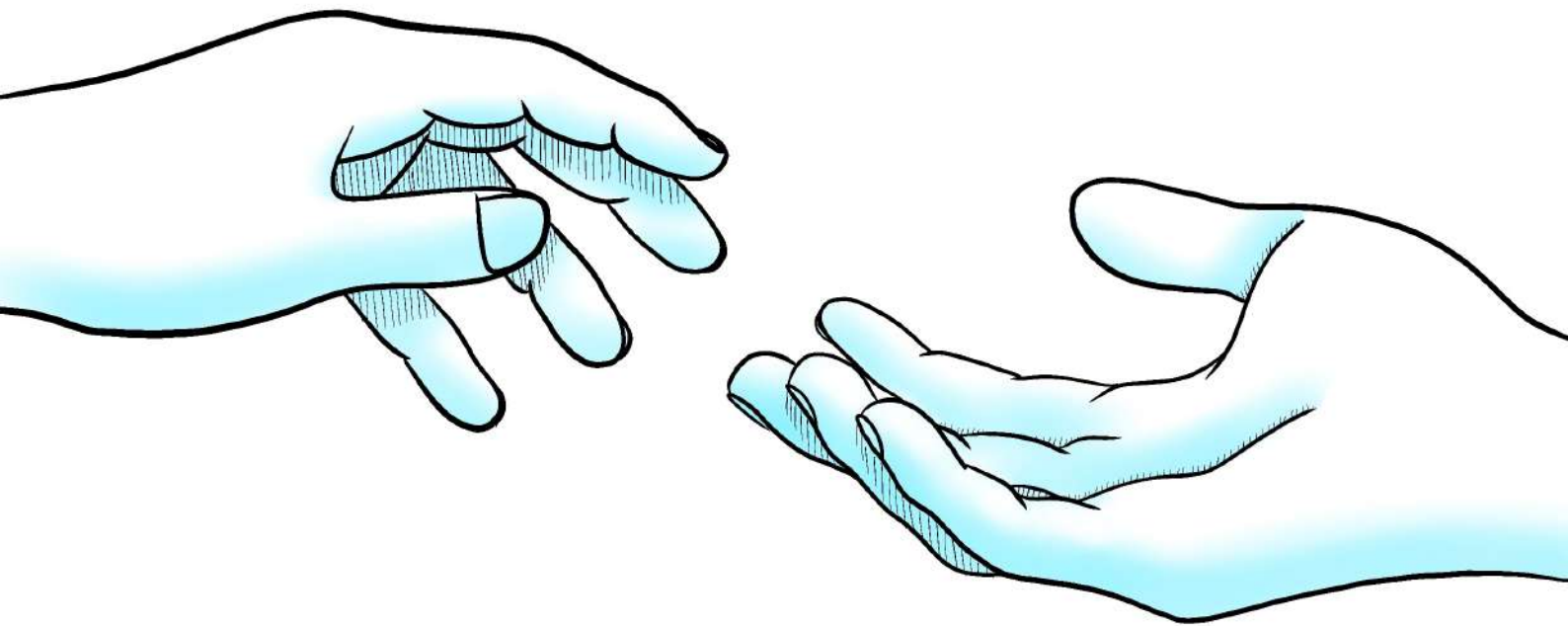


# Youth Homelessness Prevention Pathway



FOR ALL YOUNG PEOPLE

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## Foreword

*A Way Home Scotland* is the national coalition to end youth homelessness in Scotland.

We are a wide group of individuals who come from different organisations across sectors, and we are united by our commitment to end youth homelessness. We work in partnership to ensure our young people can make the transition into adulthood without experiencing the trauma, isolation and exclusion that comes with having no place to call home. This is not a pipe dream, homelessness is not inevitable, ending youth homelessness is an achievable ambition. We know it can be done, and in this Youth Homelessness Prevention Pathway we lay out how it can be realised.

The consequences of the pandemic will have a devastating impact on the lives of our young people. Nonetheless, during these incredibly challenging times, the work to end homelessness in Scotland has not stopped and important milestones have been reached. At the height of the pandemic, the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group was reconvened to ensure their recommendations reflected the added challenges brought by the pandemic. To respond rapidly to the new demands caused by Covid-19, the Everyone Home Collective, a combination of 19 influential charity sector organisations, came together to begin immediate work to permanently end rough sleeping, building on the progress made during the pandemic. In February 2021, the Prevention Review Group published its aspirational recommendations, which if implemented, would change homelessness legislation in Scotland and take us closer to ending homelessness. *A Way Home Scotland* has created a Pathway and will support its implementation to make youth homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring.

*A Way Home Scotland* and young people from Aff the Streets have become part of this growing movement that places partnership, leadership and lived experience at the heart of policy-making.

In 2019, we published our first youth homelessness prevention pathway for young people leaving care, recognising that despite progressive legislation and legal protections, care leavers experience homelessness far too often. In this pathway, we recommend actions that will prevent homelessness for all young people, through a lens that does not see homelessness solely as a housing problem, but as a structural, systemic, and social issue.

The Covid-19 pandemic has forced us to re-evaluate what really matters to us. Today, more than ever, we recognise that family, friends, and social interactions are the fundamentals of our health and well-being. The fluctuating lockdown restrictions have intensified recognition of the need for a home, providing stability, a place to be and belong, to feel safe and secure. It is our shared responsibility to make this a reality for our young people. It is their right to expect the best start in their journey into adulthood.

With the right will, resources and belief, we can achieve the ending of youth homelessness as a legacy to our children and young people.



**Tam Baillie**  
CHAIR OF A WAY HOME SCOTLAND

## Foreword

Tackling and preventing homelessness isn't just about housing, it is about providing wider support to ensure people's needs are met. Settled housing with that support is vital as a stable foundation for a person to tackle an array of challenges – no matter what age they are.

We know that young people aged 16-25 are a disproportionately over-represented group of those at risk of homelessness and prevention is key to ensuring that as young folk are entering adulthood, they have the stability of a home.

Prevention is at the heart of our ambition to end homelessness in Scotland, and we must work in partnership across a number of sectors, including housing, education, justice and health, to prevent homelessness for young people to enable them to have the opportunity to flourish and achieve their full potential without barriers.

We very much welcome this report and thank the members of the *A Way Home Scotland* Coalition for their time, dedication, and commitment to producing this report and the recommendations. We look forward to working with them and other partners on Ending Homelessness Together.



**Kevin Stewart, MSP**  
**MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT,  
HOUSING AND PLANNING**



**Maree Todd, MSP**  
**MINISTER FOR CHILDREN  
AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

## 1. Introduction

In Scotland young people between the age of 16-25 account for almost 12% of the overall population<sup>1</sup>, nonetheless they comprise near 25% of all homeless applications<sup>2</sup>, making them the most disproportionately overrepresented group within the homeless community. As homelessness is not simply a housing issue, providing housing alone will not contribute to a healthy transition into adulthood for most young people who are forced to leave their families and homes without skills and support. That is why youth-specific preventative responses should be widely developed and adopted throughout Scotland. The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group (HARSAG<sup>3</sup>) recommended that pathways to prevent homelessness should be developed for groups that evidence tells us are more at risk of homelessness and rough sleeping, including young people. The Ending Homelessness Together High Level Action Plan, that followed from the HARSAG recommendations assures that:

**“ We will ensure a clear, effective focus on preventing and responding effectively to youth homelessness. Rapid rehousing transition plans will be required to respond appropriately to the needs of young people experiencing homelessness and include the planning and development of pathways and a range of affordable housing options and associated supports for young people.”<sup>4</sup>**

This report and its recommendations have been drafted by members and partners of the coalition to end youth homelessness, A Way Home Scotland, to prevent homelessness amongst young people aged 16-25. It is important to note that in Scotland, the definition of a child varies in different legal contexts, but statutory guidance which supports the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, includes all children and young people up to the age of 18<sup>5</sup>. Where concerns are raised about a 16 or 17-year-old, agencies will need to consider which legislation or guidance is appropriate to follow, given the age and situation of the young person at risk. To progress this work, several multi-agency meetings were held, coordinated by the A Way Home Scotland coalition. Young people from the National Youth Steering Group, Aff the Streets, were also consulted throughout the development of this document. Whilst the coalition and partners considered the needs of young people generally, groups of young people particularly at risk, such as lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) young people, young people who have experience of childhood adversity, children, and young people in conflict with the law and young people who experience health issues were a particular focus.

