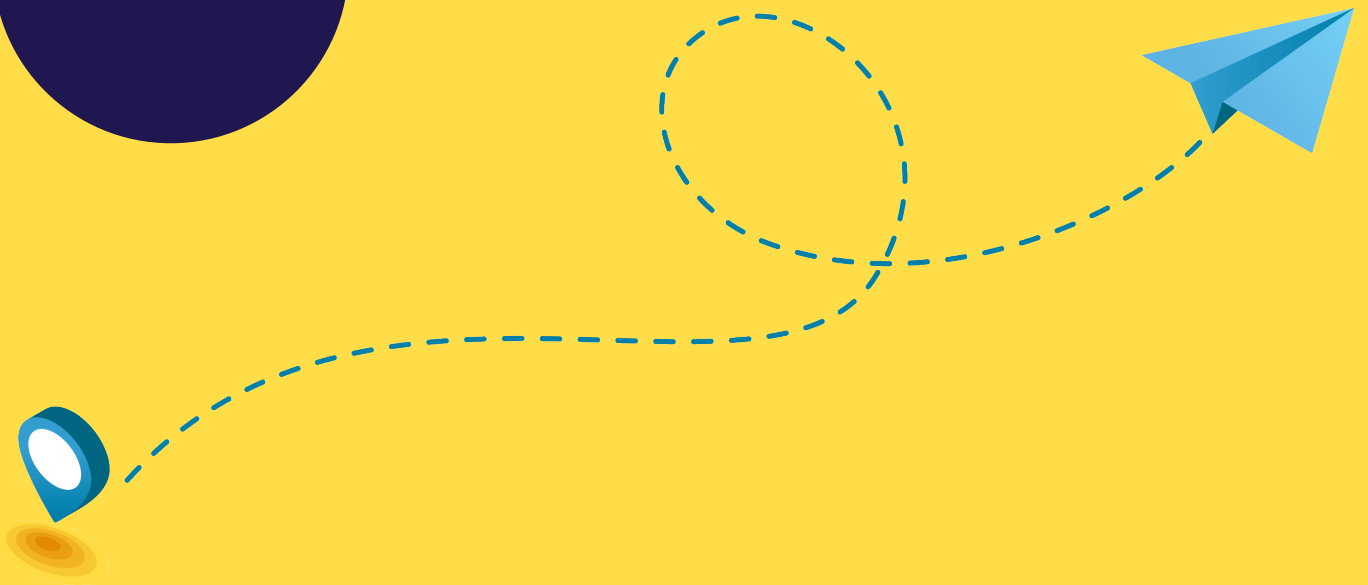


2-DAY
Programme



Scotland's Annual
Homelessness Conference

Right here, **right now**

29-30

October

2024 Perth Concert Hall

Welcome to Scotland's annual homelessness conference

Homeless Network Scotland we are all in

We'll be tweeting throughout the day on our feed @homelessnetscot – if you're sharing thoughts about the conference on social media, you can use the hashtag #RightHereRightNow



Free Wi-Fi is available in the building with no password required.

Right Here in Scotland we have a national housing emergency.

Right Now more people are experiencing homelessness, with services stretched by more demand and less resources.

A brighter future is not only possible – it has been signed and sealed across a range of policy that commits to:

- A fairer Scotland that prioritises prevention and does not create the inequality that creates homelessness.
- Supplying enough settled homes for people in the places they want to live, with a tight supply of suitable temporary accommodation to bridge housing transitions.
- A rapid local response when homelessness can't be prevented, with services that provide advice and support while tackling the causes and consequences.

But **right here, right now** – this future feels further away than ever.

So this year's conference comes with a collective task.

Across two days and spanning four urgent themes, the conference will shape and sequence a route map to a better future, which starts with two simple questions:

- What can be done now?
- What needs to happen next?

By being part of Scotland's annual homelessness conference, you will help set in motion a fresh chain of action that starts right here, right now.

We look forward to seeing you!



A message from our conference partner

The Salvation Army

The Salvation Army is a worldwide Christian church and registered charity that has been fighting against social inequality and transforming lives for more than 145 years in Scotland. Today, the United Kingdom and Ireland territory is part of the wider international family.

