

# Homeless Network Scotland we are all in



## **Homeless Network** Scotland

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# Message from the Chief Executive

**This report comes during another difficult year for a sector concerned about homelessness in Scotland. The intensifying pressure on the country's housing system; an unrelenting cost-of-living crisis driven by high inflation and energy costs; the demands of legislative changes needing the right tools and timetables; while ever more hostile UK immigration policy put more people at risk of destitution and harm. As the reporting year ended, official data confirmed that the highest number of people on record have an open case to resolve their experience of homelessness.**

Against that backdrop, the importance of connecting, learning and acting together is more important than ever. The role of Homeless Network Scotland is to focus on the levers that our wider networks need to tackle homelessness – the right strategy, policy, resources and relationships. While directing our energy toward priorities that we believe will better prevent and tackle homelessness.

Through the Everyone Home collective, we extended our common cause with the housing sector, connecting with the Chartered Institute of Housing and Scottish Federation of Housing Associations to escalate our shared concerns about the pace and scale of housing developments to the Cabinet and Ministers in Scottish Government. This led to a series of roundtables with senior officials and Ministers where we noted our pride in Scotland's progressive housing legislation and our history of welcoming refugees. But we also urged that current challenges need to be met with the same reach and ambition, presenting 12 priority areas of development.

We were proud that the recommendations from the Prevention Review Group were accepted by the Scottish Government this year, with recognition of the role of the Change Team in developing them and a commitment that new duties to prevent homelessness on a wider set of public sector organisations will be included in the forthcoming Housing Bill.

We also published the findings of a two-year test of change programme demonstrating that good outcomes are possible when subject experts (on housing and homelessness) collaborate with local experts and people with lived experience to problem-solve housing matters on a local level.

An evaluation of the first year of Fair Way Scotland set out the successes, challenges and future priorities for this ambitious action learning partnership and integrated package of help for people denied access to state support on account of their immigration status. In our first year to March 2023, the partnership supported over 1,200 people seeking sanctuary or to settle in Scotland who were at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness and destitution. This third sector-led response developed in a strategic partnership with Scottish Government and COSLA, and we acknowledge with thanks the commitment of local authority colleagues in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen to this important work.

New partnerships and cross-sector alliances are emerging to confront together the challenges. We are hopeful for the year ahead that current circumstances are setting in motion a more connected and integrated foundation and a more informed and equipped network for the next phase.

**Maggie Brünjes**



# What we do

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, learn and act on homelessness

## Connect people and places to influence change



- Providing membership services.
- Facilitating cross-sector partnerships, alliances and collaborations.
- Influencing and assisting the people and places that can make change happen.
- Hosting network events and conferences.

## Learn from evidence and each other's experiences



- Creating and sharing knowledge of what works: policy, research, evaluation, training, briefing and consultation.
- Providing a platform for lived experience.
- Focusing on delivery of change on the ground.

## Act on what works and what matters



- Supporting better ways of working for bigger impact.
- Going local to test and innovate new ideas on the ground.
- Facilitating solutions, clarity and a way forward on the key issues.

# Knowledge

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

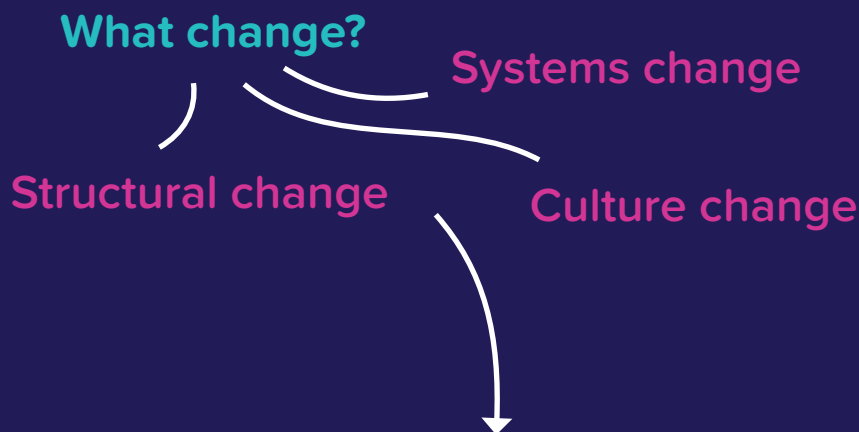
## Contextualised

sensitive to our partners different perspectives and challenges

## Equality competent

recognising that the risk and impact of homelessness can differ

# Change



Prioritise Prevention

End Rough Sleeping and Destitution

Transition to Rapid Rehousing

Provide Platforms for Lived Experience

# Connect

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 Home for 10.



