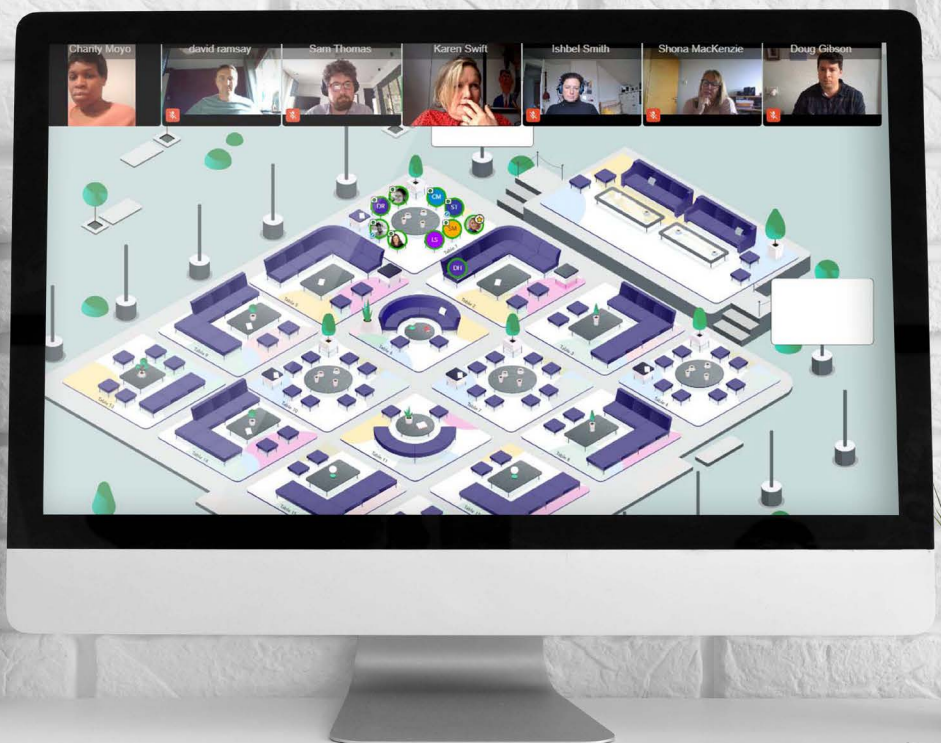


Homeless Network Scotland

we are all in



Our Impact

July - December 2021

Connect, Learn & Act

on homelessness to end it for good

In our last impact report, we noted deep uncertainty about what the second half of 2021 would hold for people already navigating the homelessness system. And for those at new risk of homelessness in Scotland due to the conditions created by the pandemic - job loss, poverty, pressure on our wellbeing and relationships.

The emergence of the new COVID-19 variant toward the end of last year reinforced that uncertainty. And while identifiable rough sleeping in towns and cities remains at record low, the numbers of individuals and families in temporary accommodation started to creep back up again this period.

Scotland's Housing First Pathfinder has been the shining light we've needed in the homelessness sector during this time. Achieving results in line with international best practice – and most of that delivered during a pandemic too. In September 2021, this became a matter of record when the independent evaluation showed that the Pathfinder partners had been “highly effective” at supporting people with the sharpest experiences of homelessness to stay in their homes.

Housing First is working in Scotland because people are taking a chance on it to end their own experience of homelessness. And it's working thanks to the tenacity of support workers, the political and practical commitment at national and local level and the leadership of key housing associations. In the first half of 2022 we will mark the end of the extraordinary Pathfinder and explore what we now know, and need, to keep branching out Housing First across all parts of Scotland.



Maggie Brünjes
Chief Executive

Connect

What we did

We connected with people across Scotland, the UK and Europe, participating in and facilitating conversations on a proposed new Right to Addiction Recovery, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on homelessness and rough sleeping, the proposals for a new National Care Service in Scotland, and continuing to scale-up Housing First across Scotland.

Our Impact across Scotland

200
attend our
Annual
Conference

No Choice Without Options

Over 200 people signed up over 3-days to participate in Scotland’s annual homelessness conference, which this year explored the theme of choice from multiple perspectives. Delegates connected with over 45 speakers including the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing & Local Government. The conference offered a range of keynotes, panel discussions, and ‘learning lots’ with insight from sector leaders, politicians, and people with lived experience of homelessness helping to frame a set of take-way messages from the conference.