Across the UK our Homelessness Service provides 3000 places every night in 79 Lifehouses and we have worked with almost 14,000 people in the past year. A similar number received job-seeking advice through Employment Plus. Our modern slavery service has supported more than 11,000 survivors.

The Salvation Army also expresses faith through charitable action by working at the heart of communities through 650 churches and community centres where we offer friendship and support for people going through tough times. Motivated by our faith we provide practical support and services to all who need them, regardless of background, identity or personal characteristics. Our work includes topics such as:

- addiction
- homelessness
- modern slavery
- poverty
- campaigning and social policy
- older adults
- community (debt advice, unemployment, isolation).

A rise in the number of people experiencing homelessness who have support needs for both addiction and mental health sits against a wider backdrop in Scotland of concerning levels of drug and alcohol-specific deaths, along with equally worrying levels of mental ill health.

In 2017 we established the Salvation Army Centre for Addiction Services Research (SACASR) at University of Stirling to grow expertise in this field and explore solutions.

We know that providing a bed for the night and a roof over someone's head is only a short-term measure.

Over the decades the focus of our work has widened to take a holistic approach to the needs of the individual.

At The Salvation Army we believe Housing First can be a positive way to address deeply entrenched rough sleeping. It offers permanent housing as quickly as possible when homelessness has not been prevented and puts in place wrap-around support, linking people into addiction services. In our own Housing First services we see individuals thrive with the appropriate support.

Our recent report 'Breaking The Cycle' launched at The Scottish Parliament in May, captured seven asks of the Scottish Government from our work and research into addiction, mental health and homelessness. In that report we call for better data, greater availability of life-saving Naloxone to prevent overdose deaths and a commitment to fund wraparound support.

Providers must be bold in asking for what we need in the face of unprecedented challenges. For change to happen it is vital that we invest in property, people, relationships, data and new ways of working. These are the fundamental principles that have shaped our Homelessness Services Strategy 2024 - 2034, titled '1,000 voices – A Discerned 10-Year Approach to the Future of Homelessness Services'.

Organisations committed to preventing and ending homelessness in Scotland often approach the issue from different and legitimate perspectives. Our aim collectively must be to ensure that there is access to a working system with sufficient resources attached to it that will enable people to experience a full life. The Salvation Army is committed to that outcome.



Committed to reducing, preventing and ending homelessness



Challenging social injustice



Providing a diverse, inclusive and sustainable range of homelessness services



Empowering people in purpose, relationships and community

Find out more by visiting salvationarmy.org.uk/homelessness

Programme Day One

29 October 2024

Day one of Right Here, Right Now will span two themes:



In the morning, we'll be focused on **Housing Supply**. There is no route to ending homelessness without more social housing. But with budget cuts and targets off track, we'll be exploring what needs to happen, right here and right now, to increase housing supply.



In the afternoon, we'll be focused on **People**. This is about getting alongside people – standing together for equality, solidarity, advocacy and support. With services stretched and more people affected by homelessness, how can we ensure there are no wrong doors? And how do we support the people who support people?

09.00 – 10.00	Registration Refreshments, making connections and meeting the exhibitors
10.00 – 10.10	Welcome to the Conference Ishbel Smith, Heart in Mouth, Conference Chair
10.10 – 10.20	Right Here, Right Now Maggie Brunjes, Chief Executive, Homeless Network Scotland
10.20 – 10.40	Connecting at roundtables And learning the ropes we will use across the day.
10.40 – 11.10	The Change Team interviews the Housing Minister Paul McLennan MSP, Housing Minister The Change Team Facilitated by Michelle Major, Impact Lead, Homeless Network Scotland
11.10 – 11.30	Break Enjoy refreshments, make connections, meet the exhibitors or find solace in the quiet area.
11.30 – 11.40	10-minute Thesis: Housing Supply What you need to know ahead of the sofa debate. Professor Ken Gibb , University of Glasgow and Director, UK Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence (CaCHE)

11.40– 12.40

SOFA DEBATE

Scotland's Housing Emergency

With 12 councils declaring, and the Government too – what is the cost of doing nothing?