Young people leaving care are also at an increased risk of homelessness and have additional legal protections and rights, therefore a separate and specific pathway document was created to support practice and implementation in this area<sup>6</sup>. However young people on the edges of care or who are care experienced and do not have these protections are considered in this paper.

To prevent youth homelessness, we must first understand its causes, the characteristics of the groups at risk of experiencing it and the policies, strategies, and interventions needed to fulfil

1 <https://www.gov.scot/publications/youth-homelessness-statistics-2019-to-2020/>

2 Ibid

3 <https://www.gov.scot/groups/homelessness-and-rough-sleeping-action-group/>

4 Scottish Government, *Ending Homelessness Together High Level Action Plan*, 2018, p.21.

5 *Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014*, s 15.

6 <https://www.awayhomescotland.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2020/04/YHPP-Final-7.11.2019-digital-version.pdf>

this aim. This document follows a five-tier model of prevention, considering universal, targeted, crisis, emergency, and recovery prevention. Despite certain gaps in the data, studies and research undertaken locally, nationally, and internationally prove that the factors around youth homelessness remain largely the same.

As stated above, youth homelessness is more than a housing issue, and its economic, social, and cultural roots need to be considered when looking at prevention. A national approach to youth homelessness policies, strategies, systems, services, and practice is therefore required. This calls for change across youth, welfare, education, health, justice, housing, homelessness and the children and families’ sectors and departments at both a national and local level.

## 2. Homelessness Prevention

Over the past decade, the Scottish Government has committed to ending homelessness and rough sleeping in Scotland, prioritising the development of prevention policies and practices. The Ending Homelessness Together: High Level Action Plan<sup>7</sup> is a testament to this commitment and sets the direction for concrete and long-term change towards ending homelessness. To progress this agenda notwithstanding the current pandemic, the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group (HARSAG), which was set up in 2017 to recommend to the Scottish Government actions and solutions needed to eradicate homelessness<sup>8</sup>, was reconvened for a fast-track piece of work which resulted in 104 new recommendations<sup>9</sup>. This focus on prevention, the importance of the voices of those with lived experience and the commitment to work in partnerships, have shaped the direction of the work of A Way Home, as well as the development of this paper.

Since the early stages of the building of the coalition, its aims and plans, the need for a multifaced approach to ending youth homelessness was clear. A shift to a rare, brief, and non-recurring experience of homelessness for young people would require building strategies for prevention, rapid rehousing, and ongoing practical and social support. A Way Home has been led by the sector as to the scope of prevention activity and the ongoing work to investigate the potential of a prevention duty in Scotland. To ensure a consistent approach the coalition has created this report to address the five tiers of prevention, which are:



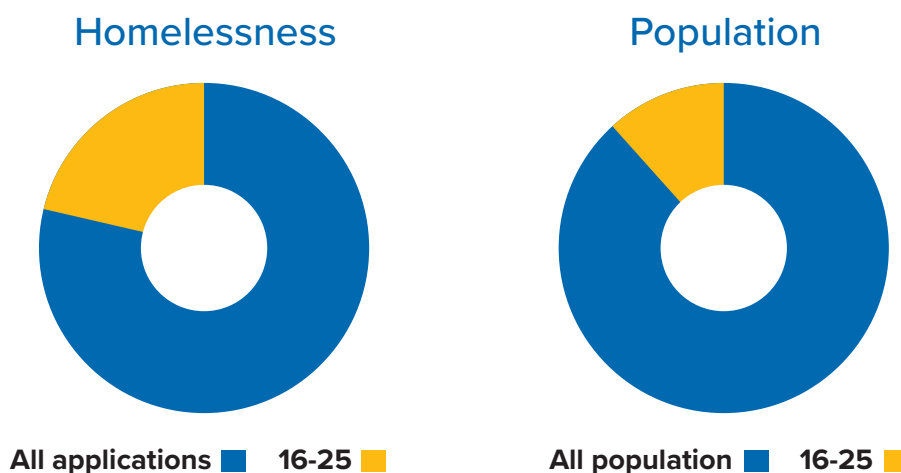
7 <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/strategy-plan/2018/11/ending-homelessness-together-high-level-action-plan/documents/00543359-pdf/00543359-pdf/govscot%3Adocument/00543359.pdf>

8 <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/factsheet/2018/06/homelessness-and-rough-sleeping-action-group-final-report/documents/hrsag-final-report-june-2018-pdf/hrsag-final-report-june-2018-pdf/govscot%3Adocument/HRSAG%2BFinal%2BReport%2BJune%2B2018.pdf>

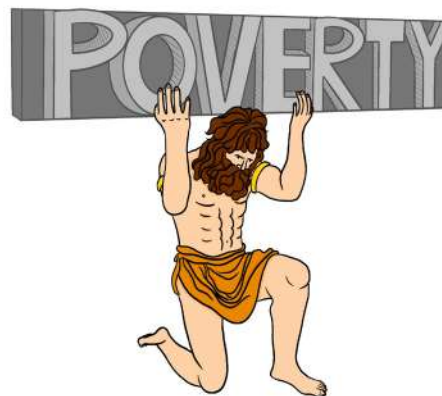
9 <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/corporate-report/2020/07/homelessness-and-rough-sleeping-action-group-final-report-tackling-coronavirus/documents/harsag-final-report-on-homelessness-after-coronavirus/harsag-final-report-on-homelessness-after-coronavirus/govscot%3Adocument/200819%2BHARSAG2%2BCOVID%2Breport.pdf>

### 3. Youth Homelessness: Background and Context

After years of consistent decline, the number of homeless applicants is increasing again and in 2019/20, 36,855 homelessness applications were made to local authorities<sup>10</sup>, 31,333 of which were assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness<sup>11</sup>. Young people aged 16-25 continue to be disproportionately represented in the population experiencing homelessness. The statistics for 2019/2020, published by the Scottish Government, show that 8,319 people between the age of 16 and 25 presented as homeless, comprising nearly 26% of all homeless applications<sup>12</sup>.



Youth homelessness is primarily caused by relationships breakdown<sup>13</sup>, but a key structural factor that undoubtedly underpins this issue is poverty<sup>14</sup>. The number of people experiencing poverty has been increasing since 2012<sup>15</sup>, and whilst the focus of policy discussion has been mainly on child poverty levels, the risk of destitution is highest among single men aged under 25. Research has shown that young people disproportionately bear the burden of poverty<sup>16</sup>, which together with housing and labour precariousness and discrimination, drive youth homelessness. There is evidence that shows that countries with poverty reduction strategies and strong welfare states have lower rates of child poverty and lower numbers of young people presenting as homeless<sup>17</sup>. Additionally, substantial investments in social housing have proven to drastically reduce homelessness across all age groups<sup>18</sup>. Indeed, for young people accessing affordable housing is generally very difficult; they are largely in low paid and insecure employment, with very few opportunities for skills-development. Zero-hour contracts, the inability to provide references or proof of income, results in difficulty to access affordable accommodation, making it harder



10 <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/statistics/2020/08/homelessness-scotland-2019-2020/documents/homelessness-scotland-2019-20/homelessness-scotland-2019-20/govscot%3Adocument/homelessness-scotland-2019-20.pdf>, p. 7.

