



**Homeless
Network
Scotland**
we are all in

annual report & accounts 2021-22

Homeless Network Scotland

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Charity registered in Scotland SCO03453. Company registered in Scotland SC112361.

Message from the Chief Executive

This report spans the second year of the pandemic, where we saw a 3% increase in homelessness across Scotland. This is despite the rapid and collaborative efforts across all sectors and services to the housing and homelessness implications of the pandemic in its early weeks and months. It is likely that the concerns many of us shared then are now emerging; that the wider social and economic impact of the pandemic will create homelessness through job loss, changes to household income and employment, and the ongoing pressure on people's wellbeing and relationships.

And while rough sleeping, the sharpest edge of homelessness, remains at a record low in towns and cities thanks to the skill and tenacity of outreach workers, welcome centres, rights advisors, local councils and housing providers, the numbers of children in temporary accommodation was at a record high at year-end. The new national policy objective of rapid rehousing has been put under enormous pressure before it got out of the starting blocks – but has also been recognised as providing local authorities and partners with the strongest possible platform for recovery.

The importance of connecting, learning and acting together remains as urgent today as it did at the start of the pandemic. In June 2021, we published a 'one-year-on' report charting progress made by Everyone Home, a unique collective of 36 organisations concerned about the impact of the pandemic on homelessness. With several key achievements from year one now incorporated into policy and practice in Scotland, we were ambitious about what more can be achieved in partnership with national and local public sector colleagues. And so a joint Platform for Change 2022 was published in January this year with a clear set of measures on where the collective intends to make an impact, and with the ambition to connect knowledge and networks – across the third and academic sectors – with national and local government, housing providers and local partners.

Scotland's Housing First pathfinder has been a shining light this year, achieving results in line with international best practice while being delivered during a pandemic. In September, this became a matter of record when the interim 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, backed by skilled support workers, the political and practical commitment at national and local level and the leadership of key housing associations. In March 2022, we were proud to mark the end of the extraordinary Pathfinder at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre and together explored what we now know, and need, to keep branching out Housing First across all parts of Scotland.

Despite the year's challenges, there have been other bright spots too. Fair Way Scotland emerged from the energy of a group of organisations who, due to people with no recourse to public funds being accommodated on covid grounds, were determined that there would be no going back to the previous situation. Fair Way Scotland is now an operational partnership, and an exploratory learning programme, aiming to provide a gateway to a safe destination for people seeking sanctuary or to settle in Scotland. We look forward to a formal launch and sharing more information later this year.

Maggie Brünjes
Chief Executive



Homeless Network Scotland

we are all in

We work to advance the policy, systems and culture change needed to end homelessness in Scotland. And as a network, we create opportunities to

- ✓ **Connect** people and places to influence change
- ✓ **Learn** from evidence and each other's experiences
- ✓ **Act** on what works and what matters

We are a **knowledge-based** organisation. This means we work to create a knowledge-sharing culture so that all of our work is:

- ✓ evidence led
using the best knowledge available
- ✓ focused on impact
making a measurable difference
- ✓ contextualised
sensitive to the working environment of others
- ✓ equality competent
recognising that risk and impact is different

Our **programmes and priorities** are to:

- ✓ Prioritise prevention of homelessness
- ✓ Help the transition to rapid rehousing
- ✓ End rough sleeping and destitution
- ✓ Provide platforms for lived experience
- ✓ Promote systems and culture change



Connect Learn Act

Across the year we continued to provide many platforms for people to connect.

We connected with over **200** members of the wider homelessness sector through Scotland's annual homelessness conference

No Choice Without Options
online over 3 days.

And the Housing First Scotland conference – **Here to Stay** – was our first in-person conference since 2019.

Over 400 people across the sector connected through our online member events, covering: **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** and the proposed **new legal duties to prevent homelessness** in Scotland.

Everyone Home

We continued to host the Everyone Home Collective. The Collective published their action plan **Platform for Change 2022** which sets out key activity over 2022, focusing on the Collective's vision of more homes, no return to rough sleeping and no evictions into homelessness.

The 36 members of the Collective jointly responded to a number of Scottish Government consultations:

- draft **temporary accommodation framework**
- the **New Deal for Tenants** draft strategy
- new **duties to prevent homelessness**
- the **National Care Service** joint position
- draft plan for **ending the need for food banks**.