[Home for 10 Report \[pdf\]](#)  
[bit.ly/HOMEFOR10Report](https://bit.ly/HOMEFOR10Report)

We welcomed 400 people to online member forums and a conversation series, including:

- The Very Best of Intentions - when does good do harm?
- Involving People in the design and delivery of the services they use.
- The Big Ask: acting now to prevent homelessness.
- Human Rights Bill for Scotland through a housing and homelessness lens.
- Right to Recovery Bill.

We continued to host the Everyone Home Collective.

The 40 members of the Collective jointly responded to Scottish Government consultations and published **A Route Forward for the Private Rented Sector**, hosting an online launch event attended by over 130 people.



[A Route Forward for the Private Rented Sector \[pdf\]](#)  
[bit.ly/401F1cU](https://bit.ly/401F1cU)



We connected with a diverse range of partners across Scotland and beyond to progress shared objectives, including through:

- Hosting a joint event for housing associations with Scottish Federation of Housing Associations - **Ask & Act: preventing homelessness starts in the community.**
- HNS and Scottish Government providing a joint-keynote at **Australia's National Homelessness Conference.**
- Sharing our learning on involving people at a Say Women conference called **Women's Homelessness: what needs to change?**
- Hosting a **knowledge exchange** with health colleagues from the Netherlands.
- Chairing the Chartered Institute of Housing Scotland and ALACHO joint event on **homelessness prevention through a post-pandemic lens.**
- **Sharing our learning** at the New Systems Alliance event, Housing First from a strengths-based perspective.
- Sharing practice and learning with colleagues working to **upscale Housing First** across the different nations of the UK.
- Providing an **input about lived experience** at the Northern Ireland homelessness conference held by Housing Rights.

70 people from a range of organisations participated in our Housing First Connect event to discuss the findings of Scotland's Housing First Pathfinder evaluation and the annual Housing First Check-Up process from Scottish Government and Homeless Network Scotland.



**Housing First Scotland Website**  
[housingfirst.scot](https://housingfirst.scot)





# Learn

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



# Learning into Practice

## All in for Change

We assisted 49 organisations through our training modules including:

- Closer to Home: a place-based approach to ending homelessness
- Rough Guide to homelessness policy and legislation in Scotland
- The Unequal Risk: equality in housing and homelessness



**Learning Lounge**  
[homelessnetwork.scot/learning-lounge](https://homelessnetwork.scot/learning-lounge)

## Home for 10 Journal

We published a journal of insights into homelessness in Scotland to mark the 10-year anniversary of the 2012 commitment which had set Scotland apart internationally in how seriously it took the task of ending homelessness. 'Home for 10' contains insights from 10 of the housing and homelessness sector's key experts with a reach backwards of at least 10 years to provide their insights, and provocations, for the wider sector. Another 10 people with a fresh perspective, or who have a vantage position and broad oversight, were invited to describe what the way forward looks like.



**Home for 10 Journal [pdf]**  
[bit.ly/45OZauM](https://bit.ly/45OZauM)



# Learning into Policy

Through the Everyone Home collective, we facilitated joint responses to key Scottish Government policy consultations this year, including:

- New duties to prevent homelessness
- Standards in temporary accommodation
- Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- National Care Service
- National plan for ending the need for food banks

We also gave evidence to Scottish Parliament committees and shared learning through our membership of Scottish Government planning groups and structures, including:

- Homelessness Prevention and Strategy Group (HPSG)
- Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans subgroup
- Ending Destitution Together - Delivery Leads Group
- Ending Destitution Together - Expert Advisory Group
- Faculty for Homeless and Inclusion Health

And local planning groups and structures including:

- Glasgow City Health & Social Care Partnership: Homelessness Strategic Planning Group
- City of Edinburgh Council: Homelessness Task Force
- West of Scotland Housing Options Hub
- Local Liaison Groups on No Recourse to Public Funds – Glasgow and Edinburgh

This year, we were appointed co-chair of two of four ‘task and finish’ groups reporting to the HPSG, where we collaborated with partners across the homelessness, housing and academic sectors on:

- Measuring Impact: designing a new framework to measure the impact of the Ending Homelessness Together Action Plan.
- Supported Housing: focusing on the future role of supported housing as a response to homelessness in Scotland.
- And were members of groups focused on temporary accommodation and preventing homelessness.