Hosted by:

Susan Deacon CBE, Chair, Home in Scotland

With Guests:

Ken Gibb, Director, CaCHE

Fionna Kell, Director of Policy, Homes for Scotland

Amanda Rutherford, Change Lead, All in for Change

Gordon MacRae, Deputy Director, Shelter Scotland

12.40 – 13.30

Lunch and Exhibitions

HNS Annual General Meeting will take place at 1pm and is open to all delegates. Member organisations will approve the annual report and accounts and vote for the Board of Directors for the year ahead.

13.30 – 14.40

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

For a deeper dive on topics related to the day's two themes.

See p10-11 for more details

1. How to bring your anti-racist allyship to work
2. It's time to talk about caseloads...
3. The view's good from here: learning from rural approaches to housing and community.
4. Healing at the 'SHARPS' end: the effectiveness of peer workers

Return to main conference hall

14.40 – 14.50

An update on Homewards from the Royal Foundation of the Prince and Princess of Wales

Anu Kasim, Local Delivery Lead – Aberdeen, The Royal Foundation

14.50 – 15.00

Temperature at the Frontline

15.00 – 15.30

In conversation with Gail Porter

Gail Porter, Motivational Speaker and Homewards Advocate



15.30 – 16.00

Inspirations from the Frontline

6 inspirational colleagues in direct support, advice or advocacy roles on why they keep showing up.

16.00

Conference Close



Day one is proudly sponsored by the Wheatley Group

Programme Day One – Evening

29 October 2024

17.00 – 18.00

The Fringe Right Here

From relaxation to artificial intelligence and much more besides! If you want to while away an hour, go it alone or with friends and colleagues at the Fringe Right Here.

19.00 – 21.00

Conference Dinner



All's well that ends well! Enjoy a great meal, spend some time with colleagues across the network and enjoy the evening's entertainment from award-winning comedians

Marc Jennings and Jay Lafferty!

We share a big vision



We all share a big vision – to work together towards the aim of **Ending homelessness in Scotland.**

At Bethany we do this practically, **one person at a time, one family at a time, and one community at a time.** Bethany's mission is to relieve the suffering and meet the long term needs of homeless and vulnerable people in Scotland. To do this we partner with communities, churches, organisations, local and national government, to offer tailored support and services.

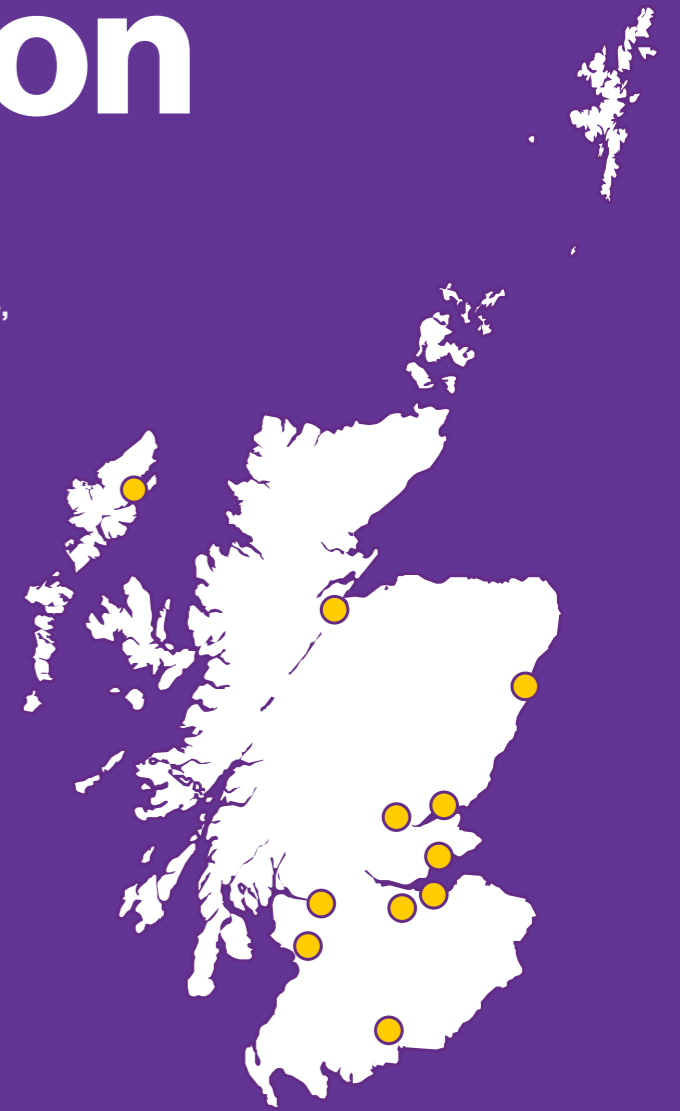
Every year, Bethany Christian Trust provides various forms of high quality accommodation and support services to over 7,000 people across Scotland. We support people who are at risk of becoming homeless, people who are currently homeless, and people who have been homeless but now have their own home. Our integrated approach is reflected through a suite of life-changing services.