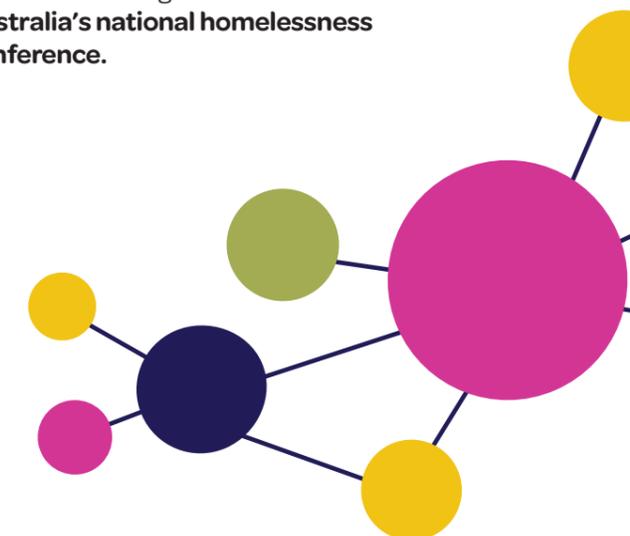


Everyone Home
everyonehome.scot

Across the UK, Europe and Internationally

We continued to connect with partners and colleagues by:

- Presenting at the **De Paul Northern Ireland conference**.
- Participating in city exchanges delivered by World Habitat as part of the **European End Street Homelessness Campaign**.
- Participating in the annual **Housing First Wales Conference** hosted by Cymorth Cymru.
- Presenting 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.
- Presenting in the **ROOF Programme for Peer Learning** with cities from across Europe.
- Participating in the **Housing First Europe Hub Training for Trainers programme**, learning alongside delegates from across Europe in Berlin, Bologna and Budapest.
- Sharing practice and learning with colleagues working to **upscale Housing First across the UK**.
- Presented alongside Scottish Government, on the challenges, achievements, and progress to date of Scotland's Ending Homelessness Together Action Plan at **Australia's national homelessness conference**.



Connect **Learn** Act

We continue to develop as a knowledge-based organisation, learning from and across our diverse networks.

Learning Lounge

We assisted **26** organisations through our training modules covering: Closer to Home: a place-based approach to preventing homelessness and Rough Guide to homelessness policy and legislation in Scotland.



Outcomes Framework for Ending Homelessness Together

We have been collaborating with partners to build the foundations for the Homelessness Prevention and Strategy Group’s Measurement Task and Finish Group, tasked with designing a new way to measure the impact of the Ending Homelessness Together Action Plan.

University Outreach

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.

Evidence & Consultation

We submitted three Scottish Government consultation responses after connecting with the sector:

New Duties to Prevent Homelessness in Scotland

The Everyone Home Collective and Change Team submitted and published responses to the Scottish Government consultation on proposals for new legal duties to prevent homelessness. Both responses offered strong support for the proposals to extend legal duties to the wider public sector, and the proposed duties to ‘ask and act’.

A New Deal for Tenants

The Everyone Home collective responded to the Scottish Government consultation on the new strategy for the rented sector in Scotland. As part of the response, the collective reiterated their priority of no evictions into homelessness and the role of the new strategy in delivering on this goal.



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.

We were also invited to give evidence to the Scottish Parliament Social Justice & Social Security Committee 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.

Connect Learn **Act**

1. Prioritise Prevention



Staying In

We supported the delivery and evaluation of the Staying In project in the Gorbals and Pollok areas of Glasgow, in partnership with Unity and SCDC. Local grassroots organisations received a share of **£200,000** of funding from the National Lottery Community Fund to make use of existing resources and skills to solve the issues experienced by local people that often lead to homelessness.

The project to date has supported **160** people. The majority of people taking up the support were at risk of homelessness for a variety of reasons including rent arrears, anti-social behaviour, accumulated debt, insecure private tenancies.

14% of people were homeless and 86% reported that they were at risk of homelessness.

When the impact of services was measured, only 13% of people were homeless or at risk of homelessness. This test-of-change indicates that intervening earlier – and closer to home – can work in a preventative way to reduce homelessness, the risk of homelessness and applications to the local authority for homelessness assistance.



 **Staying In Evaluation Report (PDF)**
<https://bit.ly/STAYINGIN2022>

2. Transition to Rapid Rehousing

Scotland's Housing First Pathfinder

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 final evaluation report of the Pathfinder will be published in October 2022.

Housing First Scotland Housing First Check Up

This year we began our Annual Check Up process for Housing First Scotland. We are supporting **13 local authorities** through our check-up process, those who have been delivering Housing First for at least a year, discounting Pathfinder areas. We designed the check-up process to be a safe space for local authorities to consider Housing First delivery in their areas, and any barriers to maintaining fidelity to the Housing First principles. The process we created was iterative, with each of four the parts feeding into the next part:

- **Gathering insights:** Sessions held with Housing Options Hubs to gain insight from partners.
- **Self-reflection tools:** Each local authority returned a number of self-reflection tools, based on the Housing First principles and measuring fidelity to each principle using Red/Amber/ Green indicators.
- **Sounding board:** Local delivery partners attend a sounding board meeting to discuss themes and disparities in self-reflection responses with an external Housing First expert.
- **Check-up report:** the information and insights gathered through the process is brought together in a short report delivered to each participating local authority.