11 Ibid.

12 *Supra* note 1.

13 Ibid.

14 D. Quilgars, S. Johnsen, N. Pleace, *Youth Homelessness in the UK. A decade of progress?*, JRF, 2008, p. 4.

15 <https://www.jrf.org.uk/data/poverty-levels-and-trends-england-wales-scotland-and-northern-ireland>

16 B. Watts, S. Johnsen, F. Sosenko, *Youth Homelessness in the UK A Review for the Ovo Foundation*, I-Sphere, 2015, p. 15.

17 S. Gaetz, K. Schwan, M. Redman, D. French, E. Dey, *The Roadmap to Prevention of Youth Homelessness*, Canadian Observatory on homelessness press, 2018, p. 29.

18 Ibid.

to avoid and move away from homelessness. Access to employment with fair pay or income supports is vital for this group who often rely on welfare to fund the gap between income and rental costs.

Young people become homeless mainly (61%) from either their family or parental homes or houses shared with partners or friends<sup>19</sup>. Whilst the primary causes of homelessness are reported to be relationship breakdown or being asked to leave, the reasons for this are not always clear. We know that financial pressures on families, the challenge of parenting teenagers and the increase in young people requiring mental health or other support, may have an impact on relationships. Besides, LGBT young people may be rejected from the family home due to negative reactions to their emerging LGBT identity. Identifying the families who require some support, providing mentoring or mediation as well as enabling them to easily access these services, are vital to providing these early interventions models needed to prevent family breakdown and crisis.

An important aspect of youth homelessness is that young people are more likely to be part of the “hidden homeless” population<sup>20</sup>. While in Scotland data is collected routinely across all local authorities, those numbers do not include young people staying with friends or families, in unsafe, precarious, or overcrowded housing, thus excluding a potentially high number of young people at risk. Additionally, the information we do have relies on self-reporting and we know that there may be inaccuracies as young people may not disclose the real circumstances or causes of their homelessness, particularly if they are worried about any discrimination they might encounter. Young people who experience homelessness often share common experiences including being LGBT, experiencing neglect or abuse, truanting, leaving school early, running away or parental ill health, substance use or violence at home. We need to improve the quality of the data collected and the assessment process to encourage young people to provide accurate information and assess the need of the population to direct provision.

Further to early childhood trauma, young people who have to leave their homes do so without having acquired the necessary life skills needed to live independently or without having built resilience and support networks, necessary for self-development and as protection from future adversity. These adverse childhood experiences not only impact development and behaviours during childhood but also affect the ability to develop positive relationships in the future. The approach of services must therefore be trauma-informed, recognising the importance of relationships, and seeking to support recovery.



<sup>19</sup> *Supra* note 1.

<sup>20</sup> *Supra* note 16, 58.

## 4. Scottish Policy and Legislative Context

In recent years homelessness has gained a new focus with HARSAG and the subsequent Ending Homelessness Together High-Level Action Plan. This directed all 32 Local Authorities to develop Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans (RRTPs) to prevent homelessness and implement the national Housing First programme<sup>21</sup>. Whilst much of this work has focused on addressing chronic and entrenched homelessness and rough sleeping in particular, prevention has also been highlighted as a vital part of the strategy to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring.



This combined with the current Affordable Housing Supply Programme<sup>22</sup> and the extension of The Homeless Persons (Unsuitable Accommodation) (Scotland) Order<sup>23</sup> also contribute to addressing housing availability and quality.

Scotland has long held a reputation for having some of the most progressive homelessness legislation and policies. The 2009 Prevention of Homelessness Guidance<sup>24</sup>, which describes the action that local authorities should take to prevent homelessness, and the 2012 Scottish Parliament report “Having and keeping a Home: Preventing homelessness amongst young people”<sup>25</sup> are clear indicators of the ongoing commitment shown to tackle homelessness. Of very high relevance is also the Housing Options<sup>26</sup> approach to preventing homelessness, which is credited with bringing about the decline in applications from 2010.

The prevention duties implemented in other UK countries have yet to be introduced here, although the Scottish Government is currently working with partners to address this. The Prevention Duty Review Group<sup>27</sup> undertook and consulted with over 100 partners and stakeholders, including A Way Home Scotland and Aff the Streets. The Group has developed a set of recommendations that aim to reform the homelessness system as a whole<sup>28</sup>. The recommendations are wide-ranging, and if implemented they would transform homelessness legislation to focus on helping individuals as early as possible, providing them with choice and control over their housing needs and ensuring that homelessness prevention is a shared public responsibility.

There are also organisations with specialist skills and expertise working together to create and implement Prevention Pathways for each group considered to be at risk of homelessness, as stated in the Ending Homelessness Together Plan.

To address the consequences that Covid-19 will have for people experiencing homelessness and for service providers, in June 2020 the Scottish Government reconvened HARSAG.

21 <https://homelessnetwork.scot/housing-first/>

22 <https://www.gov.scot/policies/more-homes/affordable-housing-supply/>

23 <https://www.gov.scot/publications/amendment-homeless-persons-unsuitable-accommodation-scotland-order-2020-crwia/#:~:text=The%20extension%20of%20the%20Unsuitable,dependent%20children%20and%20pregnant%20women.>

24 Scottish Government, *Prevention of Homeless Guidance*, 2009.

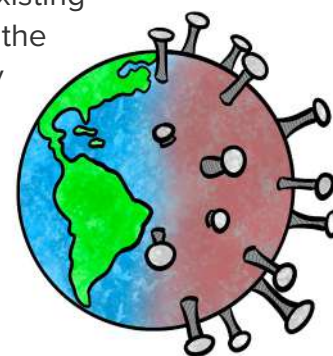
25 Equal Opportunities Committee, *Having and Keeping a Home: steps to preventing homelessness among young people*, 2012.

26 <https://www.gov.scot/policies/homelessness/homelessness-prevention/>

27 <https://www.crisis.org.uk/ending-homelessness/scotland-prevention-review-group/>

28 <https://www.crisis.org.uk/media/244558/preventing-homelessness-in-scotland.pdf>

The Group met and consulted with many different organisations, including A Way Home Scotland, and published over 100 recommendations for local authorities, Scottish and UK Governments and other key partners. The recommendations and the updated Ending Homelessness Together Action Plan<sup>29</sup> that followed, highlighted the importance of prevention given the public health crisis and the developing economic crisis. Covid-19 is having an unparalleled impact on existing key drivers of youth homelessness, namely relationship breakdown, economic insecurity, and mental health. Young people have disproportionately lost their jobs or been furloughed, many of them have lost the traditional safeguards provided by the education system, and lockdown restrictions have increased pre-existing family tension, abuse, and violence. Coronavirus makes young people the group most at risk of long-term disadvantage, making them particularly vulnerable to unemployment, worsen mental health, evictions, and fewer career prospects<sup>30</sup>. Cross-government strategies that recognise the long-term impact of Covid-19 on young people and that are delivered both nationally and locally are essential if we truly seek to reduce and prevent youth homelessness.



## 5. Young People and Adolescence



The terms youth, adolescence and young people are often used interchangeably for those aged 10-25, perpetuating the inaccurate idea that adulthood is an instant achievement rather than a transition. Whilst it is true that many of the physical, biological, emotional, and psychological changes take place before the age of 20, it is widely acknowledged that service responses must cater for the needs of young people transitioning into adulthood, well into their early twenties. In Scotland, people under the age of 16 are always regarded as children under the law<sup>31</sup> with fewer protections extended to those aged 18, and additional protection until the age of 26 for those being cared for by the state<sup>32</sup>. For this paper, young people are those aged 16-25, nonetheless homelessness prevention should extend intervention or service provision to children under the age of 16.

