousing and Housing First.

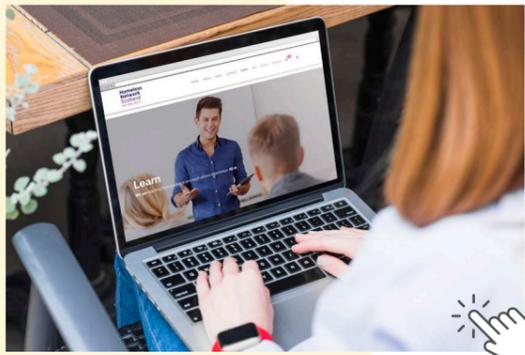
Watch The View from Scotland



learn

HARSAG

We continued to prioritise our role as a knowledge-based organisation, promoting and sharing learning across our networks and partnerships. This included streamlining the recommendations of the reconvened Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group (HARSAG) into short guides for local authority and housing association colleagues.



Learning Lounge

We launched our new online learning programme: **Learning Lounge**. We reached **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

University Outreach

We expanded our 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.

Evidence & Consultation

We submitted two Scottish Government consultation responses after connecting with the sector: one to [support the intended legislative change to modify local connection rules](#), giving people more choice over where in the country they make their homelessness application, and the second to offer [feedback on the draft guidance to support the implementation of the revised Unsuited Accommodation Order](#) to ensure definitions of what is unsuitable are as clear as possible for frontline staff, and for people who require temporary accommodation.

We were also 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. 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.

act

1. Prioritise Prevention

Prevention Commission



The Prevention Commission completed its work in early 2021 and members were delighted to see their recommendation about a new duty to ask and act, underpinned by their prioritisation of the need for people to have more choice and control, make it into the final proposals from the Prevention Review Group. We were also pleased to support members of the Prevention Commission to contribute a foreword to the PRG report, participate in media engagement around the recommendations, and speak directly with politicians about the importance of new legal duties to prevent homelessness.

Staying In

Working in partnership with Unity & SCDC, The National Lottery Community Fund we supported a place-based approach to the prevention of homelessness with a dedicated budget of £200,000 for communities in Greater Pollok & the Gorbals. We facilitated the creation of a panel of trailblazers, of people who live or worked in the local area and who brought their knowledge. This is the first time in Scotland a fund was used to test ideas on prevention of homelessness in a local setting. Look out for updates on the successful projects and their impact over the coming months.

Keys to the Community

We worked alongside local people in the Northwest of Glasgow focusing on the prevention of homelessness to support new and existing tenants feel part of their community. Local people identified local assets to help tackle social isolation, loneliness and wellbeing. Local volunteers can better identify existing activities in the area by using their own experiences of using the services that already exist.



Closer to Home

We were commissioned by Glasgow City Council and Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership to deliver a place-based prevention course: Closer to Home.

The place-based approach looks at the community as a whole and identifies assets that already exist. It looks at the evidence of the drivers and causes of homelessness, and what a place-based approach to prevention could be. In line with the Scottish Governments prevention strategy, communities look at the best way to ASK about someone's housing situation and equally important how to ACT on the information received.

2. 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.

Shared Spaces

We launched 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 participated in the conversation. The research will launch at our annual homelessness conference in October 2021.

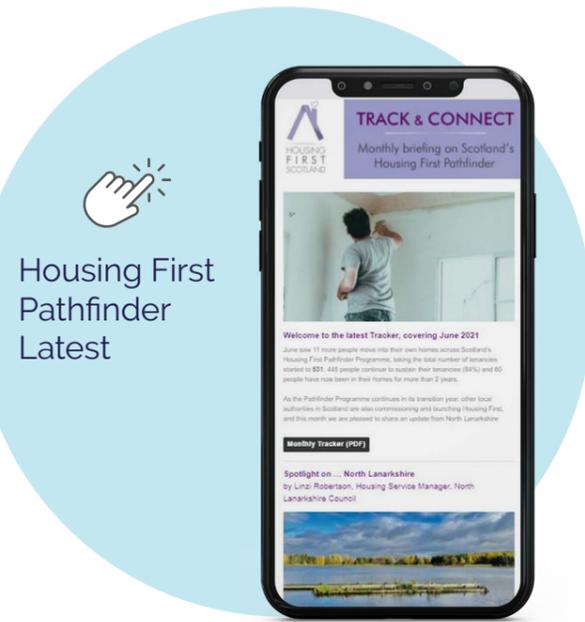
Cross Party Support for Housing First

We worked with partners and politicians in the run-up to the Scottish elections, to secure cross-party support for Housing First across the new parliamentary term.

