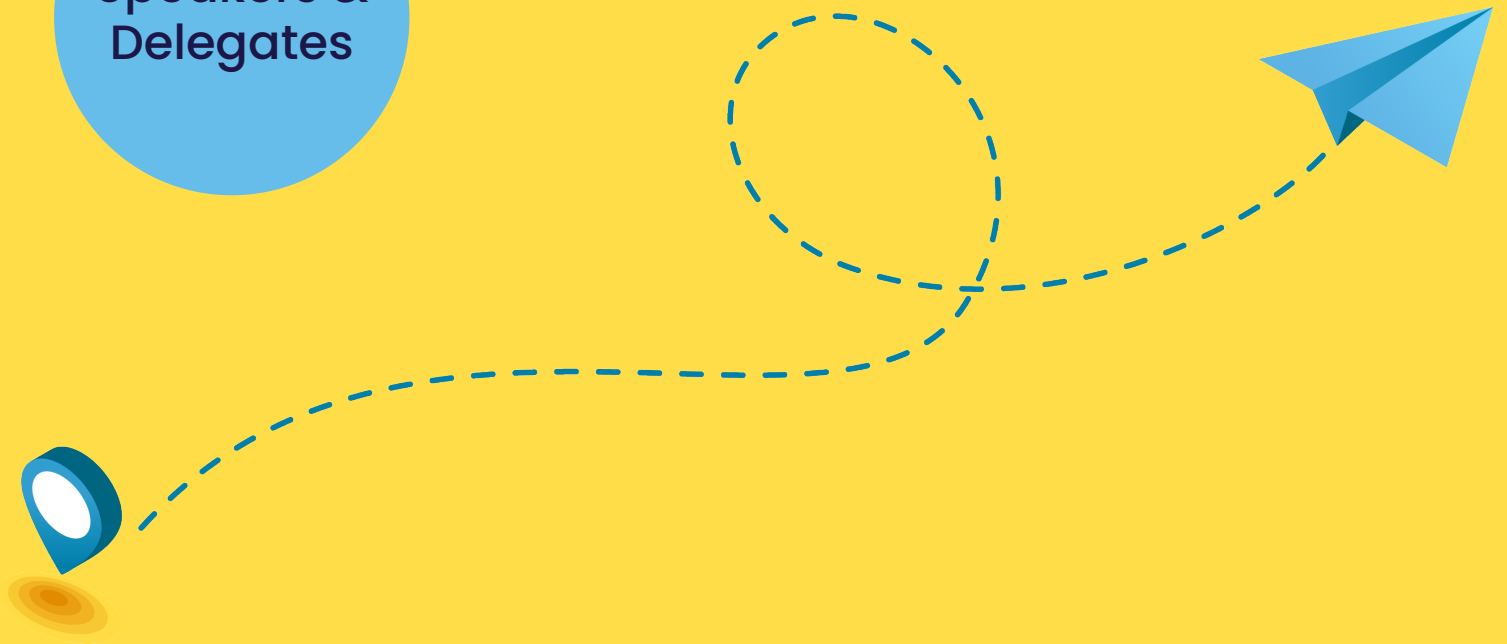




Speakers &
Delegates



Scotland's Annual
Homelessness Conference

Right here, right now

29-30
October
2024 Perth Concert Hall

Speaker Biographies



Ewan Aitken

Chief Executive, Cyrenians

Ewan is CEO of Cyrenians, a charity tackling the causes and consequences of homelessness. A former Convener of Education and Leader of Edinburgh City Council and CoSLA spokesperson on Education, Ewan has over 30 years' experience in the Public and 3rd sectors. He founded the National Prison Visitor Centre Steering group, The Ripple, and two Credit Unions. Ewan is a Fellow of the Royal Society of the Arts, Chair of SHAPE, the Edinburgh collaborative of homelessness organisations, a Council member of the Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce, a Board member of The Ripple and a member of the Scottish Government's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans Delivery Group and the Scottish Government's National Strategy for Economic Transition Delivery Board.



Lee Ball

Director of Addictions, Salvation Army

Lee has worked for The Salvation Army for over 20 years and is currently the Director of Addictions and advises all expressions of Salvation Army mission, giving guidance on how to work with the causes and consequences of addictive behaviours. Before coming to work for The Salvation Army, Lee worked for 23 years as a residential social worker with young people with emotional and behavioural disorders, then with young people with autism and then people leaving care with addictions.



Karen Barr

CEO, Rowan Alba Ltd

Karen has extensive experience in housing and homelessness, with 40 years working in the sector. Her current role is CEO of Rowan Alba, a charity providing intensive support to the most marginalised of homeless people both in an accommodation setting, where settlement and security is provided, and in the community, working to prevent homelessness. Karen's previous tenure was as CEO of a Housing Association. She is a qualified teacher of further education, previously teaching SVQ Level 4 Health and Social Care. She is a lifetime Dundonian, and lover of cats!



