



PLATFORM FOR CHANGE 2023

1.

**MORE HOMES
FOR GOOD HEALTH**

2.









**NO RETURN TO
ROUGH SLEEPING**

3.

**NO EVICTIONS INTO
HOMELESSNESS**

Is the Writing on the Wall?

It is a public health emergency, but the pandemic and its aftermath will also create the conditions that create homelessness — job loss, rent arrears, poverty and the breakdown of personal relationships and living arrangements. To prevent this, we need to make bigger and faster gains on key fronts. This includes:

	Poverty Reduction	Poverty is the key driver of homelessness, in all its forms. Success in income-poverty reduction strategies (including implementation of Social Renewal Advisory Board recommendations) will reduce the risk of homelessness.
	Structural Levers	Local housing systems where supply matches demand in the places people want to live is key. Also the health of local labour markets, and the strength of the welfare safety net will help stop homelessness.
	Public Sector Readiness	Local public sector infrastructure is not yet joined up to prevent homelessness through the new duties to prevent homelessness. The independent Homelessness Monitor from Heriot-Watt University and a 2023 report from the Chartered Institute of Housing, highlights concerns that the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans remain acutely under-resourced.
	Implementation Gap	Homelessness policy is very strong but change on the ground is slow. More focus on implementation and more value given to persistence, continuity and implementing what works.
	Health & Social Care	Faster progress is needed to connect HSCPs in joint planning and commissioning of key homelessness responses — and especially for prevention, Housing First and supported housing options.
	Path Dependency	There can be resistance to change, vested interests in the current system — or because it's just easier for things to stay the same. We need to meet this head on and clearly articulate the new directions to end homelessness set out in Housing to 2040 and the Ending Homelessness Together plan.
	Place-based	All homelessness starts in a community. The need to reframe homelessness from being a complex social problem — to one which familiarises the conditions that cause it and roots its prevention in communities.
	Coproduction	Lived and frontline experience leadership brings important and unique insight. And ensuring the third sector has opportunities to be represented as strategic partners, not solely providers of services.

EVERYONE HOME

A Platform for Change

Everyone Home offers an opportunity to do things differently. To connect our knowledge and networks – across the third and academic sectors – with national and local government, housing providers and local partners. This is about achieving more, together.

At the start of the pandemic, the Everyone Home Collective described a triple-lock of measures to mitigate the scale and experience of homelessness during and in the aftermath of the pandemic:

- More homes for good health
- No return to rough sleeping
- No evictions into homelessness

These remain our priorities for 2023. We now set out the change we want to see, and the action we will take.



1.

**More Homes
for Good Health**



<p>What matters?</p>	<p>A transformative affordable housing programme and a collective responsibility to prevent homelessness in a way that recognises risk and impact is different for different people. And which takes a place-based approach, creating the right types of homes at the heart of communities working toward the principles of 20-minute neighbourhoods. Where homelessness has not been prevented, people are rapidly rehoused into mainstream housing and with Housing First branching out across the country to redress severe disadvantage. Supported housing fit-for-the-future means a settled housing option for a small number of people who want on-site support, with our HSCPs in a lead role working with local authority homeless teams to remove the homeless label from this type of housing.</p>
<p>The change we want to see in 2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New duties on the wider public sector to prevent homelessness (expected in the Housing Bill in autumn 2023). • A rights-based housing and homelessness system with the knowledge and resources to ensure our rights are upheld every time. This includes the right to legal advice and representation for everyone, regardless of immigration status. • A fairer housing and homelessness system that redresses the inequality experienced by some of us. • Every young person has access to expert youth specific services to assist them to avoid, survive and move on from homelessness. • ‘Preventing homelessness’ prioritised in 32 local outcome improvement plans. • Community Planning statement in 32 local housing strategies on how communities prevent homelessness. • Hidden homelessness has been researched and better understood. • An outcomes framework that demonstrates whether the national plan to end homelessness is working, with the third and academic sectors contributing data and insights.
<p>What we will do</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proactively shape the Scottish Government's upcoming Rented Sector Strategy by scoping and submitting a collective response on key priorities. • Consult on and publish a route-map on a targeted role for the private rented sector to increase housing capacity and to prevent and respond to homelessness. • Proactively shape the National Care Service, ensuring 7 conditions are met to ensure that it can contribute to preventing and responding to homelessness. • Commission expert consultant to design a business plan on the role of social investment to increase housing supply in targeted areas. • Represent through the planning structures of the Scottish Government’s Homelessness Prevention Strategy Group, it’s subgroups and new Task and Finish Groups.