Homelessness Prevention

Crisis Intervention

Housing & Support

Operating in a total of 15 Scottish local authority areas, we are in formal partnership with 20 voluntary sector organisations across the breadth of Scotland, all working towards the aim of Ending Homelessness. We are privileged to join you for the Homeless Network Scotland Annual Conference.



Let's talk about what more we can do together.



Ending homelessness in Scotland, one person at a time.

☎ 0131 561 8930

🏠 65 Bonnington Road, Edinburgh, EH6 5JQ

🌐 www.bethanychristiantrust.com ✉ info@bethanychristiantrust.com



Booking your breakout:

You can select your breakout session from the app before the event – details will be sent with your booking confirmation. You will also be able to select your breakout session when registering at the conference venue on the day.

Breakout Sessions Day 1

Day 1 Breakout Session 1

How to bring your anti-racist allyship to work

Session Host:

Gillian Neish, Neish Training

Session Outline:

What does being an anti-racist ally mean to you? And how easy is it to be one?

During this session you'll have the opportunity to consider ways to challenge discrimination and promote inclusion, and to set some personal action points that will enable you to create an environment in which everyone can thrive.

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.



Day 1 Breakout Session 2

It's time to talk about caseloads...

Session Host:

Yvette Burgess, Director, Housing Support Enabling Unit

Session Guests:

Dr Emma Miller, Senior Research Fellow, University of Strathclyde
Gary Meek, Chief Executive, Blue Triangle

Session Outline:

Frontline services are being backed into a tight corner with greater demand on time, a pressured funding environment and challenges recruiting and keeping great staff being experienced right across adult social care. Caseload numbers are often not protected; despite the impact this has on people and those that support them, on the quality of service received – and on the time we are willing to afford people, and the stark message that sends.

This breakout session will learn about research that proposed limits on caseloads for social workers – and explore what we should do now, and next, to keep finding solutions to this burning issue.

Day 1 Breakout Session 3

The view's good from here: learning from rural approaches to housing and community

Session Guests:

Rosie MacInnes, Raasay Community Development Trust
Douglas Whyte, Argyll & Bute Council

Session Outline:

Every community in Scotland has unique weather, hills to climb and histories to navigate. We will share insights and learnings from different communities across rural locations in Scotland, asking what works to prevent homelessness and create good places to stay.

We will explore the role of community housing, new builds and bringing empty properties back into use – and celebrate transformational examples from across the Highlands, Islands, Argyll and Bute.



Day 1 Breakout Session 4

Helping at the 'SHARPS' end: the effectiveness of peer workers

Session Guests:

Tessa Parkes, Professor and Co-Director, SACASR, University of Stirling

Danilo Falzon

Research Assistant, University of Stirling

Session Outline:

In this interactive session, discover the latest strategies helping people working in the sector to prioritise the quality of their relationships. This includes work that specifically uses nature-based interventions, and a project assessing the effectiveness of peer workers supporting people with homelessness, substance use and mental health challenges, titled SHARPS 2.

The work is supported by The Salvation Army Centre for Addiction Services and Research (SACASR) which was established in 2017 in a partnership between our event sponsor and University of Stirling to develop new ways to help address substance use and connections with homelessness and mental health in communities across Scotland.

Programme Day Two

30 October 2024

Day two of Right Here, Right Now will span two themes:



In the morning, we'll be focused on **Rights and Duties**. Does the public sector have more duties around housing and homelessness than it can reasonably deliver on, or does something else need to give? We'll be exploring what needs to happen, right here and right now, to realise people's rights to housing and support.



