

# ALL IN FOR CHANGE

RETREAT BRIEFING



SEPTEMBER 2021



# OUR NATIONAL CONVERSATION

**148 people have participated in our National Conversation to date. We have used this as an opportunity to find out: what progress people think Scotland is making in achieving our 4 New Directions, and what is getting in the way**

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

### What progress are we seeing?

- Improvements are being seen in services with more organisations becoming more trauma informed and improving digital engagement and access.
- There is a growing understanding of the links between homelessness, mental ill health, addictions, and domestic abuse with better partnership and multi-agency working being seen with focus on developing prevention pathways.
- The growth of Housing First means more housing and support is offered on the principle of choice & control and has seen increasing numbers of people get access to the housing and support they need.
- We are seeing more people settled at home by flipping temporary furnished flats to Scottish Secure Tenancies, creating easier access routes into the Private Rented Sector and moving away from dormitory style night shelters by introducing Welcome Centres.
- There are more examples of peer support being available for people, with services focusing on creating safe environments and thinking carefully about language to help people feel more welcome.



## What is getting in the way?

High caseloads, high staff turnover and difficulties in recruitment mean too many services are short-staffed, limited in what they can deliver and leaving staff at risk of burnout

Funding is still limited and short term, making it difficult to spend time to build positive relationships, and limitations on available housing mean too many people in recovery are still being offered unsuitable tenancies.

There are still too many cracks for people to fall through, e.g. when leaving prison and not enough coordinated working between addictions and mental health services.

New homes are not being built quickly enough to respond to local demand, especially in rural areas, and there is a mismatch between available housing and the people who need it (e.g. challenges accessing larger homes, accessible homes).

Language used can still be over complicated and messages about homelessness can still be negative.

Read our report, Taking the Temperature here: <https://bit.ly/AIFCTemperature>

## PLANS FOR GETTING MORE PEOPLE INVOLVED

The Change Team would like to encourage more people with living experience to join the National Conversation. The Change team want to show people that their voices are being heard. It would be easier to engage people on a one-to-one basis as people find it harder to build trust during online group sessions. Change Leads working and living in the same area are linking up and talking to people together.

People are wanting more events and workshops to find out about the 4 New Directions

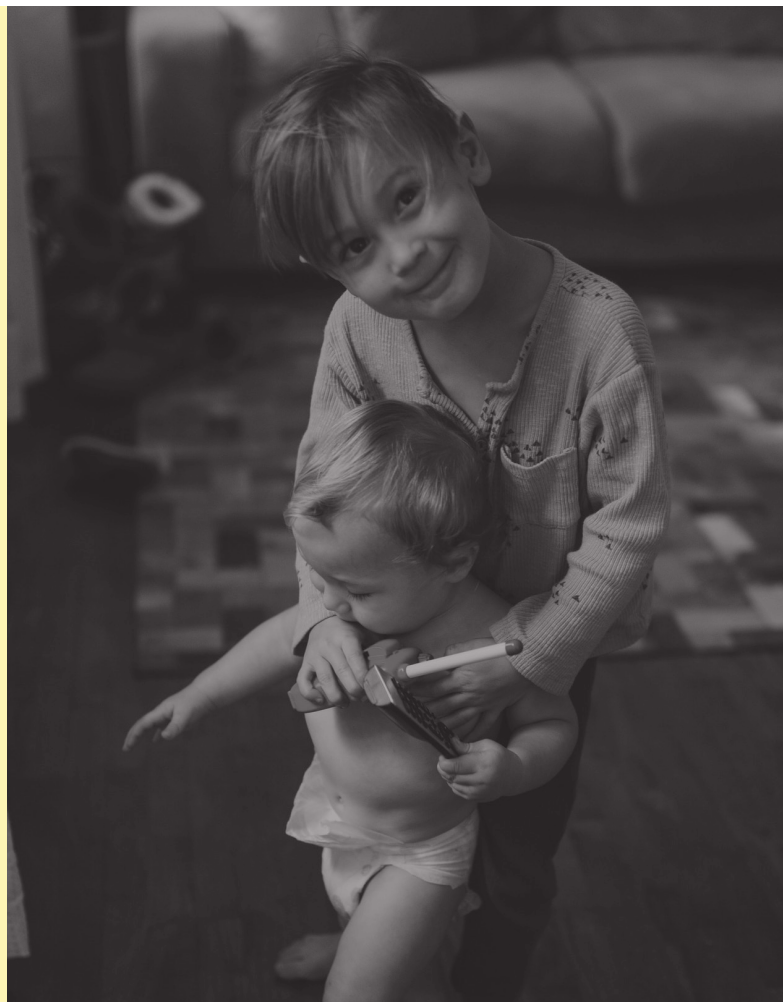
It is thought that young people will engage better in-person, in small groups, but online meetings are still needed for those who can't meet in person.