Emma Berry

Health Improvement Manager, Public Health Scotland

Emma is a Health Improvement Manager and currently leads the Health and Homelessness programme within Public Health Scotland. Educated at the University of Glasgow and with over 17 years of experience within the public sector, she worked both nationally and locally and has significant experience of working within the third sector, gaining a sound understanding how both national and local policy can influence and affect delivery at multiple levels. She is passionate about reducing health inequalities and firmly believes in developing best practice methods that are co-produced with people who have lived experience.

If you would like to contact Emma: Emma.berry2@phs.scot



Maggie Brünjes

Chief Executive, Homeless Network Scotland

Maggie has, since 2010, been the chief executive of Homeless Network Scotland, a membership organisation that connects a wider network to learn and act on homelessness together. She has co-created several structures around homelessness and destitution, including Housing First Scotland in 2016, the UK-wide Centre for Homelessness Impact in 2018, the Everyone Home Collective in 2020 and Fair Way Scotland in 2022. Maggie was a member of the Scottish Minister appointed Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group whose recommendations led to the national plan to end homelessness and sits on the Scottish Government's Homelessness Prevention and Strategy Group.



Yvette Burgess

Director, Housing Support Enabling Unit

Yvette joined CCPS in 2004 to set up the Housing Support Enabling Unit (HSEU) and has led the service ever since. The HSEU is jointly hosted by the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations (SFHA) and is funded through the Scottish Government's Better Homes Division. Yvette's background is in housing management in the social rented sector, having worked in London and Bristol for housing associations and for a London borough.



Mike Burns

CEO, Penumbra Mental Health

Mike joined Penumbra in September 2021. Previously chief executive of Aberdeen Cyrenians, he has significant leadership experience of working in the third sector over the last 20 years in the areas of homelessness, substance use, and mental health.



Grant Campbell

Head of Partnerships and Consulting, Homeless Network Scotland

Grant's varied career started in software, where he spent over 10 years working with ADOBE Systems. He took time out to study at the Open University as a mature student, finally getting the degree he never thought he could. For the last 12 years Grant has been a senior leader in the homelessness sector, firstly as CEO of Glasgow City Mission and more recently with CRISIS UK as Director of Services. He was appointed Head of Partnerships & Consulting at Homeless Network Scotland in September 2022. Grant is passionate about people, collaboration, and the great things we can achieve together – particularly ending homelessness.



Dawn Coulshed

Dawn is an ever evolving singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist. Dawn studied classical piano and has since released several singles as a solo artist, drawing comparisons to Joni Mitchell and Maggie Rogers. Coulshed's arrangement of her own song 'Sing for us' was performed by the Roundhouse Choir as part of BBC 6 Music Festival in Camden, London. In 2021 Dawn returned to Scotland to study jazz voice at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.



Susan Deacon CBE

Chair, Home in Scotland

Susan is a Board Member of Home Group and Chair of Home in Scotland. Her career has spanned leadership roles across the private, public and third sectors - as well as academia, elected office and government. She has fostered many cross-sectoral collaborations and been widely involved in the study and practice of leadership, governance and change, and in the development and implementation of many areas of social and public policy.

Susan is a Professorial Fellow and Senior Adviser with the University of Edinburgh, where she was previously an Assistant Principal. A former Chair of the Institute of Directors in Scotland, she has served on the boards of a number of businesses and charities, and as Chair of the Scottish Police Authority. She was an MSP from 1999-2007 and was the first post-devolution Cabinet Minister for Health. Currently, Susan is Chair of Lothian Buses Ltd; Chair of the Edinburgh Festivals Forum and a Trustee of the British Gas Energy Trust. In 2017, she was awarded a CBE for services to business, education and public service



Danilo Falzon

Research Assistant at the Salvation Army Centre for Addiction Services and Research (SACASR), University of Stirling

Danilo's research interests include drug policy, harm reduction interventions, greenspace and nature-based interventions, homelessness and social marginalisation, and criminology. In the coming months, Danilo will start a PhD exploring peer-led interventions for drug dependency in Scottish prisons.



Laura ffrench-Constant

Homeless Network Scotland

Laura works with the team to develop training and eLearning.

Laura has a particular interest in rural experiences of homelessness having grown up in Cornwall and now living on the west coast of Scotland. At a previous role with JRS Knowhow, they wrote an online guide to human rights and equalities for the Rural Social Enterprise Network.

Laura has nearly ten years of experience working in organisations dedicated to social justice, human rights and international solidarity. Laura is an advocate for lifelong learning, the rights of children and young people and an energetic digital champion.



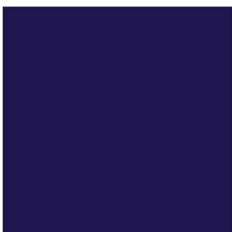
Professor Suzanne Fitzpatrick

Director of the Institute for Social Policy, Housing, Equalities Research (I-SPHERE) at Heriot-Watt University

Suzanne is a leading international scholar on homelessness, and has undertaken research on family, single and youth homelessness, as well as on rough sleeping, 'street culture activities', domestic violence, and rights-based approaches to tackling housing exclusion. Her methodological expertise lies mainly in qualitative research (in-depth interviews, focus groups, qualitative longitudinal research), and in policy, legal and international comparative analysis, but she has also led numerous mixed methods studies with strong statistical components.