## Learning Partners

This year, we have also been a learning partner for 3 major programmes:

### Social Innovation Partnership

where we assisted researchers from I-SPHERE at Heriot-Watt to undertake an evaluation of the unique collaboration between Scottish Government, the Hunter Foundation and 13 social entrepreneurs.



**Findings from the Social Innovation Partnership** [pdf]  
[bit.ly/3Q2YdJo](https://bit.ly/3Q2YdJo)

### Fair Way Scotland

where we supported cross-sector partnerships to implement the 5-year delivery plan and worked with Joseph Rowntree Foundation and I-SPHERE to draw out learning, improvement and influencing priorities.



**Fair way Scotland**  
[homelessnetwork.scot/fairway-scotland](https://homelessnetwork.scot/fairway-scotland)

### Housing First Scotland

where we worked with Scottish Government to support local authorities and partners to reflect on their planning and delivery of Housing First in their local area, determining learning messages that matter most to local partnerships.



**Housing First Check-Up Report**  
[bit.ly/3S9ShRB](https://bit.ly/3S9ShRB)



# Act

We continue to act on what works and what matters, supporting better ways of working for bigger impact.



# 1. Prioritise Prevention

## Prevent homelessness closer to home

The evaluation from a 2-year lottery funded project showed us that adopting a place-based approach can prevent people becoming homeless and that great things happen when subject experts along with local experts and people with lived experience collaborate and problem-solve at a local level.

Area and neighbourhood partnerships have a unique position in the local community that they represent, connecting with the widest range of people who are all trying to improve the area and make it a better place to live. We were excited when 2 Area Partnerships in Glasgow worked with us to include 'preventing homelessness' as a new priority, and we will encourage all areas to do the same over the next phase.

## No Wrong Door

This year, we have facilitated conversations with inspiring sector leaders in Scottish Government, the third sector and funding organisations to design a test of change programme that will learn how to deliver a No Wrong Door approach. The parameters of this work are emerging, including how we would use models such as the Human Learning System to share learning and bring about system change. To date, local leaders in Aberdeen, Fife, Edinburgh, and Dundee are working across multiple disciplines, including health, homelessness, education, mental health, and addictions and are forming as a learning partnership for the next phase.

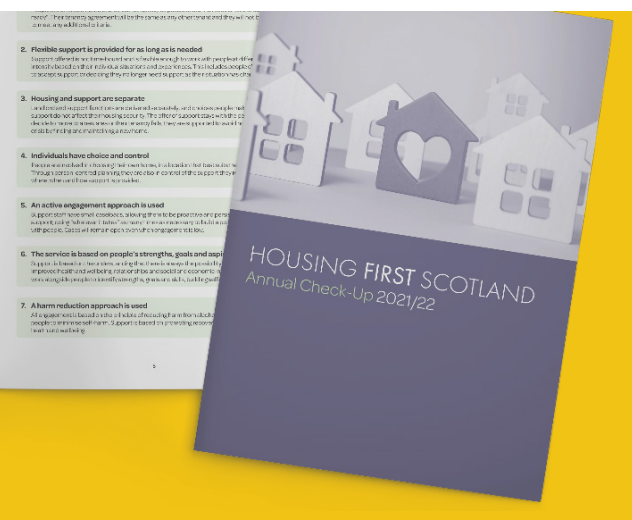
## Protecting Homes, Preventing Eviction

Working with SFHA, Crisis, Simon Community Scotland and ALACHO, we commissioned Neil Morland and Associates to carry out research and deliver a practice toolkit for social landlords on what works to support the sustainment of social tenancies. With new legal duties to prevent homelessness on the horizon, the framework has ideas on early action to help people sustain their tenancy during difficult times.