Scotland's Housing First Pathfinder

Lockdowns throughout the year presented a significant challenge for Scotland's Housing First Pathfinder. Despite this, partners across the programme managed to:

- Increase the number of new tenancies starting by **23%**, bringing the total number of tenancies started to **483 by end March 2021**
- Deliver a tenancy sustainment rate of **86%**, matching the strong international evidence base
- Ensuring no evictions in any of the Pathfinder areas



Housing First Pathfinder Latest

3. Rough Sleeping & Destitution



Fair Way Scotland

We were appointed by the Scottish Government to facilitate the Scottish approach to service design and to turn the Everyone Home (Scotland's Ambition to End Destitution & Protect Human Rights) route-map into a practical delivery mechanism that aligned with two key Scottish Government and COSLA strategies - Ending Homelessness Together' and 'Ending Destitution Together'. Supported by Homeless Network Scotland, Joseph Rowntree Foundation and Heriot-Watt University, a consortium of Scottish Refugee Council, Refugee Survival Trust, Safe in Scotland, Turning Point Scotland and Simon Community Scotland has now formed and getting ready to launch.

Tackling Material Disadvantage

Across this year, we secured Scottish Government funding to distribute **£150,000** directly to people experiencing homelessness and staying in temporary accommodation. These awards enabled us to use the money in the most effective way possible; cash or vouchers directly into the hands of people to use in the way best suited to them and their household.

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.

4. Provide a platform for lived experience

We continued to focus on creating a structure for people with lived experience of homelessness to play a full role in the Glasgow Alliance to End Homelessness. We worked with 86 people with lived experience of homelessness to support the priorities of the Glasgow Alliance to End Homelessness including:

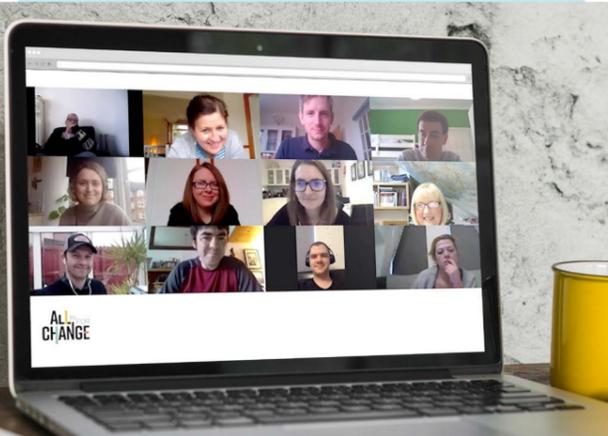
- Ongoing contribution to the Alliance Leadership Team and working groups covering coproduction, IT, communications, recruitment, service design, contracts & procurement, income & resource, performance & strategy, governance, assurance & risk.
- Designing and delivering engagement with frontline staff.
- 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](#).

5. Systems and Culture Change

All in for Change

This year, working in partnership with the Scottish Government, Cyrenians and SCDC, 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. During the year 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 and engaged with **184 people** across Scotland to better understand our progress in delivering the 4 New Directions.
- Contributing to the development of Everyone Home Collective route-maps
- Recruited **11 new Change Leads** from across the country to the team to extend our reach and bring a range of fresh perspectives.



 The National Conversation

Our People

We are a participatory and learning organisation, where our people are valued and we demonstrate a commitment to listen, learn and always move forward.