Suzanne's major research programmes include the highly respected Crisis funded "Homelessness Monitor" series; "Destitution in the UK" for Joseph Rowntree Foundation; "State of The Nation" research on homelessness and racial inequalities for the Oak Foundation and an international evaluation of approaches to reducing street homelessness with the Institute of Global Homelessness.

Suzanne is a Poverty Commissioner for Scotland and has Chaired and contributed to a number of Government Committees including recently chairing the Welsh Expert Review Panel (ERP) contributing to the White Paper Ending Homelessness in Wales. Suzanne sits on a number of Boards and is a founder and editor of the International Journal of Homelessness.



Viki Fox

Policy and Participation Manager and Recovery Housing Manager, Cyrenians

Viki works for Cyrenians in Edinburgh and is a Trustee for Crisis UK and St Martin-in-the-Fields charities. Viki has been involved with the All in For Change team since it began in 2019, firstly as a change lead and then as a facilitator for the last three years. Viki has lived experience of recurring homelessness over a 15-year period and is a strong advocate for the power of lived and frontline experience in ending homelessness.



Professor Ken Gibb

University of Glasgow and Director, UK Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence (CaCHE)

Professor Gibb is a professor of housing economics at the University of Glasgow, where he directs the ESRC UK Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence (CaCHE). Ken has been a housing researcher since the late 1980s. His main research interests concern economic analysis of housing policy and recently was the lead editor of the 2024 Routledge international handbook of housing economics. Recent research has included the Scottish Funding Council evaluation of the Niddrie Road tenement retrofit, he led the recently completed housing market analysis of Govan and has completed a series of projects and papers on rent control in Scotland. Ken chairs the Scottish Government's short life working group 'towards a shared understanding of housing affordability' and is a member of the Government's housing investment task force. He is on the Shelter Scotland committee and is a trustee and board member of the Centre for Homelessness Impact. He is a board member of Clyde Valley HA and he co-leads the University's Road to Home homelessness initiative.



Deborah Hay

Senior Policy Adviser, Joseph Rowntree Foundation

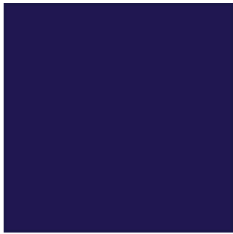
Prior to joining JRF, Deborah worked as a policy adviser in the National Lottery Community Fund in Scotland, shaping their biggest investments in children, young people and families. Before that, she held a variety of policy and development roles in the third sector, including leading the formal merger of advice agencies in Edinburgh and establishing a successful web based recruitment business for SCVO. Deborah is interested in maximising the contribution housing (and related areas) can make to reducing poverty and boosting well-being in Scotland.



Ursula Hofeldt

Policy & Participation Manager, Cyrenians

Ursula Hofeldt works for Cyrenians as Policy & Participation Manager. Before moving to Scotland in 2019, Ursula worked on social innovation projects in Denmark, focusing on co-production with young people and families. Her educational background is in sociology with a bachelor's degree from University of Copenhagen and a master's degree from University of Edinburgh exploring digital inequality in social security systems in the UK. Ursula has been with Cyrenians since 2021 and facilitates the Scottish Frontline Network and co-facilitates All in for Change, providing platforms for people with lived and frontline experience to influence policy and drive change.



Matt Howarth

Scottish Government

Matt Howarth has worked in various housing and homelessness roles in the Scottish Government for a number of years and is currently working on the introduction of Prevention of Homelessness Duties as part of the Homelessness Prevention Team. He previously worked for Communities Scotland, Scottish Homes and for homelessness services in the third sector.



Anu Kasim

Local Delivery Lead – Aberdeen, The Royal Foundation

Anu Kasim is the Local Delivery Lead for Homewards Aberdeen, as part of The Royal Foundation of the Prince and Princess of Wales. Anu previously worked at Aberdeen City Council, and in her last five years there, as Empty Homes Officer, where she built a three-time national award-winning Empty Homes Service, leading a cross-sector network of stakeholders to bring long term empty residential homes in the city back into use and link it to homelessness provision. She has also worked extensively in the voluntary sector, focusing on unlocking opportunities for young people, and has experience working across UK Parliament, and in delivering the World Bank and the United Nations funded programmes.



Fiona Kell

Director of Policy, Homes for Scotland

Fiona is the Director of Policy at Homes for Scotland where she has responsibility for overseeing the wide range of policy and regulatory issues impacting the operational environment for home builders in Scotland in order to maximise the delivery of homes of tenures. She works with senior stakeholders across the Scottish Government and other partners and is currently leading on key issues such as the affordable housing supply programme, the transition to net zero and cladding remediation. With qualifications in town planning and economic development, Fiona has 30 years' experience across both public and private sectors particularly in urban regeneration projects, town centre development and development feasibility.