We know that we can identify young people at risk as those who experienced childhood trauma, who have run away from home or have been excluded from school. These events begin around the same time a young person moves from primary to high school, therefore, if we are to prevent homelessness, education and opportunities for interventions should be available to primary age children and their families. In Scotland, the Curriculum for Excellence (CFE)<sup>33</sup>, Getting it Right For Every Child (GIRFEC)<sup>34</sup> and Developing the Young Workforce (DWY)<sup>35</sup> underpin the national approach to providing the best chances for children and young people.

29 <https://www.gov.scot/publications/ending-homelessness-together-updated-action-plan-october-2020/>

30 <https://www.homeless.org.uk/sites/default/files/Policy%20Briefing%20-%20Youth%20COVID-19%20final-2.pdf>

31 *Supra* note 5.

32 *Supra* note 5, s 66.

33 <https://education.gov.scot/education-scotland/scottish-education-system/policy-for-scottish-education/policy-drivers/cfe-building-from-the-statement-appendix-incl-btc1-5/what-is-curriculum-for-excellence>

34 <https://www.gov.scot/policies/girfec/>

35 <https://www.dyw.scot/>

In the youngest group, the emphasis of any educational programme may be to ensure that pupils are aware of how to access help and assistance and reduce some of the misunderstandings, myths and stigma around homelessness or problems within the family. In older age groups, providing housing education and identifying how to get help are the first necessary steps. Additionally, sharing knowledge on how to manage a home, building and maintaining positive relationships as well supporting skills-development are important preventative programs. Young people who experience, or are at risk of, homelessness encounter difficulties transitioning into adulthood in a supported and secure way and that can have long-lasting impacts on their behaviours, their relationships, and their skills. These barriers should be addressed through the prevention of trauma, early interventions, and immediate support.



#### RESPONSE REQUIRED

Young people and their families should have access to specific advice and support when they need it. This should include housing options and support which provide a consistent service acknowledging youth development, risk-taking behaviours, and experimentation.

## 6. Poverty, Education, and Employment

Most studies show that people who experience homelessness have also experienced poverty both in childhood and adulthood, illustrating that homelessness disproportionately affects those who are economically disadvantaged<sup>36</sup>. Young people are excessively affected by poverty, and they are particularly disadvantaged in the labour market as employment is more likely to be poorly paid and insecure<sup>37</sup>. For people under 25, the legal minimum wage is between £4.55 and £8.20. They are also less likely to have stability of income and they are more likely to be on zero-hours contracts. Furthermore, as benefits are reduced once children leave full-time education, the financial strain on families grows. The pressure to gain employment is matched only by the disincentive to enter employment as it will impact on household means-tested income. This not only results in being a source of tensions within families, but it places an additional barrier to entering or progressing through the housing market, leaving young people with no affordable housing options.



While poverty is a strong indicator, other factors point to an increased risk of homelessness amongst young people. These include truanting, school exclusion and leaving school without qualifications<sup>38</sup>. Studies have indicated that young people who are truanting or are excluded are often involved in substance misuse or offending behaviours<sup>39</sup>. Common factors amongst those truanting were poor literacy, low aspirations and a family or home culture which did not support education<sup>40</sup>.

<sup>36</sup> *Supra* note 15, 66.

<sup>37</sup> *Supra* note 15

<sup>38</sup> *Supra* note 16, 73.

<sup>39</sup> *Supra* note 16, 72-73

<sup>40</sup> Olisa J., Patterson J., Wright F., *Turning the Key: Portraits of low literacy amongst people with experience of homelessness*, Thames Reach, 2010, p. 20.

Young people may not have a role model or a supportive person at home, but as they grow and develop, their period in schools is a prime time to identify and address behaviours and attitudes which may indicate wider issues.

For young people, the transition from school can be a difficult one, especially for those who are not going to university or further education. Young people from more disadvantaged backgrounds will often find it most difficult to achieve a positive destination, frequently experiencing periods of unemployment on leaving school. While some will access further education, apprenticeship or employment, the quality, sustainment, or outcomes of these are mostly unknown.

Several studies have shown that young people would appreciate more advice, guidance, and support in preparing for and then making the transition from school<sup>41</sup>. However, accessing entry-level jobs, or well-paid employment often require a basic qualification level, systematically excluding many young people. Offering fair pay, security of income or benefits, skills development opportunities and support around financial management, as well as counselling, mentoring and career development can all be powerful tools for young people navigating multiple transitions.



#### RESPONSE REQUIRED

Young people should have access to apprenticeships, employment support including mentoring and a higher level of minimum wage. Professionals involved in education, career development and employment support or mentoring should be provided with training and support to identify and address homeless risk factors.

## 7. Young people and Health

Research indicates that health and homelessness are linked<sup>42</sup>. Whilst some health challenges may be present before experiencing homelessness, the adversity associated with homelessness worsens existing health problems. Health-related implications of youth homelessness include a range of physical and mental health problems, such as respiratory problems, poor nutrition, substance misuse, injuries, or depression.

Accessibility and availability of health services for young people and their families, including addictions services, needs to be improved. Services for young people, without restrictions on age or risk-taking behaviours, must be consistent, especially during transition periods. For young people, the transitions from child to adult services can be difficult to navigate, and if they find themselves unable to access the services they need, there could be a detrimental impact on their health and behaviour, negatively affecting their relationships too. Ensuring better access to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and support in the transitions to adult services could prevent breakdown in relationships between young people and their families.

Young people experiencing adversity may display behaviours such as self-isolation or self-harm which cause concern for parents and caregivers. Therefore, information regarding how to support a person who is self-harming should be available from primary health care services.

41 Ibid.

42 D. Kulik, S. Gaetz, C. Crowe, E. Ford-Jones, *Homeless youth's overwhelming health burden: A review of the literature*, Pulsus Group, 2011, p. 44.

For this paper, it is also worth noting that the development of a preventative pathway for individuals discharged from hospitals is in progress. A Way Home Scotland will liaise with the working group to ensure young people's needs are taken into account.



#### RESPONSE REQUIRED

To adequately address the needs of young people experiencing health issues it is important to deliver interventions that look at other key needs, such as housing, employment, or education. A greater collaboration amongst services is also needed if we want to improve the outcomes for young people. That could include training in mental health assessment for youth workers, creating more points of access to healthcare in communities and sharing effective practices amongst different LAs.

## Adverse Childhood Experiences

There has been an increased awareness of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in recent times. This has been reflected in both policy and practice in Scotland including, for example, in the Scottish Government's Programme for Government<sup>43</sup>. This commitment is anchored in the long-standing national approach of GIRFEC, and it includes improving support for adults affected by childhood adversity too. This increased awareness and focus on the potential impact of childhood adversity on health and social outcomes has identified the need to respond in a range of ways to both prevent and mitigate the impact of ACEs.

ACEs have been described as “stressful events during childhood that can have a profound impact on an individual's present and future health”<sup>44</sup>. Since the original study from Felitti et al. in 1998, ACE-related studies have repeatedly shown a relationship between adverse and traumatic experiences in childhood, such as abuse or neglect, community violence and homelessness and the risk of a range of negative health and social outcomes in later life<sup>45</sup>. As well as the original ACEs, the Scottish Government recognises other types of childhood adversity that can also negatively impact children's healthy development, including bereavement, bullying, coercive control, homelessness, and community violence, as well as poverty and inequality<sup>46</sup>.