Watch online

<https://bit.ly/HNSyoutube>

Members Events

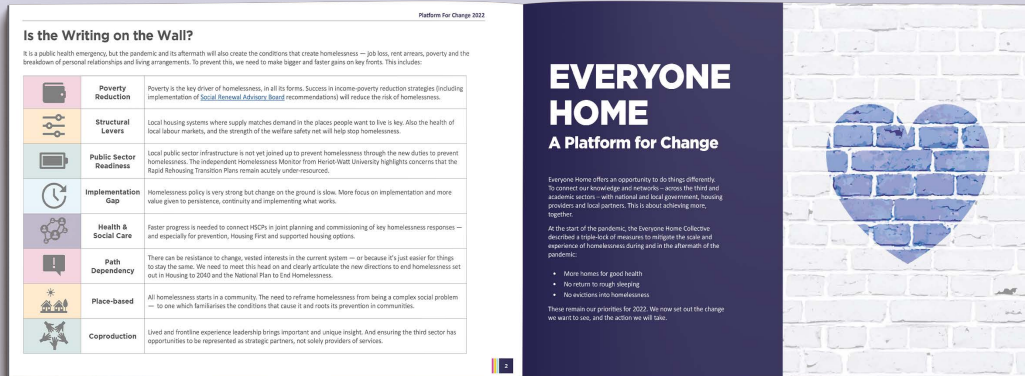
We welcomed 230 people altogether to a number of online Members’ Events, including:

- All in for Change National Conversation
- Veterans Homelessness
- Plans for a new National Care Service in Scotland
- Proposals for a Right to Addiction Recovery Bill



Everyone Home Collective: Platform for Change

The members of the Everyone Home Collective set out the change we want to see in 2022 to deliver on the priorities of More Homes for Good Health, No Return to Rough Sleeping, and No Evictions into Homelessness.



Read Platform For Change
<https://bit.ly/PlatformForChange>

Housing First Scotland Webinars

123 people joined our Housing First webinars focused on Harm Reduction, and the launch of new support infrastructure for local authorities and partners scaling-up Housing First across Scotland.

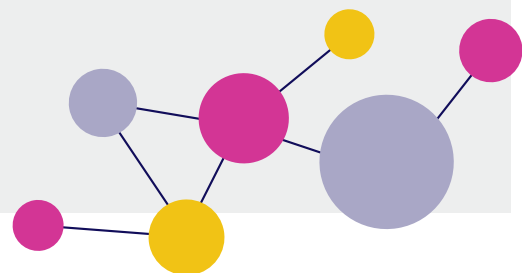
Across the UK and Europe:

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

- Participating in the annual **Housing First Wales Conference** hosted by Cymorth Cymru.
- Delivering a presentation at the **Fourth International Housing First Conference** with colleagues from Turning Point Scotland.
- Speaking at the **Institute of Global Homelessness** webinar on Housing First in International Contexts.
- Delivering a presentation for Campaign Leads as part of **World Habitat's European End Street Homelessness Campaign**



Community of Impact Webinar Series
<https://ighomelessness.org/igh-online-community-of-impact>