Janine Kellett

Head of Homelessness Unit, Scottish Government

Janine's current focus is to lead delivery of the Ending Homelessness Together action plan and ensure that homelessness is prevented wherever possible and, where it does occur, housing-led solutions are provided.

Since joining the Scottish Government in 2002, Janine has worked in a wide range of policy areas including marine energy, looked after children, international trade and investment, urban regeneration and sustainable economic development. She has a PhD in French feminism from the University of Glasgow.



Allan Jones

Transformation Programme Manager, Aberdeenshire Council

Allan has worked with Aberdeenshire Council for 20 years in the Housing team. He has been Housing Service Manager for the Housing Options and Homelessness services since 2016 and has a wealth of experience in the sector.

Aberdeenshire Council have made significant changes through their Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan and have sector leading performance in homelessness including use of temporary accommodation and the length of homeless journeys. This has been built on partnership working. Allan set up a Housing First scheme in 2017 which was one of the first in Scotland that operates in a rural area and is now one of the largest in the country. This also relies on a strong partnership approach.

In September 2024 Allan moved on secondment to a new role in Aberdeenshire Council as the Transformation Programme Manager building on the learning and knowledge from the changes made during the RRTP.

In his substantive role Allan is a member of the Scottish Government's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan sub group and leads the North of Scotland and Islands Housing Hub. In addition he chairs a nationwide group considering Housing First in rural areas which includes representatives from local authorities, the homeless network and the Scottish Government along with a Local Authority Group on Temporary Accommodation. Allan is also Vice Chair of Caledonia Housing Association and Chair of the Audit & Risk committee and has a wide understanding of issues impacting the sector.



Richard Lowrie

Reader in the Centre for Homelessness and Inclusion Health, University of Edinburgh, Lead Pharmacist for Research and Development in NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, and an Independent Pharmacist prescriber

After working on a voluntary capacity in Glasgow's Wayside Centre for several years Richard co-created a collaborative NHS and Third Sector assertive outreach service (called PHOENix) for people facing homelessness. This successfully offered holistic clinical outreach alongside the Homelessness Health Service GP service, until both services were closed last year. Since then he has retained his clinical outreach role as a prescriber in Edinburgh, collaborating with Streetwork, through Edinburgh's Access Place.

Richard is lead investigator on several research grants aiming to improve care and processes of care for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, and leads undergraduate teaching on Inclusion Health at the School of Nursing, University of Edinburgh. He is a National Clinical Adviser for the CSO/Drug Deaths Innovation projects, and a Fellow of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.



Catriona MacKean

Deputy Director of Better Homes, Scottish Government

Catriona is Deputy Director for the Better Homes Division of the Housing and Social Justice Directorate in Scottish Government, having previously worked in health, social care and service integration policy and service planning. Along with a committed, experienced and passionate team of civil servants across Better Homes Division her areas of responsibility include tackling and ending homelessness as part of ensuring effective policy for a successful housing system for all - ranging from housing for independent living, rented sector regulation, policy and strategy and tackling fuel poverty to improving overall housing quality and safety.



Gordon MacRae

*Gordon MacRae, Shelter Scotland Assistant Director
(Communications & Advocacy)*

Gordon has worked in politics and public affairs since 1999. He spent five years as the Head of Communications and Policy in Shelter Scotland, before moving on to the Humanist Society Scotland as Chief Executive in 2015 . Gordon returned to Shelter Scotland in 2019 to head up campaigning and policy functions as the charity embarked on a new phase of work to secure public and political support to stop homelessness, tackle the housing crisis and ensure everyone is able to access a safe home.



Rosie MacInnes

Raasay Community Development Trust

Rosie is the Housing Project Officer on the Isle of Raasay as well as one of the Development Officers for the Scottish Government's Carbon Neutral Islands Project. Employed by Raasay Development Trust, she works on the delivery of sustainable, affordable homes and collective community retrofit works. A qualified engineer, retrofit assessor and soon to be retrofit coordinator, Rosie works with community members to guide them through the retrofit process helping households access grants to help reduce fuel poverty as well as developing community owned affordable accommodation to address the housing crisis on Raasay.



Michelle Major

Impact Lead, Homeless Network Scotland

Michelle has worked with Homeless Network Scotland since 2016 in a variety of roles, initially developing a peer advocacy project. Her role now is leading HNS' work providing a platform for people with lived experience of homelessness which includes organising and facilitating All in for Change, a national team of frontline workers and people with lived experience of homelessness working to close the implementation gap between great policy at a strategic level and practice on the ground. While the work is serious and often heavy, Michelle brings creativity into participation wherever possible. Michelle also enjoys designing and delivering training to a variety of audiences and likes to learn more about all things related to homelessness and participation.



Paul McLennan MSP

Minister for Housing

Paul McLennan served as a local councillor for the Dunbar and East Linton multi-member ward of East Lothian Council since 2007, and was leader of the Council from 2009 to 2012.

He has been a board member of NHS Lothian, the regional offices of Scottish Enterprise and the Commission on School Reform.