Through this process we have:

- Supported local authorities to come together with their partners to critically reflect on the delivery of Housing First in their area.
- Facilitated positive and energised discussions on improving fidelity to Housing First, with advice and perspectives from external Housing First experts.
- Provided local authorities and their partners with feedback on good practice and potential areas for improvement, including a provocation from the external Housing First experts.

A full Check up report will be published in Autumn 2022.



Housing First Scotland Infrastructure
 Animation (Youtube)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L-716iyxyas>

Housing First Know How

We published the latest version of “**Branching Out: A National Framework to start up and scale up Housing First in Scotland**” this year. The framework sets out the context in which Housing First can be successfully delivered, and acts as a guide to planning, commissioning and implementing the approach over the next 10 years.

Branching Out: A National Framework (PDF)
<https://bit.ly/Framework22>

Housing First Scotland
housingfirst.scot

Shared Spaces

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.

Taking the findings of this research into action, Homeless Network Scotland will chair the Scottish Government HPSG Task and Finish group on Supported Accommodation to determine what role shared and supported accommodation should play in the transition to rapid rehousing.

Shared Spaces
homelessnetwork.scot/shared-spaces

3. End Rough Sleeping & Destitution

Fair Way Scotland

In partnership with a consortium of organisations with expert knowledge of the refugee and asylum system and with support from Scottish Government and COSLA, we continue to work towards progressing our 5-year delivery plan, working to end homelessness and destitution among people with No Recourse to Public Funds.



Fair Way Scotland
homelessnetwork.scot/fairway-scotland

- Partners have recruited a new Implementation Lead who will be responsible for supporting four support, advice and advocacy partners to successfully deliver the ambitious programme.
- We have secured a strategic funding partnership with The Robertson Trust, Oak Foundation and Joseph Rowntree Foundation to enable Fair Way delivery from Refugee Survival Trust, Scottish Refugee Council, Turning Point Scotland and Simon Community Scotland.

We are working with our evaluation partners, Heriot-Watt University, to conduct robust learning and evaluation of the programme, and get a previously unknown understanding of the systemic challenges impacting people with no recourse to public funds in Scotland.

Fair Way Scotland
 Animation (Youtube)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LczhcoOvN68>



All in for Change

A Change Team with lived and frontline experience of homelessness have continued to make progress towards breaking down the knowledge gap between policy and practice. During this year the team:

- Continue to be represented on the HPSG with members of the Change Team being invited to the newly established Task & Finish groups, helping to embed the voice of people with frontline and lived experience in the sub groups of the Scottish Government’s Homelessness Prevention and Strategy Group.
- Have identified seven priorities for change, inviting experts to discuss important topics such as youth homelessness and health and wellbeing, and creating position statements which we have been used to influence real change on the ground.
- Have launched a national roadshow, visiting five cities across Scotland through workshops with public and voluntary sector frontline workers, as well as focus groups with people currently using services. Connecting with more than 100 people, influencing through our 4 New Directions and finding out what progress is being made towards ending homelessness, from different geographic perspectives.
- Continue to be an important vehicle connecting the experiences of those with lived and frontline experience with decision makers. The team have been involved in many Scottish Government consultations and met with Shona Robison MSP to relay key messages spoken about in our monthly retreats including: better support for young people at risk of homelessness and how people with lived and frontline experience of homelessness can be more involved in decision making.



All in for Change
homelessnetwork.scot/national-conversation

4. Platforms for Lived Experience

GHIFT

This year we continued to expand the range of opportunities available to people with lived experience of homelessness to contribute to the work of the Glasgow Alliance to End Homelessness and Glasgow’s Health & Social Care Partnership. We worked with over **125** people with lived experience of homelessness to:

- Provide ongoing contributions to the Alliance Leadership Team and working groups covering coproduction, IT, communications, recruitment, service design, contracts & procurement, income & resource, performance & strategy, governance, assurance & risk.
- Design and deliver an engagement process to ensure that the specification for a new homelessness outreach service for Glasgow was informed by the experiences of people using outreach services.
- Support the development and co-production of the Glasgow Alliance to End Homelessness and HSCP’s new strategic plans.
- Support the development of the new Single Point of Access service in Glasgow.

Our People

We aim to be a participatory organisation that keeps listening, learning and improving. The people driving Homeless Network Scotland span our board of directors and trustees, our staff team, associates and member organisations.