2.

**No Return to
Rough Sleeping**



<p>What matters?</p>	<p>We all have the potential to live a positive life in the way we want to, and home is the best base from which to build it. That we permanently prevent a return to previous levels of rough sleeping in all areas, regardless of immigration status. That this needs a joint strategic, commissioning and delivery approach across housing, health, social care and community justice.</p>
<p>The change we want to see in 2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An agreed measure of rough sleeping and widest confidence in the measure. • A ‘no wrong door’ approach with resources focused on supporting frontline professionals to provide personalised and strengths-based support. • Quality-check process for Housing First to underpin the national scaling up programme. • Compliance and enforcement of the Unsuitable Accommodation Order. • Personal Housing Plan – national approach designed and implemented. • Continued end of communal-style night shelters. • End of destitution among people with no recourse to public funds. • Minimum quality standards underpinning how emergency accommodation, food and other living essentials are provided and presented for people experiencing homelessness, destitution and poverty.
<p>What we will do</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-design a national model of frontline practice, adopting the principles of no wrong door and addressing the silos of service provision described in the Hard Edges Scotland research. • Contribute to the development of an agreed measure of rough sleeping. • Secure a strategic funding partnership to enable Fair Way Scotland to deliver an exploratory action learning partnership with an integrated service model to end destitution and protect people’s human rights. • Participate in the annual check up of Housing First, to ensure it is being delivered and scaling up according to the principles. • Ensure that Scottish Government's ambitious 'cash-first' plan to end the need for foodbanks umbrellas initiatives intended for people affected by homelessness and destitution. <p><i>And key direct service delivery:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone Home Collective members provide the overnight welcome centres in Glasgow and Edinburgh, the replacement service for winter night shelters to prevent the need to sleep rough. And also outreach services in Perth & Kinross, Aberdeen, Glasgow and Edinburgh.

3.

**No Evictions into
Homelessness**



<p>What matters?</p>	<p>Emergency legislation during the pandemic played a vital role in protecting people’s homes – and may at least in part have contributed to the reduction in homelessness applications reported during the first year of lockdown. Going forward, we want to see the end of evictions into homelessness, the end of avoidable evictions and the threat of illegal evictions. Most evictions are for rent arrears, not anti-social behaviour, and we value the benefits of early intervention and keeping people in their homes where possible. Getting cash directly to people can stop evictions quickly.</p>
<p>The change we want to see in 2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More confidence – and evidence – that housing associations will never evict someone who has agreed to, and is meeting, the conditions of rent payment plans. • More support for housing associations, councils and tenants to provide earlier support, protect homes and prevent evictions. • Reducing evictions on the grounds of rent arrears from the private rented sector. • All tenants that need it can access the Scottish Government’s Tenant Support Fund. • Local councils targeted use of Discretionary Housing Payments to help tenants and avoid eviction. • An end to evictions into homelessness from asylum support accommodation with local authority protocols in place with Fair Way Scotland.
<p>What we will do</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In partnership with Scottish Federation of Housing Associations, we will help shape a toolkit for social landlords that helps protect homes, prevent evictions and reduce abandonments of property. The learning will form a series of events and briefings. • Consult on and publish a route-map on a targeted role for the private rented sector including how to reduce evictions into homelessness.

About The Collective



Everyone Home is a collective of 37 third and academic sector organisations that have come together during the COVID-19 pandemic to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on homelessness in Scotland.

Read our framework at www.everyonehome.scot and join us on social media at #EveryoneHome

Homeless Network Scotland

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