He was elected as MSP for East Lothian in 2021.



Gary Meek

Chief Executive, Blue Triangle Housing Association

Gary Meek brings transformative leadership honed through diverse roles, including his tenure as CEO of Glasgow Council on Alcohol. With a passion for social impact, he spearheads initiatives tackling homelessness and addiction, driving positive change in communities. His strategic vision fosters collaboration, leveraging resources to provide vital support services and housing solutions. Gary's dedication to holistic well-being is evident in his advocacy for marginalised populations, empowering individuals to rebuild their lives. Through innovative programmes and partnerships, he continues to champion resilience and empowerment, leaving a lasting legacy of compassion and progress.



Dr Emma Miller

Senior Research Fellow, University of Strathclyde

Emma is a registered social worker who works part-time in research at the University of Strathclyde. She is also self-employed. Her research and knowledge exchange work focus on the outcomes important to people who use services, and to staff. She facilitates the [Personal Outcomes Network in Scotland](#)



Shea Moran

Associate, Homeless Network Scotland

Shea Moran is the senior representative for Aff The Streets, the national steering group dedicated to bringing about an end to youth homelessness in Scotland. As part of his role, Shea ensures that young people with lived or living experience of homelessness have their views heard, representing them on a variety of groups such as the Scottish Governments HPSG, The All In For Change Team and the A Way Home Scotland Coalition.



Gillian Neish

Neish Training

Gillian works with individuals and organisations in all sectors to help them recognise and fulfil their potential. The focus of her work is power, whether challenging the power inequalities of racism, sexism and the other 'isms' or developing personal power through personal development programmes.



Professor Tessa Parkes

Professor and Co-Director, SACASR, University of Stirling

Tessa is Professor of Substance Use and Inclusion Health at the University of Stirling. She is the founding Director of the Salvation Army Centre for Addiction Services and Research, a community-university partnership created in 2017 to undertake research and knowledge exchange of direct relevance to the organisation. Tessa leads research and knowledge exchange projects focused on the reduction of harms and promotion of health and wellbeing for those impacted by social and health inequalities, including alcohol and drug related harms. Before coming into academia, Tessa worked in the statutory and non-statutory health, social care and housing/ homelessness sectors as a front-line support worker, team leader, and mental health nurse.



David Pentland

Associate, Homeless Network Scotland

Davie started his journey in housing as a rough sleeper campaigning for better service provision and legislation in the mid-1990s. Davie formed the Homeless Users Group Edinburgh (HUGE) and has worked in a variety of frontline roles in housing and addictions in subsequent years

Davie joined All In for Change when it was set up in late 2019. He was part of the subgroup of All in for Change that fed into the Prevention Review Group. In 2021 Davie was appointed as a secondee to the Scottish Government Homelessness Team for 2 years as a policy officer. Davie has since returned to his Associate role with Homeless Network Scotland and has been developing stigma training.



Kate Polson

Chief Executive, Rock Trust

Kate is the CEO of Rock Trust, a leading national charity working with young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. She has been in this role for 15 years working to design and implement services, practice methods and systems change that will enable young people to avoid, resolve and move on from homelessness. Prior to Rock Trust, her roles included providing and managing support services for young runaways, sex workers, older men and veterans who find themselves homeless, and street-based services for young people.

In addition to her role at Rock Trust, Kate is a member of EveryYouth (EYH UK) Board, an Executive Group member of the Housing First Europe Hub, and Chair of A Way Home; Scotland (the national coalition to end youth homelessness) where she continues to support the implementation of Youth Homelessness Prevention Pathways with the Scottish Government.

Kate believes youth homelessness can be ended and under her leadership, Rock Trust is working towards this.



Gail Porter

Motivational Speaker and Homewards Advocate

Courage, authenticity, resilience, kindness, making a difference. These are all qualities we see in Gail Porter — and qualities which individuals and organisations can learn from her.

Edinburgh-born Gail speaks from the heart about the ups and downs of her life and in particular her experiences of mental illness, to help others.

While enjoying a successful career as a television presenter, personality and model, Gail suffered from self-doubt, anxiety, depression and anorexia. She went on to experience post-natal depression, alopecia, self-harm, divorce and homelessness.

Gail, the subject of the BAFTA award-winning BBC documentary 'Being Gail Porter', now bravely shares her story to help individuals and organisations better understand these issues which are increasingly prevalent in today's world and workplace, and to how to support those experiencing problems.

As a motivational speaker and an ambassador for several charities, she shows others how to overcome adversity, be more resilient and make a difference in the world.

Gail is an advocate for Prince William and The Royal Foundation's UK-wide programme to end homelessness – Homewards. It is a five-year locally led programme which will demonstrate that together it is possible to end homelessness: making it rare, brief, and unrepeatable.