In the afternoon, we'll be focused on **Prevention**. The best way to end homelessness is to prevent it from happening in the first place. The new duties on relevant bodies are now in the Housing Bill, but it will be some time before they are implemented. What can be done now?

09.00 – 10.00

Registration

Enjoy refreshments, make connections, meet the exhibitors or find solace in the quiet area.

10.00 – 10.10

Welcome to the Conference

Ishbel Smith, Heart in Mouth, Conference Chair

10.10 – 10.20

Right Here, Right Now

Maggie Brunjes, Chief Executive, Homeless Network Scotland

10.20 – 10.40

Connecting at roundtables

And learning the ropes we will use across the day.

10.40 – 11.10

Alison Watson interviews the Leader of the Scottish Labour Party

Anas Sarwar MSP, Leader of Scottish Labour
Alison Watson, Director of Shelter Scotland



11.30 – 11.30

BREAK

Enjoy refreshments, make connections, meet the exhibitors or find solace in the quiet area.

11.30 – 11:40

10-minute Thesis: Rights and Duties

What you need to know ahead of the sofa debate

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

11.40 – 12:45

SOFA DEBATE

Rights and Duties

The importance of realising rights 'v' the resources needed to deliver on duties. What now?

Hosted by:

Mhairi Snowden, Head of Policy and Programmes, Homeless Network Scotland

With guests including:

Prof Suzanne Fitzpatrick, Director, I-SPHERE at Heriot-Watt University.

Shea Moran, Associate, Homeless Network Scotland

12.45 – 13.30

Lunch and Exhibitions

13.30 – 14.40

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

For a deeper dive on topics related to the day's two themes.

See p14-15 for more details

1. A Public Health approach to homelessness prevention.
2. Between a rock and a hard place: how can we right the wrongs of UK immigration policy in Scotland?
3. It isn't where you came from; it's where you're going that counts. A look at the lifting of the local connection test in Scotland.
4. Upstream: a schools-based homelessness prevention programme.
5. All in For Change – Unscripted!

Return to main conference hall

14.40 – 14.50

Welcome Back

14.50 – 16.00

Practically Prevention

An update on the new prevention duties for relevant bodies in the Housing Bill.

And a whole-conference approach to agree what needs to happen now, and next, to prevent homelessness earlier.

16.00

Conference Close

Booking your breakout:

You can select your breakout session from the app before the event – details will be sent with your booking confirmation. You will also be able to select your breakout session when registering at the conference venue on the day.

Breakout Sessions Day 2

Day 2 Breakout Session 1

A Public Health approach to homelessness prevention

Session guests:

Emma Berry, Health Improvement Manager, Public Health Scotland

Ewan Aitken, Chief Executive, Cyrenians

Session outline:

The case for seeing homelessness as a public health issue was set out in the ScotPHN report 'Restoring the public health response to homelessness in Scotland' in 2015. The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group, whose recommendations were taken forward through the national Ending Homelessness Together Plan, backed this in 2018 with a recommendation that homelessness must be seen as a public health priority.

This session will explore what taking a public health approach to preventing homelessness means, learn about the experience of Scottish charity Cyrenians who committed to placing a public health approach at the heart of all their services and developments – and agree what can be done now, and next, to realise this better future.

Day 2 Breakout Session 2

Between a rock and a hard place: how can we right the wrongs of UK immigration policy in Scotland?

Session guests:

Deborah Hay, Senior Policy Adviser, Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Katey Tabner, Policy Manager – Migration, Population and Diversity, COSLA

Professor Beth Watts-Cobbe, Deputy Director at I-SPHERE at Heriot-Watt University

Session outline:

Immigration policy is a reserved matter, so the new UK Government brings fresh opportunity for fresh policy that no longer creates deliberate destitution and homelessness. But there is also a strong case for more to be done at a national and local level in Scotland. This session will outline what progressive policy to end destitution among people seeking sanctuary or to settle in Scotland could look like – and invite your ideas, advice and aspirations.

Day 2 Breakout Session 3

It isn't where you came from; it's where you're going that counts. A look at the lifting of the local connection test in Scotland.