People with lived experience who were interviewed as part of the Hard Edges Scotland study stated they had had difficult early years and that, by the time they reached young adulthood, had also experienced issues with their mental health, substance dependency and interpersonal relationships<sup>47</sup>. Furthermore, the study indicated that the experience of childhood adversity was a significant risk factor for homelessness around the age of 16<sup>48</sup>.

43 <https://www.gov.scot/publications/protecting-scotlands-future-governments-programme-scotland-2019-20/>, p. 97.

44 L. Di Lemma, A. Davies, K. Ford, K. Hughes, L. Homolova, B. Gray, G. Richardson, Responding to Adverse Childhood Experiences: An evidence review of interventions to prevent and address adversity across the life course, Public Health Wales, 2019, p. 5. Available at <https://phw.nhs.wales/news-and-publications/news/responding-to-adverse-childhood-experiences-an-evidence-review/responding-to-adverse-childhood-experiences/>

45 V. Felitti et al, *Relationship of Childhood Abuse and Household Dysfunction to Many of the Leading Causes of Death in Adults*, AJPM, 1998.

46 <https://www.gov.scot/publications/adverse-childhood-experiences-aces/pages/aces-research/>

47 <https://lankellychase.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Hard-Edges-Scotland-full-report-June-2019.pdf>

48 *Ibid.*

Therefore, to prevent and reduce the risk of homelessness amongst young people, it is important to have insight into the psychodynamic roots of homelessness.

That is, whilst members of homeless populations report that the most prevalent childhood adversities faced by them were physical abuse and neglect and general household dysfunction (i.e., toxic relationships), it is important to look at approaches that both prevent and mitigate the impact of these adversities with those at risk. People's experience of childhood adversity can contribute to the risk of homelessness and it can also create barriers on the journey to recovery. One of these barriers may arise at the point where people who have experienced trauma interact with mainstream services. The National Trauma Training Programme, developed by NHS Education for Scotland (NES), offers resources to promote and implement trauma-informed practice within Scotland. Their learning resources are free and open to all, and can be accessed here: <https://transformingpsychologicaltrauma.scot/media/w3hpiif4/nes-national-trauma-training-programme-training-resources.pdf>



#### RESPONSE REQUIRED

All those involved in delivering services such as health staff, police officers, social workers and teachers need to be fully aware of the impact of trauma and are equipped to provide a response in ways (including Psychologically Informed Environments and Trauma-Informed Practice) that prevents further harm and supports recovery.

## 8. Ensuring Equality

Equality and diversity are about the recognition of difference in its widest sense. Equality is about recognising our differences and treating people accordingly so that the outcome for each person is the same regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation. Sometimes this means treating different people differently. To ensure the services and support that are developed as a result of this work meet the needs of all young people, we need to be aware of the factors which may impact social justice and equality.

In developing this homelessness prevention pathway, we need to ensure we meet the needs of young people who represent the diverse communities of Scotland. This section sets out how we will ensure we meet these needs as we take forward the recommendations in this report. We also acknowledge that there are some areas in which we need to develop a more in-depth understanding of the inequalities and barriers some people still face, and that testing policy and practice for how well it promotes equality and safeguards rights should be an ongoing process which we will continue to consider as this pathway is implemented.

For some young people experiencing homelessness, many of whom will have also experienced abuse and/or neglect in their early lives, and particularly young women who have experienced domestic abuse, sexual abuse, or honour-based abuse, this means taking a gendered approach to policy and practice such as sourcing accommodation, in addition to working with trauma-informed services. Examples of this could be providing additional security measures, single-sex accommodation where appropriate, a private flat, or accommodation in a different location to abuse perpetrators. Also, practitioners should understand structural gender inequality, the intersectional experiences of women, and barriers and access to resources and safety.

It should also be noted that boys, young men, transgender, non-binary and LGBT young people also experience domestic abuse, sexual abuse and honour-based abuse. Service providers must consider the needs of all survivors and be able to respond to these effectively.

When designing and delivering services, special consideration should be given to pregnant women and young people with children, as data suggest they are routinely discriminated against.

For young people who are parents, compassionate, non-judgmental services based on stability are essential to support them to live independently and raise their children without fear of extra scrutiny or prejudice.

Particular consideration must be given whilst planning transitions with young people with disabilities, to ensure they can live independently. This could mean ensuring the accommodation is accessible and adapted as necessary, planning to ensure they do not receive less support from personal networks due to being relocated far away, or ensuring individuals do not need to move on from or change specialist provisions or supports including community mental health centres due to geographical restrictions.

Throughout the UK, ethnic minorities are much more likely to live in poverty, in overcrowded houses and to experience unemployment, social exclusion, and discrimination than the white majority<sup>49</sup>. To successfully reduce and prevent homelessness it is essential to have a good understanding of the risk factors that expose individuals and families to homelessness. Whilst an in-depth analysis into the causes of ethnic minorities' homelessness is not within the remit of this paper, we recommend that local authorities and service providers develop a clear understanding of their ethnic minority population, consult, and include ethnic minority households at risk or experiencing homelessness and create responses that are culturally sensitive and appropriate.



#### RESPONSE REQUIRED

Carry out extensive equality impact assessments, including people with protected characteristics, while designing and delivering services.

## 9. Families & Relationships

It is widely acknowledged that relationship breakdown is one of the primary causes of homelessness for young people<sup>50</sup> although the data is not deep enough to detail the causes of this relationship breakdown. A recent study indicated that the experience of childhood adversity was a significant risk factor for homelessness around the age of 16<sup>51</sup>. Whilst we are lacking large scale data, we also know that for LGBT young people this relationship breakdown may be caused by homophobia, biphobia or transphobia, fear of 'coming out' at home, family rejection due to their LGBT identity or domestic abuse. We also know that many young people both care experienced and on the edges of care will have experienced family breakdown and instability at home for some time before their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. This instability can stem from situations where young people have caring responsibilities for siblings or parents, who are unable to find work to contribute to the household or whose parents or carers at home feel unable to manage behaviours.

49 [http://www.ethnos.co.uk/pdfs/3\\_Full\\_research\\_report\\_ODPM.pdf](http://www.ethnos.co.uk/pdfs/3_Full_research_report_ODPM.pdf), p. 15-16.

50 *Supra* note 1.

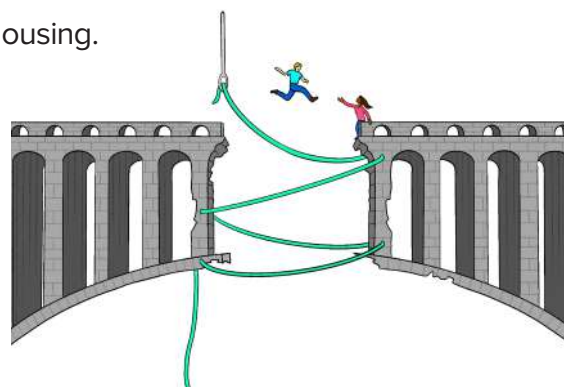
51 *Supra* note 46.

The importance of relationships is now widely accepted across every sector as we understand that having positive relationships alongside skills to maintain and create them can have a lasting and substantial impact on our long-term health and wellbeing. However, we also know that adverse childhood experiences, which many people who become homeless have experienced and continue to be impacted by, are mainly experienced within relationships. For example, adversity and trauma can be experienced due to the loss of a relationship or because of toxic or damaging relationships.

Overcoming adversity is extremely challenging, but it can be eased by having the right home environment:

- Structure as opposed to chaos.
- Nurture as opposed to neglect.
- Stability of familial health as opposed to mental and physical chronic ill-health.
- Financial stability as opposed to poverty.
- Stable housing as opposed to temporary and insecure housing.