Amanda Rutherford

Change Lead, All in for Change

Amanda is an Operations Manager at the Crisis Skylight in Edinburgh. Amanda has 28-years of experience in the Scottish homelessness sector. A Change Lead in Homeless Network Scotland's All In For Change team, Amanda has spent the last three years working alongside others with experience of delivering frontline homelessness services and/or lived experience of homelessness. She completed an MSc in Housing at Stirling in 2015 and is a Chartered Member of the Chartered Institute of Housing



Anas Sarwar MSP

Leader of Scottish Labour

Anas Sarwar was first elected as an MP in 2010 and was then elected as deputy leader of Scottish Labour one year later. In 2016 he was elected to the Scottish Parliament as MSP for Glasgow.

In the Scottish Parliament, he has championed the NHS and its workers. He established an expert-led workforce commission to tackle the staffing crisis in the health service, led the campaign to end the NHS pay cap, and exposed the truth behind the water infection scandal at Glasgow's largest hospital.

Anas led Labour's positive campaign for Scotland's future in the UK – United With Labour – in the run-up to the 2014 referendum. He is a proud member of the GMB MSP Group and the Co-operative Party.

Outside of parliament, he has worked on a number of charitable projects, founding Glasgow Cares. He arranged for ambulances to travel to the Greek island of Lesbos to support Syrian refugees and has supported projects for homeless people in Glasgow.



Duncan Shrubsole

Chief Executive, St Martin-in-the-Fields Charity

Duncan is CEO of St-Martin-in-the Fields Charity leading work to prevent and tackle homelessness across the UK. He previously worked at Lloyds Bank Foundation for England and Wales and Crisis, in both charities developing and leading their policy, research, best practice programmes, communications and campaigns to influence public policy and practice. He is Chair of Trustees at Switchback, a charity supporting young men leaving prison and a Trustee of the foodbank charity Trussell. He has also worked in central and local government, been a Trustee of a local Citizens Advice and a Board member of a housing association.

St Martin-in-the-Fields Charity is a UK-wide homelessness charity. Its goal is that homelessness is prevented, but that when it does occur, people receive the best possible support that enables them to secure and keep a safe place to live. The charity does through a three-fold approach of giving grants to individuals and to organisations, supporting frontline workers and influencing decision makers to affect change. And it gives small emergency grants to help thousands of people each year move into new accommodation or to prevent eviction.

The charity is passionate about the role, value and importance of frontline workers. It works with thousands of frontline workers every year to provide the best support possible for people facing homelessness, offering training, funding and bringing frontline workers together directly and through a network of partners working across the four nations. These spaces create opportunities for staff to share their insights and expertise, discuss the challenges they are facing and solution-focused practice. St Martin-in-the-Fields Charity shares experiences and insights with local and national decision makers – amplifying the voices of frontline workers and the people they support. To find out more please see: <https://www.smitfc.org/> or <https://frontlinenetwork.org.uk/>



Ishbel Smith

Heart in Mouth

Communications consultant Ishbel Smith works with a wide variety of organisations and individuals across the social justice sector and beyond including Homeless Network Scotland, Cyrenians and Social Bite. As a former commercial litigator, she saw the divisions that arose when people weren't heard or understood – and the problems caused when they didn't take the actions needed for resolution. This resulted in a passion to enable others to have the important conversations, create the safe spaces and formulate the right strategies to ensure that everyone's stories, insight and experience is listened to and utilised in a person-centric, informed and effective manner. She does this by providing strategic, coaching and facilitation services to others through her consultancy, Heart In Mouth.



Mhairi Snowden

Head of Policy and Programmes, Homeless Network Scotland

Mhairi joined Homeless Network Scotland as Head of Policy and Programmes in September this year. Previously she was Director of the Human Rights Consortium Scotland, developing this organisation into the leading voice for the protection of human rights in Scotland. She led civil society engagement around embedding rights such as the right to food, to adequate housing and to social security into Scots law, policy and practice. Mhairi brought Scottish civil society voices to Westminster debates and developments, working in close partnership with organisations from across the UK. With a background in policy and research around child wellbeing, disabled students' inclusion, and social work research, Mhairi has previously worked in government and for Scottish and international non-governmental organisations.



James Stampfer

All in for Change

Psychology student James is also a support worker with Blue Triangle and an Associate with Homeless Network Scotland. James has spent 25 years either accessing or working in homelessness and addiction services.



Alison Watson

Director, Shelter Scotland

Alison has been Director of Shelter Scotland since 2020. She joined Shelter Scotland in 2002 to lead the organisation's services and became Deputy Director in 2014. As Director, Alison is passionate about ensuring that it is the lived experience of housing policy and practice failures that defines and drives the actions and activities of Shelter Scotland. Alison has set the focus of the organisation firmly on driving the key structural change that will end homelessness for good: more social homes.

Alison has served on several key strategic and policy fora – she was a member of the First Minister appointed Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group, established in October 2017; sits on the COSLA: Scottish Government's Homelessness Prevention Strategy Group and Co-Chaired the Scottish Government's Task and Finish Group on Temporary Accommodation. Prior to joining Shelter Scotland, Alison worked in health and social care, mostly in the Third Sector, but also within local authorities and the NHS. Immediately prior to joining Shelter Scotland, Alison worked in the mental health field, where she played a leading role in the development of several innovative services, as well as making a major contribution to pioneering the involvement of people who experience mental health issues in the design, delivery and management of services. Alison began her career in the late 1980s, working in a large hostel for people who had long-term experience of homelessness.