Learn

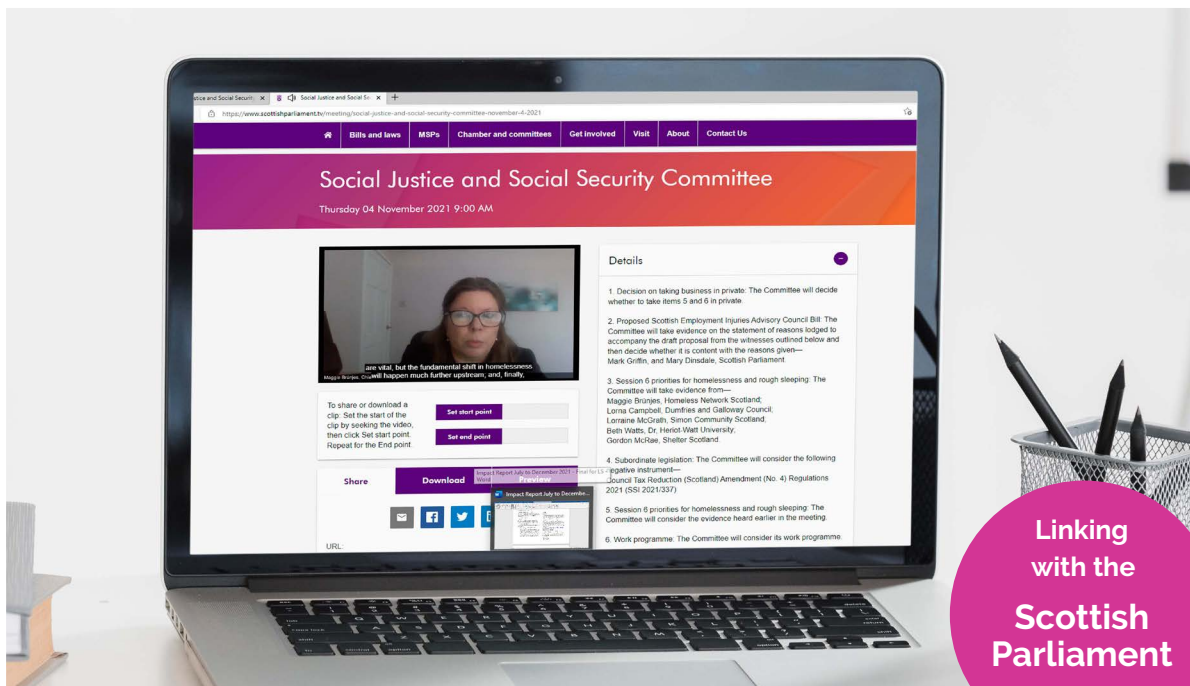
What we did

As a knowledge-based organisation, we promoted and shared learning across our networks and partnerships. We continued our outreach to universities and colleges to raise awareness of homelessness amongst health and social work students, gave evidence at parliamentary committees, and published a series of research reports

Our Impact

Scottish Parliament Social Justice & Social Security Committee

We were pleased to give evidence at the Social Justice & Social Security Committee of the Scottish Parliament, contributing to their first meeting on homelessness. Our evidence included the importance of homelessness prevention and Housing First, the ‘implementation gap’ between homelessness policy and practice, and the risk of homelessness rising post-pandemic.



 **Watch the Committee Meeting**
<https://bit.ly/3oFAiTA>

National Care Service Consultation

Following consultation with members we submitted and published our response to the joint Scottish Government and COSLA consultation on plans for a new National Care Service in Scotland, in partnership with SFHA, the Everyone Home Collective, and the All in for Change Team. The joint response set out 7 key strands that frame what a National Care Service could be:

- People Led
- Home Centred
- Preventative
- Rights-Based
- Fairer
- De-stigmatising
- Improving



Outreach to Universities

Building on our partnership with Public Health Scotland, we continued to focus on working alongside colleges and universities to increase knowledge about homelessness among health and social work students. We reached 182 students across the Universities of Glasgow and Strathclyde focusing on homelessness prevention, the social determinants of health, and Psychologically Informed Environments.

Scotland's Housing First Pathfinder: Interim Evaluation

The interim report of the independent evaluation of Scotland's Housing First Pathfinder was published in September 2021, based on a combination of data analysis and first-hand testimony from tenants, support providers, local authorities and national stakeholders.

The evaluation findings highlight the effectiveness of supporting people with the sharpest experiences of homelessness to stay in their homes, with the Pathfinder delivering a 12-month tenancy sustainment rate of 84% and a 24-month rate of 82%.

"The housing retention rates achieved by the Pathfinder to date are particularly impressive given the additional challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic has presented. Many lessons have been learned regarding what helps and what hinders Housing First delivery, and these will be invaluable as Pathfinder services are mainstreamed and the approach is rolled out more widely across Scotland."

Professor Sarah Johnsen
I-SPHERE



Read the Interim Report

<https://bit.ly/3rHaSqs>

Shared Spaces research

Scotland's transition to Rapid Rehousing and Housing First has necessitated a reconsideration of the role of supported housing as a response to homelessness. We published the final report of the Shared Spaces research, led by Anna Evans at Indigo House, as well as a policy position setting out recommendations for a transformation programme toward supported housing being provided as a settled housing option for a small number of people who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness within 6-months, who don't want and/or can't sustain a mainstream tenancy, including with Housing First support.



Shared Spaces

<https://homelessnetwork.scot/shared-spaces>



Act

What we did

We continued to turn our connections and learning into action, ensuring we do more of what works and what matters.



Our Impact

1. Prioritise Prevention

Staying In

We launched the Staying In project in the Gorbals and Pollok areas of Glasgow, which takes a place-based approach to preventing homelessness and in partnership with Unity and SCDC. Local grassroots organisations received a share of £200,000 of funding from the National Lottery Community Fund and will make use of existing resources and skills to solve the issues experienced by local people that often lead to homelessness.



“The ‘Staying In’ Gorbals funding has allowed us to provide wrap-around support for Ethnic minority families at risk of homelessness before they present as homeless. Our homelessness intervention hub is open on Thursdays and Fridays. The majority of families are asylum seekers, refugees and ethnic minorities who speak very little English, struggling with the challenges of overcrowding, squatting, low income and troubles with neighbours. The funding meant that DAWSON could assign them individual caseworkers and teach English.”