From the early years, children are encouraged to form meaningful relationships outside of the home. It is these types of healthy relationships that can ultimately provide their necessary relational experience to enable young people to connect positively within their social group and beyond it. In contrast, for those people who have experienced significant adversity and trauma in their lives, developing and maintaining trusting relationships with anyone, including mainstream services, can be challenging. Evidence shows that children who end up doing well despite adversity have often had at least one stable, committed relationship with a supportive parent, caregiver, or other adults<sup>52</sup>. Such a relationship appears to buffer children from developmental disruption and build skills such as the ability to plan, monitor and regulate behaviour and adapt to changing circumstances.



Evidence also points to the importance of a range of additional protective factors including education (and ACE-informed schools), safe schools and neighbourhoods, support with difficult life circumstances (e.g., employment advice, income maximisation), and supportive social networks and communities<sup>53</sup>.

Understanding and responding to adversity and trauma – including the role of positive, trusted, stable, adult relationships - is important both for children and adults who have had such experiences.



#### RESPONSE REQUIRED

Information and support should be provided for parents of teenagers including practical parenting strategies and interventions such as mediation.

<sup>52</sup> National Scientific Council on the Developing Child, *Supportive Relationships and Active Skill-Building Strengthen the Foundations of Resilience*, Harvard University, 2015, p. 2.

<sup>53</sup> Supra note 52, p. 5.

## 10. Young People with care experience or on the edges of care

Young people who have experience of care are a group particularly at risk of homelessness<sup>54</sup>. Young people who do not fit into the legal definitions of 'looked after child' (an individual currently looked after in a formal arrangement by the local authority)<sup>55</sup> or a 'care leaver' (an individual 'looked after' on or beyond their 16th birthday, who is currently under the age of 26)<sup>56</sup> are not provided with the same protection. Young people who are care experienced or on the edges of care may have similar experiences to care leavers but do not qualify for corporate parenting supports and are considered within the general population. In the context of children and young people, 'edge of care' is used to describe children and young people who are at imminent risk of becoming looked after or where care is a live option whilst managing risk in the home placement e.g., through a child protection plan.

The Youth Homelessness Prevention Pathway for Care Leavers issued recommendations in relation to care leavers. Additionally, it provides an analysis of the experiences and research concerning care experienced young people. The report provides recommendations for implementing the policy and legislative framework and supports a practice and culture shift to ensure that young care leavers are provided with the support they need to avoid homelessness.

Like young people who experience homelessness, care experienced young people also have experience of trauma and adversity. How children and young people bear and overcome trauma differ, but those events can have a significant impact on young people's social and emotional development resulting in poorer mental health or a lower quality of life. Young people with care experience are more likely to have faced these issues, and additional support should be in place to encourage the transition to adulthood to move towards a position of interdependence.



### RESPONSE REQUIRED

Young people and particularly those with care experience or those without positive caregivers require consistent relationships in which they can build trust and begin to access the support they need. Providing an adult who can support them through the housing transitions in a similar method to that used in housing first may offer security and stability they require.

## 11. LGBT Youth Homelessness

There is no specific research or data available that provides an overview of LGBT homelessness rates or experiences in Scotland. This is partly because housing providers and services in Scotland do not routinely record and monitor sexual orientation and/or gender identity of homeless applicants and service users accurately, as well as LGBT young people feeling unable to 'come out' to services due to fear of prejudice and discrimination from service providers.

However, UK wide research conducted by Albert Kennedy Trust identified that 24% of young homeless people aged 16-25 identify as LGBT<sup>57</sup>.

54 CELCIS, Homelessness and Care Experience: Beyond the Headlines, CELCIS 2019, p. 1.

55 Children (Scotland) Act, 1995, s. 17.

56 Supra note 5, s. 66.

57 W. Bateman, (2015) *LGBT Youth Homelessness: UK National Scoping Exercise*, Albert Kennedy Trust, 2015.

Research conducted by LGBT Youth Scotland also showed that 30% of LGBT young people indicated they had some experience of homelessness, however, only 8.5% recognised their experience as homelessness<sup>58</sup>. Respondents evidenced a lack of awareness of what constitutes homelessness, and many young people were unaware that they would be considered homeless under current legislation.



It is widely evidenced that the breakdown of a relationship is the primary cause of youth homelessness in Scotland. However, many of the issues that arise in relation to housing and homelessness for LGBT young people are largely linked to experiences of homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia, whether about causes of homelessness, accessing homelessness support, or maintaining housing. While experiences of 'fleeing abuse' are recorded, services do not currently record when this is linked to prejudice-based abuse such as homophobia, biphobia, or transphobia.

Related to this, it is also worth noting that LGBT young people are disproportionately affected by domestic abuse, with 25% of LGBT people<sup>59</sup> and up to 80% of transgender people<sup>60</sup> experiencing this in their lifetime. Research conducted by LGBT Youth Scotland<sup>61</sup> highlighted that 61% of respondents had witnessed abuse in their families, with 52% experiencing abuse from a partner or ex-partner.

The LGBT Youth Scotland Commission on Housing and Homelessness<sup>62</sup> undertook a consultation with over 100 LGBT young people from across Scotland. The consultation identified that LGBT young people are not aware of their housing rights, how to access support, or the fact that they could be deemed 'intentionally homeless' if they left home voluntarily. This is concerning, as many also reported feeling they had to leave the family home before being able to 'come out' due to fear of their family's reaction and potential abuse. LGBT young people also said that they would access support through youth work organisations rather than approaching homelessness services or local councils.



#### RESPONSE REQUIRED

Professionals providing housing and homeless services should receive training on LGBT identities and issues; to prevent misgendering, outing, deadnaming (use of previous name/s) and discriminatory practices. They should also undertake training specifically addressing LGBT domestic abuse and familial abuse. Services and responses should be wholly inclusive and be collecting and monitoring equalities data sensitively whilst ensuring that all paperwork and assessment processes can be completed without fear of judgement or discrimination.

## 12. Children and young people in conflict with the law

Children and young people who come into conflict with the law are often the most vulnerable, victimised, and traumatised in society, often having experienced multiple adversities and presenting with a range of complex needs. Furthermore, the distinction between a child or young person being a victim or a perpetrator is often a false one.

58 <https://www.lgbtyouth.org.uk/media/1354/life-in-scotland-for-lgbt-young-people.pdf>

59 C. Donovan, M. Hester, J. Holmes, M. McCarty, Comparing Domestic Abuse in Same Sex and Heterosexual Relationships, ESRC, 2006.

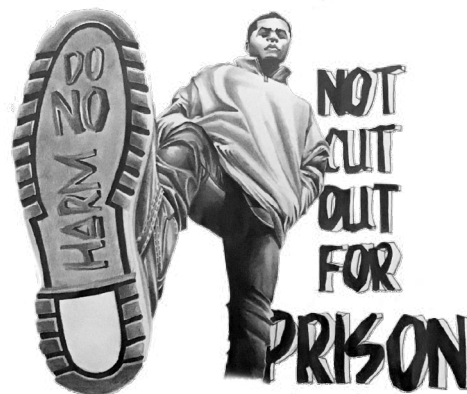
60 A. Roch, J. Morton, J. Ritchie, Out of Sight, Out of Mind: Transgender People's Experiences of Domestic Abuse, LGBT Youth Scotland, 2010.

61 <https://lgbtdomesticabuse.org.uk/media/1165/voices-unheard-report-2011.pdf>

62 <https://www.lgbtyouth.org.uk/national-programmes/youth-activism/youth-commission-housing-and-homelessness/>

Children involved in violent offending at age 15 are significantly more likely than their peers to be victims of crime; have problematic health risk behaviours including self-harm and parasuicide; have weak bonds to parents and school; have personality functioning issues; be involved in bullying others; have experienced family turbulence and social deprivation and have friends involved in offending<sup>63</sup>. Furthermore, around 60% of children and young people supported by youth justice services have speech, language, and communication needs, which have often gone unrecognised.