Our Board

Our non-executive members during 2021/22 were:

Patrick McKay (Convenor) Turning Point Scotland	Moira Bayne Housing Options Scotland	Peter Kelly Poverty Alliance	Jim Strang Individual Member
Elodie Mignard (Vice Convenor) Scottish Refugee Council	Sean Cussen Individual Member	Peter Millar Aspire Housing & Personal Development Services	Mike Burns Penumbra
Christopher Cullen (Treasurer) Individual member	Jackie Erdman Individual Member	Rebecca Pringle Individual Member	
	Prof Suzanne Fitzpatrick Individual Member	Ashleigh Simpson Crisis Scotland	

Our Staff

Leadership Team	Janice Higgins Head of Corporate Services	Impact & Improvement Team	David Ramsay Impact Lead
Alex Beaton Finance Manager	Aileen O'Halloran Admin & Resources	Ginny Cooper Improvement Lead	Derek Holliday Involvement Lead
Margaret-Ann Brünjes Chief Executive	Lisa Sen Design & Information Lead	David Kidd Improvement Lead	David Pentland Policy Officer (seconded to Scottish Government)
Claire Frew Policy & Impact Manager	Ruth Whatling Head of Policy & Equality	Michelle Major Improvement Lead	

Our Thanks

Our thanks and warm wishes to Peter Anderson, Martin Gavin and Doug Gibson who moved on from Homeless Network Scotland this year.

Our Associates

Anthony, Bronwyn, Charity, David, Dave, Dawn, Derek, Duncan, Faith, Jeremy, John P, John M, Mark, Martin, Shea, Tyler.

Members

Homeless Network Scotland are proud to umbrella a diverse range and growing number of organisations in Scotland that share our vision for ending homelessness. We offer our continued thanks for their support, advice and guidance.



5. Systems and Culture Change

No Wrong Door

Those of us who face disadvantage and adversity often get a less joined-up service response. This can keep people locked-in or locked-out of the system of services that are intended to help.

We have been working across a broad range of partnerships and networks to develop a 'No Wrong Door' test-of-change programme, which will learn how sectors and services can step out of silos and put people first. We also hosted an energising Discover and Define event with 21 Scottish Government colleagues across 5 public policy areas to determine priorities and to shape what happens next. Thanks to Mayday Trust and the UK-wide New System Alliance for supporting this period of development work and getting alongside us in a test-of-change programme we are now preparing to implement.

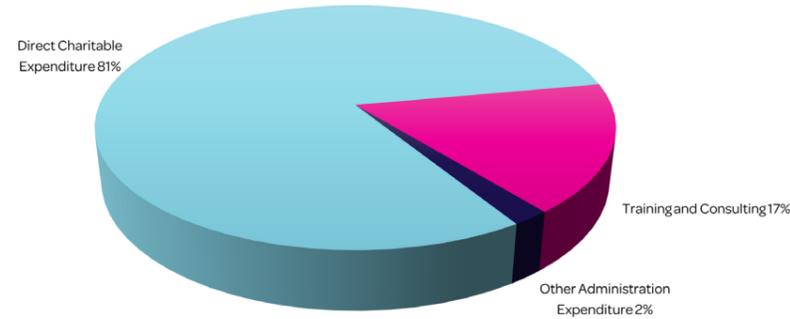


Accounts

Expenditure 2021-22

988,332

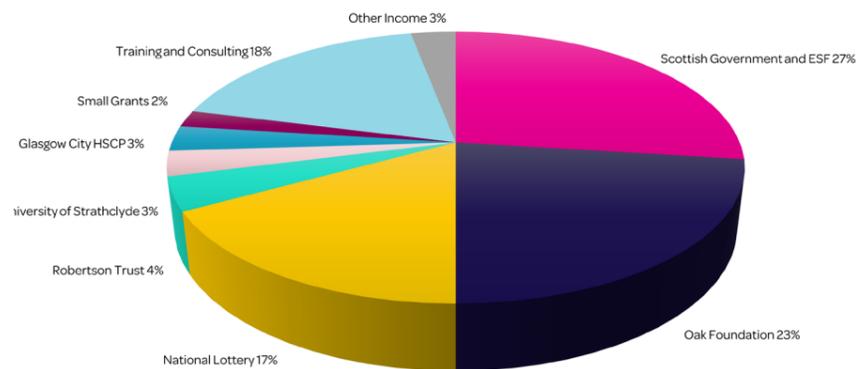
Direct Charitable Expenditure	81%	804,310
Training and Consulting	17%	166,339
Other Administration Expenditure	2%	17,683



Income 2021-22

1027,489

Scottish Government and ESF	27%	273,244
Oak Foundation	23%	236,667
National Lottery	17%	173,846
Robertson Trust	4%	45,000
University of Strathclyde	3%	33,422
Glasgow City HSCP	3%	32,000
Small Grants	2%	19,251
Training and Consulting	18%	184,996
Other Income	3%	29,063



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