Our Board

Our non-executive members during 2020/21 were:

Patrick McKay (*Convenor*)
Turning Point Scotland

Elodie Mignard
(*Vice Convenor*)
Scottish Refugee Council

Moira Bayne
Housing Options Scotland

Sean Cussen
Individual Member

Jackie Erdman
Individual Member

Prof Suzanne Fitzpatrick
Individual Member

Peter Kelly
Poverty Alliance

Peter Millar
Aspire Housing & Personal
Development Services

Rebecca Pringle
Individual Member

Ashleigh Simpson
Crisis Scotland

Jim Strang
Individual Member

Our Staff

Leadership and Core Team

Alex Beaton
Finance Manager

Margaret-Ann Brünjes
Chief Executive

Martin Gavin
Head of External
Relations

Janice Higgins
Head of Corporate Services

Aileen O'Halloran
Admin & Resources

Lisa Sen
Design & Information Lead

Improvement and Change Team

Peter Anderson
Training Lead

Ginny Cooper
Change Lead

Claire Frew
Policy & Impact Manager

Doug Gibson
Change Lead

Derek Holliday
Peer Development Lead

David Kidd
Change Lead

Michelle Major
Change Lead

David Ramsay
Change Lead

Our Thanks

Our thanks to Patrick McGrath, Norman Fitzpatrick and Pauline Lunn for their invaluable expertise and commitment to Homeless Network Scotland during their time on our Board of Directors. And to colleagues Graham Lamont and Toni Sword who moved on from our organisation this year.

Our Associates

Andy, Anthony, Bronwyn, Callum, Charity, David D, David P, Dawn, Denise, Derek, Duncan, Emma, Faith, Hannah, Jamie, Jeremy, John P, John M, Martin, Tyler.

Members

Homeless Network Scotland are proud to umbrella a diverse range and growing number of organisations in Scotland that share our vision for ending homelessness and increasing participation of excluded groups.

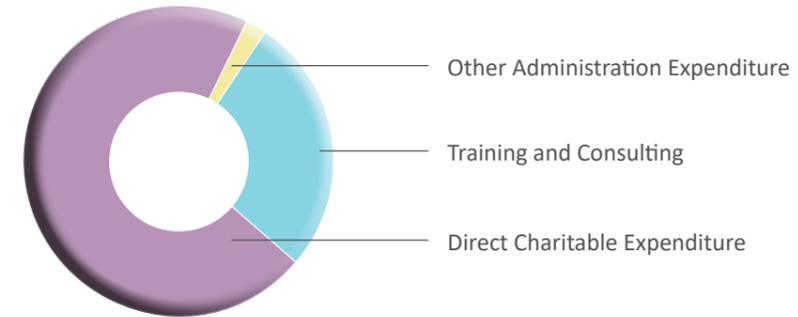
We offer our continued thanks for their support, advice and guidance.



Accounts 2020-21

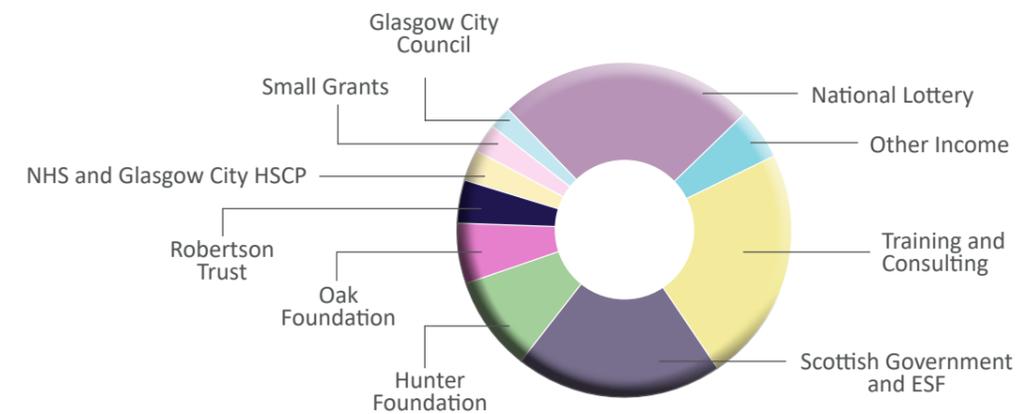
Expenditure 2020-21 **£936,414**

Direct Charitable Expenditure	71%	664,221
Training and Consulting	27%	256,416
Other Administration Expenditure	2%	15,777



Income 2020-21 **£1,171,409**

Training and Consulting	25%	289,987
National Lottery	23%	268,263
Scottish Government and ESF	20%	238,943
Hunter Foundation	9%	100,000
Oak Foundation	6%	75,000
Other Income	5%	57,651
Robertson Trust	4%	45,000
NHS and Glasgow City HSCP	3%	32,000
Small Grants	3%	38,935
Glasgow City Council	2%	25,630



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we are all in

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