Session host:

Grant Campbell, Head of Partnerships and Consultancy, Homeless Network Scotland

Session guests including:

Allan Jones, Transformation Programme Manager, Aberdeenshire Council

Session outline:

For many years, local connection was one of the 'hurdles of homelessness' – a popular phrase describing the hoops people faced to access housing: proving you are homeless, in priority need, not intentionally homeless, and have a connection to the council area where you are asking for help. Since devolution, Scotland's progressive policy landscape has worked to dismantle those hurdles, with the local connection rules finally suspended in 2022.

Designed to give people freedom about where and how they settle, this session will explore experiences of the suspension of local connection, ask if it is working as intended – and discover what lessons have been learned so far.

Day 2 Breakout Session 4

Upstream: a schools-based homelessness prevention programme.

Session host:

Kate Polson, Chief Executive, Rock Trust

Session outline:

With youth homelessness increasing in Scotland, Rock Trust drew inspiration from the other side of the world where an innovative programme called Upstream had achieved a 40% reduction in youth homelessness in Australia.

Upstream is a schools-based homelessness prevention programme to help young people and their families before they reach crisis point. The 'universal' nature of Upstream (involving every student in a year group or school) makes the model unique. It helps identify students who may not otherwise come to the attention of school staff through traditional measures, or those who face barriers in accessing additional support. At this session, learn more about Upstream Scotland, the origins and the plan – and interact to discover how similar approaches might fit into plans for reducing homelessness among young people in your area.

Together, we're 'Making Homes and Lives Better'

Wheatley Group, one of the largest developers of social-rented homes in the UK, is transforming communities, and the lives of people who live there.



We are All In, a training and consultancy service dedicated to those working in and around housing and homelessness

Our Learning Lounge offers popular courses and briefings throughout the year – all informed by lived experience and the most up-to-date policy, evidence and research.

We also offer Consultancy Services – a sounding board to help progress your key programmes and priorities.

all in

www.allin.scot
0141 420 7272 | allin@homelessnetwork.scot

Homeless Network Scotland is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee. Charity registered in Scotland SCO03453. Company registered in Scotland SC112361. Registered office: Unit 16a, Adelphi Centre, 12 Commercial Road, Glasgow, G5 0PQ



A message from our sponsor **Wheatley Group**

Wheatley Group is delighted to support Homeless Network Scotland's Annual Homelessness Conference.

As Scotland's largest housing, care, and property-management group, our mission is 'Making Homes and Lives Better' for our 210,000 customers in 19 local authority areas across Scotland.

Protecting the most vulnerable people in our communities is, and will always be, a priority at Wheatley.

Wheatley continues to work extensively with the Scottish Government, local authorities, and other agencies to tackle homelessness.

One way we do this is through the Housing First initiative, a multi-agency partnership that provides homeless people with a tenancy and the support they need to build their lives. Our contribution to Housing First includes creating nearly 400 tenancies specifically through this initiative.

In addition, Wheatley has:

- allocated almost 8000 homes to homeless people since 2021/22;
- 'flipped' over 350 temporary furnished homes, turning them into permanent homes for the homeless people living in them; and
- provided nearly 2000 homes to refugees.

It further strengthened the wraparound support programmes we already have in place to help customers, with a focus on offering expert support and financial support at the point of crisis.

Wheatley Foundation has invested £6.7 million in programmes to support tenants of Wheatley Homes Glasgow, Wheatley Homes East, Wheatley Homes South and Loretto as well as customers supported by Wheatley Care.

It helps people living in some of Scotland's most disadvantaged communities, with a focus on offering expert support and financial support at the point of crisis – and in the last year, the foundation helped families with more than 9100 food and fuel vouchers.

In total, over the past 12 months, more than 17,000 tenants of Wheatley Group have received support through Wheatley Foundation.

Nearly 8000 tenants received welfare benefits advice worth £13.7m in previously unclaimed benefits.

Starter Packs, our service which provides essential household items such as crockery, toiletries, kettles and duvets for tenants moving into a new home, helped 845 households in the last year.