There is a complex and cyclical link between homelessness and offending behaviour. Research indicates that young people living in unstable conditions are more likely to become in conflict with the law<sup>64</sup>. A lack of suitable accommodation can increase the risk of crime, either through the need for simple survival, through poor neighbourhood relations and high levels of antisocial and criminal behaviour in the community, or through the existence of other risk factors that can contribute to offending as well as homelessness. Lack of appropriate accommodation can also increase the risk of custody. Furthermore, suitable accommodation is required for some bail conditions and Court disposals.



In the 2017 Scottish Prison Service (SPS) prisoner survey<sup>65</sup>, 41% of young people reported losing their tenancy or accommodation when they entered custody and 29% reported not knowing where they would live on release. In research conducted by Cesaroni<sup>66</sup>, 66% of young people in HMP&YOI Polmont stated it was very important to receive support to find accommodation, the second most important factor behind gaining help to find employment.

While loss of accommodation and homelessness are the most obvious concerns, Shelter Scotland and the Scottish Government<sup>67</sup> have highlighted wider accommodation-related issues such as loss of possessions, accrual of arrears, shortage of appropriate, secure, and supported accommodation on release, and lack of skills in managing a tenancy. At a practice level, housing-related service provision across Scotland during the throughcare process is inconsistent and varies by area. For people in custody, SHORE housing standards<sup>68</sup> have been developed to improve this situation.



#### RESPONSE REQUIRED

Every child or young person leaving secure care or custody has suitable accommodation that is identified before their return to the community and supports should be provided, both while in secure care and custody and on release.

63 L. McAra, S. McVie, *Youth crime and justice: Key messages from the Edinburgh Study of Youth Transitions and Crime*, Criminology & Criminal Justice, 2010, p. 179- 209.

64 <https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20150410163038/http://archive.audit-commission.gov.uk/auditcommission/aboutus/publications/pages/national-reports-and-studies-archive.aspx.html>

65 J. Cameron, R. Broderick, J. Carnie, *Young People in Custody 2017: 16th Prisoner Survey Retrieved from Edinburgh*, 2017, <http://www.sps.gov.uk/Corporate/Publications/Publication-6075.aspx>

66 Youth Justice Improvement Board, *Children And Young People In Custody In Scotland: Looking Behind The Data*, YJIB, 2017.

67 [https://scotland.shelter.org.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0010/1185787/Preventing\\_Homelessness\\_and\\_Reducing\\_Reoffending\\_092015\\_FINAL.pdf](https://scotland.shelter.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/1185787/Preventing_Homelessness_and_Reducing_Reoffending_092015_FINAL.pdf)

68 <https://www.sps.gov.uk/Corporate/Publications/Publication-5363.aspx>

## 13. Recommendations



### 1. Universal prevention: timely support for all about housing and financial issues.

Young people need to be able to access community-based advice and guidance regarding housing markets & options, rights and responsibilities which are inclusive, non-stigmatising and open to all. In addition to accessing advice, youth work and schools should provide workshops, which discuss housing, budgets, employment relationships and manage expectations. Support for parenting teenagers available through community services including schools & health services.

Clear housing pathways are created so that young people have a single point of access and do not get lost in the service processes. Local youth work services are connected to schools so that young people have access to advice and support within school hours. Young people and their parents and carers should have access to education, information and advice regarding housing, welfare, and employment in their communities. Services should offer a clear set of choices and opportunities in housing, support, and employment. Reviews should be undertaken with young people to ascertain which models have proven most helpful or would have been most helpful. These should take account of needs, including history, status, equality, and future aspiration.

- All services providers should be trauma-informed.
- Establish one point of contact for young people with housing, welfare, employment advice, youth work and support available.
- Establishment of school and youth work programmes to provide universal information regarding local housing markets, processes, rights, and responsibilities.



### 2. Targeted prevention: better identifying those at risk and providing early interventions.

We know that some young people are more at risk of homelessness, we need to have systems in place to identify them and provide targeted early interventions. Young people spend most of their time at school and in their communities, we must equip people around them to identify and respond to the risk of homelessness. Community youth groups may support schools to deliver homeless information and preventative education and advice in-class sessions. Services, departments, and professionals involved should therefore be involved in the development of pathways and be aware of access routes.

- Training should be developed and delivered to youth workers, community workers and teachers.
- Young people should have access to relationship-based services such as mediation mentoring and befriending.

- A record of the young person's school should be made when undertaking homeless assessments so that education, youth work and support can be targeted.
- Consistent use of GIRFEC approaches.
- Equality data information should be routinely recorded by all housing and homelessness services so that changes to future policy and practice can be fully informed.
- More accurate equalities data is needed to ensure that plans and delivery methods can meet the needs of the population. However, the information we already hold indicates that policies, assessments, practice, and systems must be equality checked to ensure that services are welcoming and accessible to all LGBT young people. To assist both processes, training should be developed and offered for youth, housing, and homelessness workers to ensure that they understand LGBT housing, abuse, and discrimination fully.



### 3. Crisis prevention: effective interventions and advice to resolve a crisis.

When young people are engaged in any service, homelessness can be prevented with some planning with the young person. This will involve working across sectors in each local area to develop protocols and agree on who will lead on discharge planning. Crisis may still occur in which case youth-specific emergency accommodation or respite styled services can be used until options can be discussed. Many homeless services are planned and delivered for all ages, young people should not have to navigate adult services and should not be expected to be independent but should be supported. Young people benefit from services and support which recognise the learning stage of adolescence, the need for increasing independence but ongoing support.

- Establish cross-departmental groups to identify processes, systems and services that need to be changed or adapted to meet the needs of young people. Create local strategies and implementation plans to address youth homelessness, including population-based approaches, targeted interventions and systems change.
- No young person should be discharged from public services (Justice, Health or Care) into homelessness. Systems for discharge planning should be created which take account of housing availability & waiting times and ensure that they have a person to support the transition.



### 4. Emergency: accommodation and support targeted at helping people to exit homelessness rapidly.

Scotland's approach to rapid rehousing should include housing options for young people which reflect mainstream housing options that are taken up by peers such as community hosting in family-like environments or small-scale shared living. For young people who require a higher level of support, where shared living would not work, they should be able to access housing with support or Housing First for Youth.

The Government is already increasing access to affordable accommodation and acting on the quality of temporary accommodation in its work on the Affordable Housing Supply Programme and The Homeless Persons (Unsuitable Accommodation) (Scotland) Order. Shared homes and community hosting models require support to ensure that security of tenure is available and funding mechanisms are in place. This would increase immediately available capacity and make the best use of current resources.

- Increase access to appropriate and affordable accommodation through facilitating the considerable upscaling of community hosting and shared tenancy options.
- Housing options available to young people should reflect those of their non-homeless peers including small scale shared, family-like community hosting or access to their own home with support.



## 5. Recovery and housing stability: longer-term support to sustain independent living.

Young people on low incomes with little savings or housing references may require assistance to access long term secure affordable housing options. Housing options should be planned to support their continued participation in education employment and training rather than to disrupt it. Rent deposit or bond schemes may assist young people to access the private rented market, shared or small self-contained homes, or a live-and-work scheme with subsidised rents may offer an affordable first step on the housing and employment market. Security of tenure should be prioritised, and we must not see any housing rights reduced or eroded. Commissioners should establish a range of youth-specific housing options including community hosting, shared homes, and access to affordable permanent housing. Plans should include prevention services and ensure that there is a clear housing pathway and that suitable and affordable housing options with strong security of tenure are known and accessible to young people.