Dr Chioma Nwafur

Executive Director, Diaspora African Women Support Network (DAWSUN)

2. Help The Transition To Rapid Rehousing

Housing First – the help!

Following consultation with local authorities and partners across the country, we launched a programme of Housing First infrastructure for everyone helping Housing First become the first response for people going through tough times.

- **Housing First Connect:** a series of conferences, events, seminars, briefings, and news bulletins to ensure we are working together across local authority boundaries to plan and deliver Housing First effectively.
- **Housing First Know-How:** gathering and sharing, through the Branching Out National Framework, the best knowledge, evidence, and expertise on Housing First.
- **Housing First Check-Up:** a reflective, supportive process to support local authorities and partners to plan, cost and deliver Housing First in line with the national framework and Housing First principles. The first round will be completed by spring 2022.
- **Housing First Academy:** in partnership with Turning Point Scotland, a programme of learning and training opportunities for partners delivering Housing First at all levels, delivered by expert practitioners

3. End Rough Sleeping And Destitution

Fair Way Scotland

We published the Fair Way Scotland 5-year delivery plan in collaboration with a multi-sector partnership of 35 organisations committed to creating a safe destination, support, and advice for people with no recourse to public funds in Scotland. The plan sets out a fair way forward through a new system and service design to end homelessness and destitution and protect human rights. On course to launch in April 2022, it will be delivered by Scottish Refugee Council, Refugee Survival Trust, Safe in Scotland, Simon Community Scotland and Turning Point Scotland. This will be supported by an evaluation, learning and influencing infrastructure from Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Heriot-Watt University and Homeless Network Scotland.

We also hosted a roundtable for funders, grant-makers and commissioners, chaired by the Robertson Trust, to take-stock of recent policy and mood changes that will impact on people who seek sanctuary in the UK, including:

- briefing on recent immigration policy developments.
- A discussion on how devolved nations are working to create a fairer way forward.
- An update on Fair Way Scotland, an exploratory action learning programme to design-out destitution and protect human rights.



Fair Way Scotland

<https://bit.ly/FairWayScot>

4. Platform For Lived Experience

Glasgow Homelessness Involvement & Feedback Team (GHIFT)

The Glasgow Homelessness Involvement & Feedback Team (GHIFT) continued to support the work of the Glasgow Alliance to End Homelessness and the Glasgow Health & Social Care Partnership. Between July and December we:

- Bid farewell to long-standing members of the group who have moved onto employment opportunities.
- Welcomed 10 new people with lived experience of homelessness to drive GHIFT forward.
- Consulted with 45 people in Glasgow with experience of using outreach services as part of the strategic review being undertaken by the Glasgow Alliance to End Homelessness.

5. Systems And Culture Change

Does it feel like things are changing on the ground?

The All in for Change Team launched a national conversation to understand whether people in frontline roles or using frontline services think that things are getting better for people affected by homelessness.

The temperature was measured against the Change Team's 4 New Directions to End Homeless – **People First, At Home, No Wrong Door and Good Vibes**. And at the national homelessness conference in October, Change Leads launched the key findings in the Taking the Temperature report.

Has there been progress in putting **People First**? People fed back that they see:

- An increased focus on trauma-informed approaches.
- A growing understanding of the links between homelessness, mental ill health, addictions, and domestic abuse.
- Improvements in digital engagement, allowing services to reach more people.
- The growth of Housing First across the country with a focus on strength-based support.

Has there been progress in enabling people to build their life **At Home**? People fed back that they see:

- An increase in converting (or flipping) temporary furnished flats to Scottish Secure Tenancies, allowing people to settle into their homes more quickly.
- The establishment of the Welcome Centres in Glasgow and Edinburgh, moving away from dormitory-style night shelters.
- The rollout of Housing First across the country, leading to more people getting access to the housing and support they need.

Has there been progress in delivering **No Wrong Door**? People fed back that they see:

- More areas developing prevention pathways, with dedicated teams and interventions being established.
- Better partnership working during the pandemic, with more trust being built and the right people round the table to make the right decisions.
- Public health responses during the pandemic contributing to ensuring access to accommodation for everyone, including those with no recourse to public funds.

Has there been progress in promoting **Good Vibes** when we work together? People fed back that they see:

- More examples of peer support across the country, which helps build respect and trust.
- Increased focus on creating environments where people feel welcome.
- More training and regular reflective practice for staff.



Read Taking the Temperature

<https://bit.ly/AIFCTemperature>

**Homeless
Network
Scotland**
we are all in

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