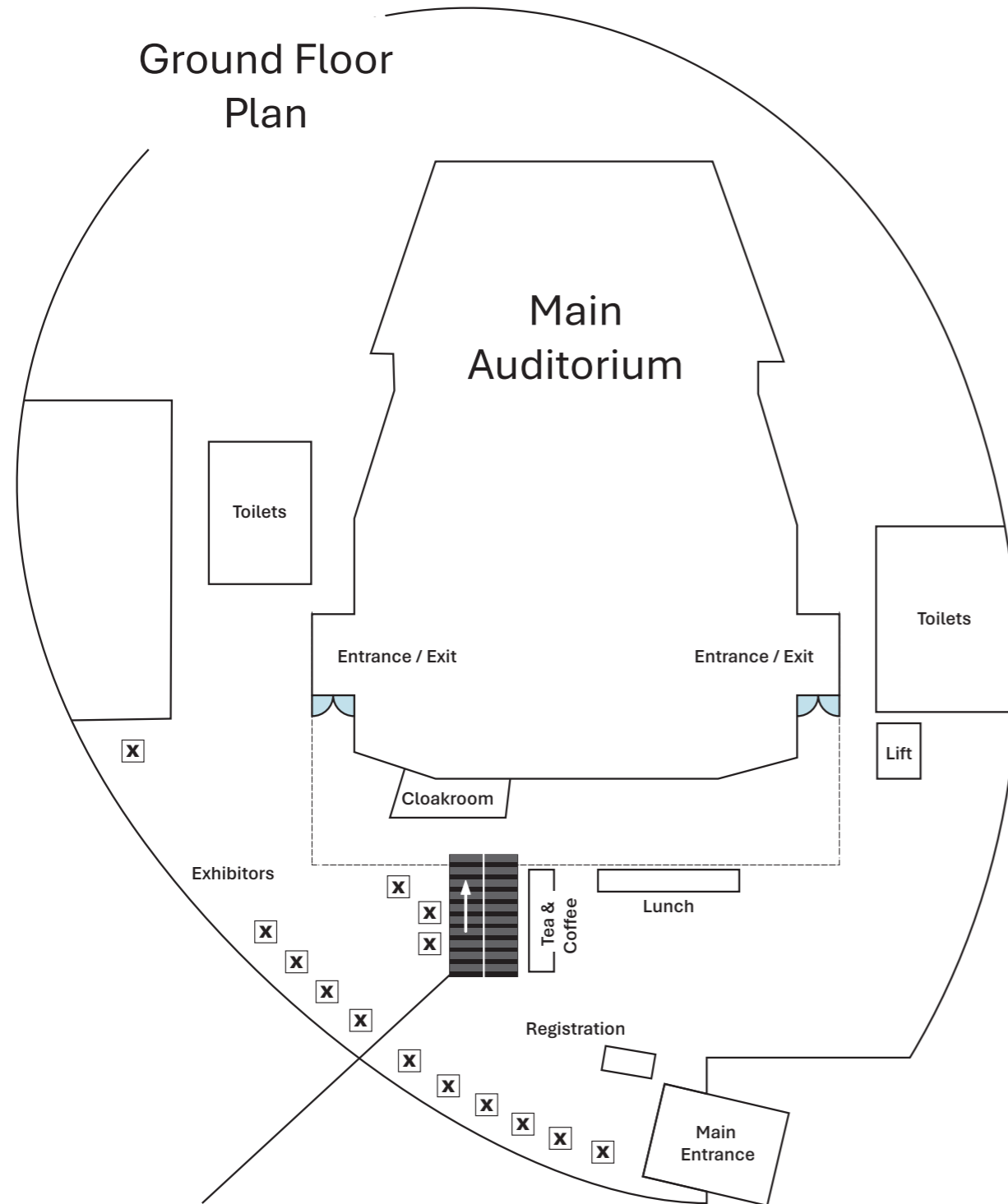
Of course, a true measure of success should not be judged solely in terms of numbers and percentages. Instead, we need to listen carefully to what our customers have to say.

William, 71, from Glasgow, was formerly homeless before receiving the keys to his new home, and additional support, from Wheatley. William said: "I lived on the streets for a good number of years and struggled with alcohol and drug addiction.

"I had gotten to the point where I had accepted that I would never have a home until my housing officers changed that.

"They gave me their time and help when I needed it most and I feel so blessed to have had two lives in the one lifetime. I now go wild swimming in Loch Lomond and am receiving the support I need – my life is full now, instead of years of isolation."

Making Homes and Lives Better indeed.



Stairs to Level 1
Homeless Network Scotland AGM

Sponsorship opportunities

Did you know you can profile your organisation's work and make new connections through a range of sponsorship options before, during and after this year's 2-day annual homelessness conference?