**Protecting Homes, Preventing Eviction**  
[bit.ly/46UJYNY](https://bit.ly/46UJYNY)





## 2. Transition to Rapid Rehousing

### Housing First Check Up

Housing First Check Up began its second annual cycle in March 2023. This year 26 local authorities will take part in the process, across all five housing options hubs. Learning from last year's process we have adapted the schedule of each stage to allow fuller participation with local authorities, organisations and Housing First tenants. Check-Up is designed to support local authorities to deliver Housing First in line with the National Framework, to reflect on how well Housing First is working in their area and identify any changes needed.

We have built on last year's progress by including a tenant insight survey this year, and so far, have gathered insights from 38 Housing First tenants on their experience with Housing First. Twenty local authorities have started the Check Up process for 2023, with the six remaining authorities due to begin later in the year.

### Housing First Europe Hub Partnership Event

In April the Housing First Europe Hub hosted their annual partnership and networking event in Glasgow. This was a significant move. These events are usually hosted in Finland and the Hub were clear that the move to Glasgow was due to the increasing interest in Housing First in Scotland from hub members across Europe and beyond.

The two-day event brought together 100 people with an interest in Housing First to share learning and good practice and visit sites across the country to learn from our progress in Scotland. As well as being well attended and with an agenda packed with key stakeholders across Scotland, we were delighted to invite Housing Minister Paul McLennan to open the event, which was his first public engagement since his appointment as Minister.



**Housing First Europe Hub Report [pdf]**  
[bit.ly/3S6rfKX](https://bit.ly/3S6rfKX)



# 3. End Rough Sleeping & Destitution

## Fair Way Scotland

We continue to work with our consortium partners, Scottish Government and COSLA to progress our 5-year delivery plan, working to end homelessness and destitution among people with No Recourse to Public Funds. This year 1,205 people accessed Fair Way services in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen, including 730 who received casework support. Six people were accommodated by the partnership in Glasgow with linked £50 weekly cash payments because they were excluded from all forms of public support.

I-SPHERE, Heriot-Watt University and Joseph Rowntree Foundation have published their findings from the year one evaluation of Fair Way Scotland.

This evaluation shows the initial impact achieved by lead delivery partners Refugee Sanctuary Scotland (previously Refugee Survival Trust), Scottish Refugee Council, Simon Community Scotland and Turning Point Scotland.



**Fair Way Scotland Evaluation** [pdf]  
[bit.ly/3rTVDNY](https://bit.ly/3rTVDNY)



# 4. Platform for Change

## All in for Change

All in for Change continue to make an impact on monitoring the implementation of the Ending Homelessness Together Action Plan across Scotland. The Change Team sit on each of the four HPSG Task and Finish Groups and have influenced the development of these groups based on what's outlined in the Four New Directions.

An independent evaluation of All in for Change was led by Scottish Community Development Centre and concluded in Spring. The evaluation demonstrates the added value of All in for Change bring to policy makers, decision-makers and the wider homelessness sector.

Bringing together the evaluation with the Taking the Temperature findings, the Change Team have used time in their monthly retreats to develop their 'Power Points' :

**Bringing it!** — The Change Team has been evaluated as bringing real added value to policy making in Scotland.

**Building from it** — But there is much more to do to implement change on the ground – at a local and national level.

**Joining it up** — More urgent change is needed to connect services and create “No Wrong Door” for people.

**Seeing it** — People do see some progress, despite growing pressure on people and the system.

**Levelling it** — Poverty and inequality causes homelessness, and we are determined to do more to address this.

**Supporting it** — More support for people who support people is badly needed.



**All in for Change Evaluation** [pdf]  
[bit.ly/3s3S1Jf](https://bit.ly/3s3S1Jf)



**All in for Change Website**  
[homelessnetwork.scot/all-in-for-change](https://homelessnetwork.scot/all-in-for-change)



## Glasgow Homelessness Involvement and Feedback Team (GHIFT)

This year we continued to expand the opportunities available to people with lived experience of homelessness to contribute to the work of Glasgow Health & Social Care Partnership and the Glasgow Alliance to End Homelessness:

- Supported Glasgow City Health and Social Care Connect service by codesigning an evaluation framework for people using the service to provide feedback to Glasgow HSCP.
- Developed an accessible GHIFT version of Glasgow's temporary accommodation strategy.
- Working with Glasgow City HSCP prison homelessness team to update a leaflet to encourage citizens who could be homeless or at risk of homelessness to engage with the prison casework team.
- Ensured representation of the voices of people with experience of homelessness across all the Glasgow Alliance to End Homelessness working structures, with direct participation in the leadership team and almost every other Alliance working group.