Alison is a Trustee of Change Mental Health and was appointed to the Health Foundation: Improving health and tackling inequalities in Scotland steering group in May 2024.



Professor Beth Watts-Cobbe

Senior Research Fellow and Deputy Director at the Institute for Social Policy, Housing and Equalities Research (I-SPHERE), Heriot-Watt University

Beth is a Senior Research Fellow and Deputy Director at the Institute for Social Policy, Housing and Equalities Research (I-SPHERE), Heriot-Watt University. Beth is an applied social scientist whose research focuses on homelessness, housing, poverty and broader questions about the design, effectiveness and ethical legitimacy of social and welfare policies. She currently leads the 2021-26 Crisis-funded Homelessness Monitors project tracking the impacts of economic and policy change on homelessness across Great Britain and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation-funded evaluation of Fair Way Scotland, a partnership to prevent homelessness and destitution among those with No Recourse to Public Funds in Scotland. Other research has focused on temporary and emergency accommodation responses to homelessness in global and UK cities, homelessness prevention, youth homelessness and behavioural conditionality. She is a current trustee for the estrangement charity Stand Alone, former trustee of the youth homelessness charity the Rock Trust, an editor of the international journal Housing Studies and former chair of the Housing Studies Association.



Douglas Whyte

Argyll & Bute Council

Douglas has worked in local authority housing for over 25 years starting my housing career with Edinburgh City Council as a Young Person Tenancy Support Worker. After working at the West Lothian Advice Shop for a couple of years he returned to Argyll to work in the homeless service with Argyll and Bute Council. He has been involved in delivering various statutory housing functions and am currently the Team Lead for Housing Strategy which covers the Empty Homes work carried out in Argyll and Bute. Douglas is a Chartered Member of the Chartered Institute of Housing.

Delegate List

Aileen O'Halloran	Homeless Network Scotland
Alan Aird	Homeless Network Scotland
Alasdair Bennett	Bethany Christian Trust
Alisa Artiukh	Churches Action for the Homeless
Alistair MacDermid	Rock Trust
Allan Jones	Aberdeenshire Council
Amanda Collins	Shelter Scotland
Amanda Rae	Crossreach
Amanda Rutherford	Crisis
Amy McGilp	Legal Services Agency
Andy Murdoch	Cyrenians
Anne Davies	Wheatley Group
Anne Krol	Shelter Scotland
Anu Kasim	The Royal Foundation
Aoife Deery	Citizens Advice Scotland
April Barclay	Turning Point Scotland
Ashleigh Simpson	
Audrey Heron	Rock Trust
Barbara Zygmunt	Frontlinefife
Beth Reid	Crisis
Beth Watts-Cobbe	ISHPERE - Heriot Watt University
Bev Walker	Glasgow City Health & Social Care Partnership
Biddy Kelly	Fresh Start
Carolyn Johnstone	Salvation Army
Catherine McLaren	Tranform Community Development
Catherine O'Neill	Wheatley Group
Catriona Taylor	Turning Point Scotland
Celeste Mackie	Dundee Survival Group
Charles Maasz	Glasgow City Mission
Chris Morey	Cyrenians
Chris Ougham	
Christine Duncan	
Christine Robertson	Aberdeenshire Council
Claire McGregor	Homeless Network Scotland
Craig O'Hara	Homeless Network Scotland
Dan Fyffe-Jardine	Shelter Scotland
Daniel Strachan	
Danilo Falzon	University of Stirling
Danny Lee	Alliance Scotland
Danuta Marcinkiewicz	Frontlinefife
David Cavanagh	Salvation Army

David Fernie	Glasgow City Health & Social Care Partnership
David Finnigan	Salvation Army
David Pentland	Homeless Network Scotland
Deborah Graham	Carr Gomm
Deborah Hay	Joseph Rowntree Foundation
Demi McKay	City of Edinburgh Council
Douglas Whyte	Argyll & Bute Council
Dr Emma Miller	University of Strathclyde
Duncan Easton	Homeless Network Scotland
Elodie Mignard	Scottish Refugee Council
Emma Berry	Public Health Scotland
Emma Carmichael	Rock Trust
Emma Thomson	Wheatley Group
Euan Brock	Social Bite
Ewan Aitken	Cyrenians
Faith Ougham	
Fi Grimmond	Salvation Army
Fiona Benton	SAMH
Fiona McPhail	Salvation Army
Fionna Kell	Homes for Scotland
Frances McGraw	City of Edinburgh Council
Gary Meek	Blue Triangle
Gavin Smith	Fife Council
Gerry Young	Salvation Army
Gillian Duncan	Glasgow City Health & Social Care Partnership
Gillian Neish	Neish Training
Ginny Cooper	Homeless Network Scotland
Gordon Bentham	SSAFA
Gordon MacRae	Shelter Scotland
Graeme Brown	Hillcrest Futures
Graeme Gardner	Centre for Homelessness Impact
Grant Campbell	Homeless Network Scotland
Hannah Nelson	Bethany Christian Trust
Heather Sloan	Dumfries & Galloway Council
Iain Wilson	Salvation Army
Isabelle Steadman	Home Group
Ishbel Smith	Heart in Mouth
Jac McElhinney	Housing First Consortium
Jackie Erdman	Homeless Network Scotland
Jackie McDermott	Frontlinefife
Jaki Weir	Turning Point Scotland
James Grubb	Frontlinefife
James Mullaney	Crisis
James Stampfer	Homeless Network Scotland