---

# TACKLING CHILD POVERTY DELIVERY PLAN 2022-2026

**The Change Team participated in a consultation to inform Scottish Government's next Tackling Child Poverty plan and share their experience about what policies and actions are currently working, what could be better and what's getting in the way to reduce child poverty in Scotland**



## What is currently working?

Kinship support seems to be working well and helping to prevent Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

Improvements during the pandemic have included the roll out of free school meals and bridging the gap in digital inclusion and access.

## What could be better?

There needs to be more ways to detect homelessness in high schools to prevent reaching crisis point. Reaching young people at crisis point is too late, irreversible damage will be caused.

The Private Rented Sector (PRS) pilot in Edinburgh could be a good option for families which would give families choice to live near their children's schools and support networks.

Services are still too hard to access for young people, even at crisis point. There are too many rules and there are not good enough links between child services and adult services, meaning that when someone reaches 18 they have to re-start their application.

There needs to be better links to get children from poorer community to school, more public and school buses. Ferry travel needs to be included in free travel to help island communities.

## What is getting in the way?

People in crisis will do anything to protect their children, but many parents are not wanting to speak out about risks of homelessness in fear that their children will be taken away from them. There needs to be more awareness within communities that new plans are there to protect people, not catch them out.

In cases of young people seeking support for mental health they are either not seen to be ill enough, or too ill for any support.

More awareness and support is needed around post-natal depression. Some services mistakenly blame drug and alcohol use women are struggling to cope after giving birth.

---

---

# HOMELESSNESS, HOUSING AND A NATIONAL CARE SERVICE

**The Change Team set out their key priorities to be considered as part of the Scottish Government's consultation on the development of a National Care Service**



Change Leads believe that housing is a key route into services for many people. Temporary accommodation is where some people will seek support for the first time in a long while. But, housing and homelessness services should only be one of the routes into accessing the right care people need. Social care needs to be able to be provided independently.

Housing dictates (through the postcode) which services you can access so has to be part of the National care service. Too many people are losing their homes due to not having the correct care plan in place – this should not be overlooked.

When discussing a 'whole system' approach the Change Team commented that there are missed opportunities for partnership working across sectors and more links between housing and homelessness and other services are needed. This can be difficult as it feels like some sectors are ahead of others when it comes to partnership working.

Being part of a community and being able to connect with what's going on has a massive impact on people's wellbeing, and gives people hope. Not having this is a missed opportunity and should be included when looking at individuals care plan.

In relation to the proposal for a single plan, people are fed up of telling their story but, people need to be involved in the decisions being made about their access to care and support, rather than this happening between professionals. People need to be ready to move on. Care needs to be taken about how information about a person is shared.

More trauma informed training is needed and an awareness of the importance of building trust and people's abilities to trust different people in different ways.

---

# NOTICES

## Ending Homelessness Together Action Plan

An annual report has been created on progress against the actions in the Ending Homelessness Together action plan.

You can read this here: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/ending-homelessness-together-annual-report-2021/>

## Fair Work Priorities

A public consultation has been launched to help shape our future Fair Work priorities.

You can find out more about this here:

<https://consult.gov.scot/fair-work-employability-and-skills/fair-work-nation>

## Housing First Pathfinder

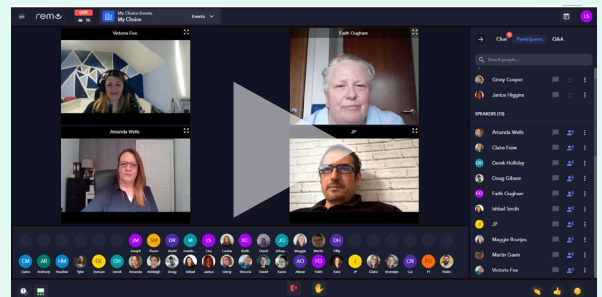
The Housing First Pathfinder has announced its interim report. Please read this here:

[Housing First Pathfinder Interim Report \(full report\) - 22 September 2022 \(A34723498\)](#)

## Homeless Network Scotland Annual Conference

Change Leads, Viki, Amanda, JP and Faith participated in Scotland's Annual Homelessness Conference and did a great job in promotion our National Conversation and telling people what we have found out so far.

You can watch this here:  
**No Choice Without Options Day 3**  
[All In For Change Panel - YouTube](#)



**Date of the next retreat**  
Thursday 28 October 2021

# ALL<sup>IN</sup> FOR CHANGE

THE CHANGE TEAM | KEEP IN TOUCH

16a Adelphi Centre, 12 Commercial Road, Glasgow G5 0PQ  
0141 420 7272 | [changeteam@homelessnetwork.scot](mailto:changeteam@homelessnetwork.scot)  
[www.homelessnetwork.scot](http://www.homelessnetwork.scot)

Homeless Network Scotland is a charity registered in Scotland (SC0 03453) and company limited by guarantee (SC112361).  
Registered Office: Adelphi Centre, 12 Commercial Road, Glasgow G5 0PQ. CEO: Margaret-Ann Brünjes