# Our People

We aim to be a valued, knowledgeable and reliable organisation that listens, learns and is always moving forward. The people driving Homeless Network Scotland span our board of directors and trustees, our staff team, associates and member organisations.



**Connect with our members**

[homelessnetwork.scot/members](https://homelessnetwork.scot/members)

## Our Board

Our non-executive directors during 2022/23 were:

**Jackie Erdman**  
(Convenor)  
Individual member

**Peter Kelly**  
(Vice Convenor)  
Poverty Alliance

**Christopher Cullen**  
(Treasurer)  
Individual member

**Moira Bayne**  
Housing Options Scotland

**Mike Burns**  
Penumbra Mental Health

**Jim Strang**  
Individual Member

**Prof Suzanne Fitzpatrick**  
Individual member

**Elodie Mignard**  
Scottish Refugee Council

**Ashleigh Simpson**  
Individual member

Our thanks to Board members who retired during the year: Patrick McKay, Peter Millar, Rebecca Pringle and Sean Cussen.

## Our Staff 2022-23

### Leadership & Core Team

**Margaret-Ann Brünjes**  
Chief Executive

**Alex Beaton**  
Finance Manager

**Grant Campbell**  
Head of Partnerships &  
Consultancy

**Russell Ferguson**  
Finance Manager

**Janice Higgins**  
Head of Corporate Services

**Ruth Whatling**  
Head of Policy & Equality

**Aileen O'Halloran**  
Core Support

**Lisa Sen**  
Design & Information Lead

### Strategy & Delivery Team

**Ginny Cooper**  
Improvement Advisor

**David Kidd**  
Improvement Lead

**Claire Frew**  
Improvement Lead

**Derek Holliday**  
Peer Development Lead

**Michelle Major**  
Impact Lead

**David Ramsay**  
Impact Lead

**David Pentland**  
Policy Officer  
(seconded to Scottish  
Government)

## Our Associates

Alan, Anthony, Ben, Billy, Claire, Craig, Duncan, Dylan, James, Jeremy, Jim, John, Lisa, Mark, Martin, Neilette, Shea, Suzanne, Tyler and Zander.