Jamie Milne	Homeless Network Scotland
Jane Ross	Dumfries & Galloway Council
Janet Haugh	Right There
Janice Higgins	Homeless Network Scotland
Janice Muir	Turning Point Scotland
Jeremy Wylie	Homeless Network Scotland
Jess Cadd	Crisis
Jim McBride	Glasgow City Health & Social Care Partnership
Jim Nicol	Homeless Network Scotland
Jim Strang	Homeless Network Scotland
Joanne Weir	Dumfries & Galloway Council
Jodie Gordon	Turning Point Scotland
Joe Campbell	Glasgow City Mission
John Dalton	Homeless Network Scotland
John Stevens	Bethany Christian Trust
Jules Oldham	Policy Scotland
Julie Cabanne	Salvation Army
Julie Carlin	Salvation Army
June MacLeod	Lodging House Mission
Karen Good	Salvation Army
Karen Wolstencroft	Home Group
Kate Polson	Rock Trust
Keara Donnachie	Blue Triangle
Kelly Murray	Wheatley Group
Kelsey Kane	SeAscape Ayr
Kevin Brodie	Wheatley Group
Lana Aberdein	Churches Action for the Homeless
Laura ffrench-Constant	Homeless Network Scotland
Laura Keith	Turning Point Scotland
Laura Stewart	Churches Action for the Homeless
Laura Thomson	Salvation Army
Laura van der Hoeven	Cyrenians
Leanne Keegan	Blue Triangle
Lee Ball	Salvation Army
Leona McDermid	Aberdeen Foyer
Lesley Munro	Blue Triangle
Leza Lafferty	Scotlands Housing Network
Lisa McLeod	Homeless Network Scotland
Lisa Sen	Homeless Network Scotland
Lorraine Graham	Western Isles Council
Lorraine McGrath	Simon Community Scotland
Lynne Warburton	Angus Council
Lynsey Blaney	Turning Point Scotland
Maeve McGoldrick	Crisis

Maggie Brunjes	Homeless Network Scotland
Marie Forsyth	North Ayrshire Council
Mark Bickford	Social and Sustainable Capital
Mark Cairney	Care Support Scotland
Martin Boyle	Homeless Network Scotland
Mary Garcia	Folan Trust
Marzena Farana-Sherlock	Social Bite
Maureen McEwan	Aberdeenshire Council
Meghan Patrick	Wheatley Group
Mhairi Snowden	Homeless Network Scotland
Michelle Major	Homeless Network Scotland
Mike Burns	Penumbra
Moira Bayne	Housing Options Scotland
Molly Bishop	Centre for Homelessness Impact
Neilette Brennan	Homeless Network Scotland
Nicola Barclay	
Nicola McQuiston	Wheatley Group
Nicole LeBlond	Cyrenians
Nina Erskine	Wheatley Group
Pamela Haughey	North Lanarkshire Council
Paul McLaughlin	Crossreach
Paul McLennan MSP	Scottish Parliament
Paul Roger	Social Bite
Peter Kelly	Poverty Alliance
Professor Ken Gibb	University of Glasgow
Rachael Kenyon	Cyrenians
Ramsay Hunter	Wheatley Group
Raymond Grant	Salvation Army
Renzo Cardosi	Right There
Rosie MacInnes	Raasay Community Development Trust
Rosie Stephen	Cyrenians
Russell Ferguson	Homeless Network Scotland
Sally Stimson	SSAFA
Sarah Walsh	Wheatley Group
Sean Kehoe	Salvation Army
Sharon Nicoll	Turning Point Scotland
Shea Moran	Homeless Network Scotland
Sheena McHugh	Wheatley Group
Sophia Greene	SSAFA
Stacy Clephane	Turning Point Scotland
Susan Colin	Carr Gomm
Susan Deacon CBE	Home in Scotland
Susan Grant	
Suzie Mcilloney	South Ayrshire Council

Tess Shannon	The Royal Foundation
Tessa Parkes	University of Stirling
Ursula Hofeldt	Cyrenians
Vera Burgos-Hernandez	Stirling Citizens Advice Bureau
Veronica Pyke	Glasgow City Health & Social Care Partnership
Viki Fox	Cyrenians
Wendy Miller	Dogs Trust
William Trotter	Salvation Army
Zander O'Hara	Homeless Network Scotland