Healthy and stable relationships are vital for young people, not only because they provide a safe environment in which young people can mature and grow, but they are also essential as young people learn the skills required to build and maintain new positive relationships. Developing a social network provides young people with support, increases confidence, and builds resilience. Service responses should consider the behaviours and needs of young people who have had adverse childhood experiences and may require longer-term interventions to support their transition.

- Youth housing services and housing for care leavers should be planned, commissioned, and delivered by housing departments in partnership with social work or through care departments and informed by the overall youth housing and homelessness need.
- Support should be available to enable young people to develop the skills required to live more independently and to seek apprenticeships and employment.
- Housing options should be affordable and with strong security of tenure, to enable young people to maintain their education or employment.

- Local authorities, supported by the private and third sector, should address primary prevention through education, family support and mediation, secondary prevention through advice and support and finally ensure that there are youth-specific transitional services and move on services to facilitate rapid rehousing.

## 14. Implementing the Recommendations

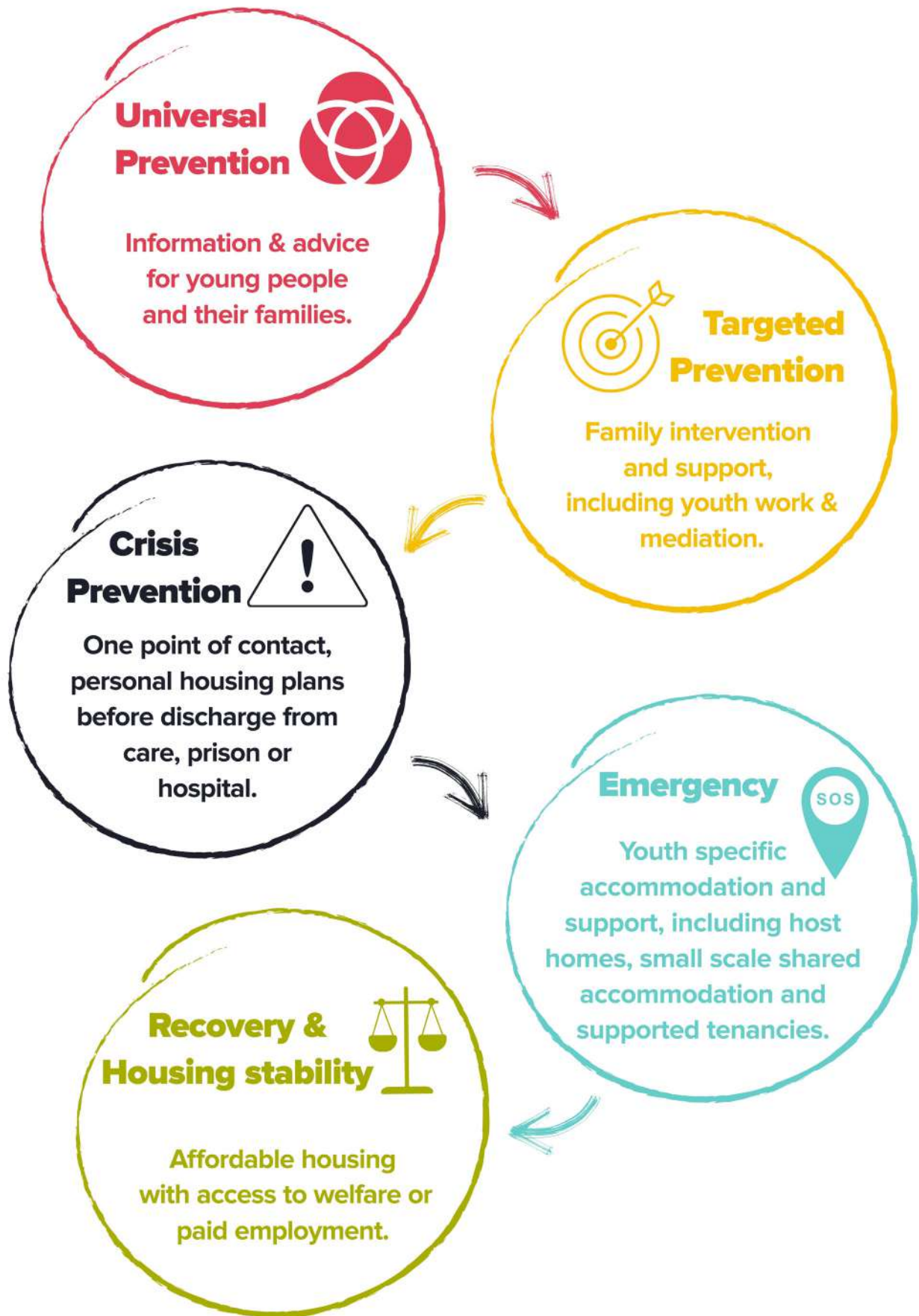
Young people should be prevented from becoming homeless. However, if they become homeless, there should be a clear youth-specific pathway in place which offers direct access to accommodation and moves a young person onto stable and long-term housing as quickly as possible, making homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring.

The Recommendations here are based on our current knowledge of youth homelessness but we are still not recording or monitoring enough data to enable us to measure the impact of our prevention interventions. Information should be gathered and analysed to provide local authorities with the information they need to tailor local strategies and services to meet the needs of young people in their area. The strategies should not be the responsibility of the housing or homeless departments alone but should be created and monitored by multidisciplinary groups.

- **Create an implementation-plan working group with the Scottish Government to implement and monitor the progress of the recommendations presented in this report.**
- **Establish cross-departmental groups to identify processes, systems and services which need to be changed or adapted to meet the needs of young people.**
- **Create local strategies and implementation plans to address youth homelessness, including population-based approaches, targeted interventions and systems change.**

Many homeless services are planned and delivered for all ages, young people should not have to navigate adult services and should not be expected to be independent but should be supported. Young people benefit from services and support which recognise the learning stage of adolescence, the need for increasing independence but ongoing support.

If each of these recommendations can be fully implemented, using a youth work and family-focused approach, one that addresses the systems which discharge young people into homelessness or the obstacles to routes out, and one that supports transitions and relationships, then youth homelessness can be prevented. In addition to implementing the pathway, the inclusion of consideration of youth homelessness in all sector strategies – health, justice, youth work etc, should ensure a collective impact approach. This would not only prevent youth homelessness but also enable young people to achieve further outcomes of understanding their rights, addressing health issues, and reaching positive destinations.



## Appendix 1

### Youth Homelessness Prevention Pathway for All Young People: Working Group Membership

**Sabrina Galella**, A Way Home Scotland Policy co-ordinator, Rock Trust

**Kate Polson**, Chief Executive, Rock Trust

**Julie Stuart**, Homelessness Prevention Team, Scottish Government

**Ruth Whatling**, Homelessness Team Leader, Scottish Government

**Gill Wyllie**, ACEs Team, Scottish Government

**Shea Moran**, Senior Representative, Aff the Streets

**Janice Stevenson**, Development Officer, LGBT Youth Scotland

**Pamela Morrison**, Practice Development Advisor, CYCJ

**Kenny McGhee**, Throughcare and Aftercare Lead, CELCIS

**Darren Rocks**, Health Improvement Manager, Public Health Scotland

**Megan Sutherland**, Vice chair, Who Cares Scotland

**Lorna Aitken**, Senior Education Officer, Education Scotland

**Beth Watts**, Senior Research Fellow, I-SPHERE Heriot-Watt

**Leona McDermid**, CEO, Aberdeen Foyer

**Jules Oldham**, Director of Policy, Policy Scotland

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**Valerie Arbuckle**, Partnership Development Manager, Police Scotland

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**Derek Logie**, Chief Executive Officer, Rural Housing Scotland

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Special thanks to Eleanor Kinmonth & Emmanuel Urama for the illustrations