## 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.

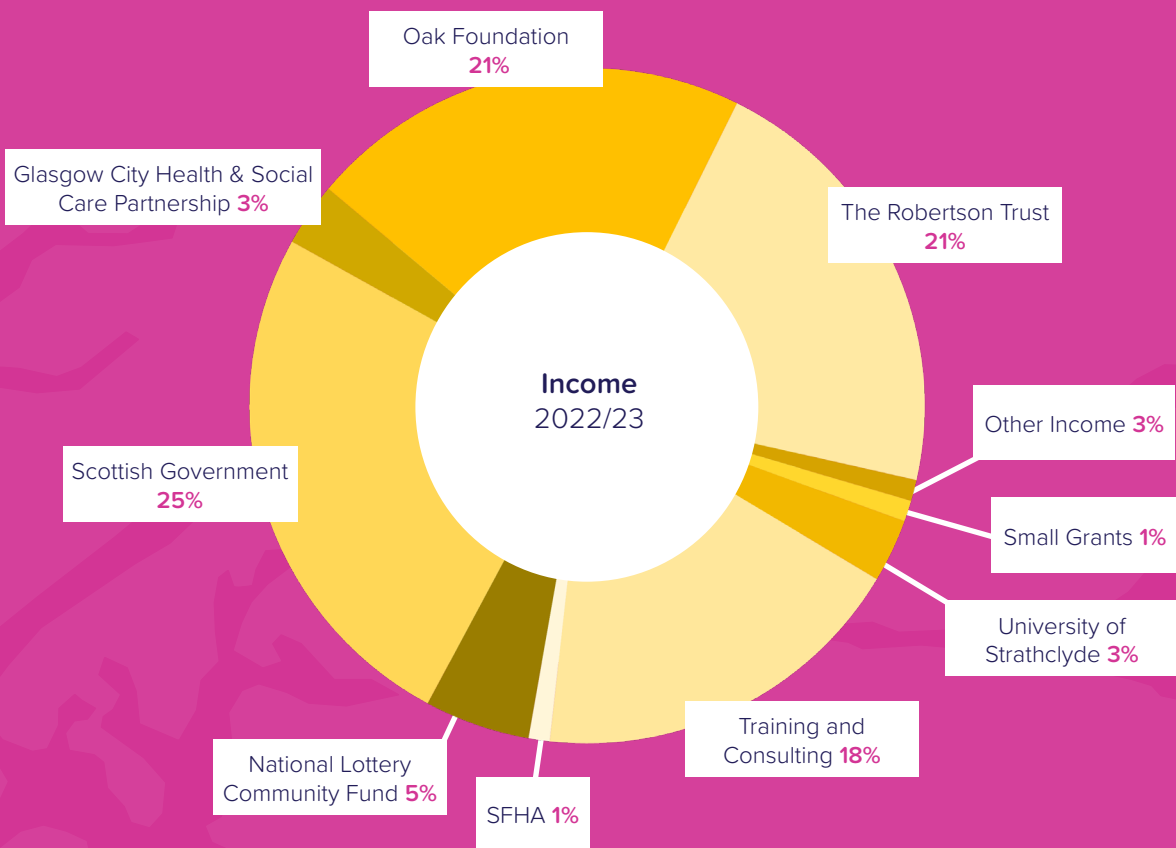
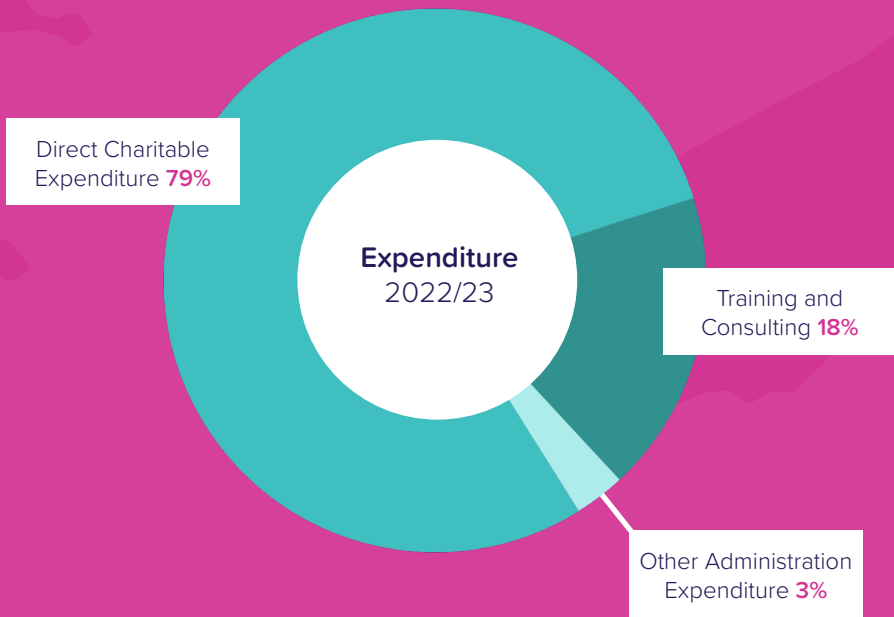
# Accounts

## Expenditure 2022/23

Direct Charitable Expenditure	79%	804,411
Training and Consulting	18%	179,967
Other Administration Expenditure	3%	31,125
		<b>1,015,503</b>

## Income 2022/23

National Lottery Community Fund	5%	61,266
Scottish Government	25%	278,986
University of Strathclyde	3%	38,402
Oak Foundation	21%	236,667
The Robertson Trust	21%	235,084
SFHA	1%	10,000
Small Grants	1%	10,766
Glasgow City Health & Social Care Partnership	3%	32,000
Training and Consulting	18%	205,277
Other Income	1%	7,042
		<b>1,115,490</b>



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To find out more about how you can get involved with Homeless Network Scotland visit [homelessnetwork.scot](https://homelessnetwork.scot)  
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