With around 200 delegates expected each day at Perth Concert Hall, you can promote your work to a knowledgeable and diverse audience keen to engage with latest thinking and developments.

Options include

NEW! The Fringe – stage your own one-hour event at the conference, the way you want to. Your space, your subject, your format. And we'll spotlight and help you promote your event.

Exhibit – a prime opportunity to connect, chat and inform in the Hall's bustling, airy foyer.

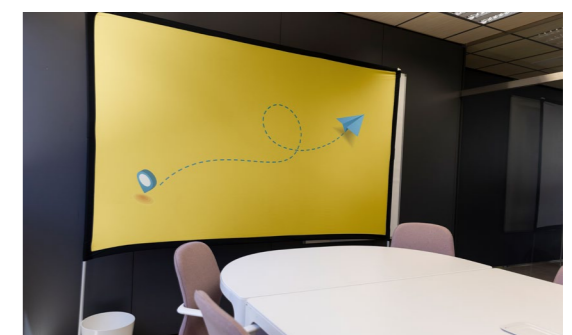
Advertise in our attractive conference programme.

Sponsor a breakout session – get your name seen in pre-event promotion and on the day.

Networking lunch, refreshments and networking dinner sponsorship – treat the delegates and promote your work in a relaxed space.

Don't forget, if you take up any option we'll be sure to promote you in our pre and post-conference promotions via email, online, conference report and on social media.

[Browse the sponsorship brochure \[pdf\]](#) and book easily. Or, for more information and to book direct, email janice@homelessnetwork.scot



Booking a Ticket

Book a place at homelessnetwork.scot/upcoming-events or e-mail hello@homelessnetwork.scot

Ticketing Options		2-Day Delegate (with dinner and entertainment)	2-Day Delegate	1-Day Delegate (with dinner and entertainment)	Day Delegate Day 1 Tuesday 29 October 2024	Day Delegate Day 2 Wednesday 29 October 2024
DAY 1	Tues 29 Oct					
	Conference day ticket	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Buffet Lunch	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Dinner and entertainment From 7.30pm	✓		✓		
DAY 2	Wed 30 Oct					
	Conference day ticket	✓	✓			✓
	Buffet Lunch	✓	✓			✓
PRICE	Member Rate Special rate for valued members of HNS	£270	£240	£195	£165	£165
	Standard Rate Welcoming all other conference bookings	£330	£300	£255	£225	£225

Terms & Conditions

Cancellations

- All cancellations must be sent to hello@homelessnetwork.scot.
- There will be no charge if written cancellation is received within 24hrs of the event.
- Non-attendance on the day will result in 100% charge.
- In the unlikely event that Homeless Network Scotland needs to cancel an event, we will refund any payments made and received in advance.
- We can accept no liability for other associated costs, such as pre booked accommodation or travel.

All Conference content, speakers and timings are correct at time of publication. The Organisers cannot be held responsible for changes due to circumstances beyond their control, including the withdrawal of speakers from the programme for any reason.

Catering

Delegate registrations will include a complimentary lunch each day. Dietary requirements will be requested at the time of registration.

Adjustments

We are committed to ensuring that all conference attendees can participate in the conference.

If you have any specific requirements, such as dietary needs (due to religious or medical reasons), access to a private room during the day, copies of handouts in advance and/or in alternative formats (e.g., large print). If you require any other adjustments please let us know.

Venue accessibility

Perth Concert Hall is committed to accessibility, offering lift access to all levels, assistive listening, and FM headsets.

Adjustments and technology such as hearing loops, wheelchair access, or high-backed chairs, are also available upon request. There will also be a quieter room available on the day.

The main auditorium features a high-tech hearing system, allowing delegates to connect via personal headphones or Bluetooth directly to hearing aids for audio streaming.

[More information about the venue can be found on their website.](#)

Quiet Area

The conference space will include a quieter room for attendees to take a minute to pause. The space is designed to be a sensory space for neurodivergent people and people who need a minute of peace.

Call Area

Need to take a video or phone call during the conference? With free wifi and charge points, the call area means you won't miss a minute more of the conference than you need to. You can also book a slot ahead by contacting janice@homelessnetwork.scot.

Transport

Perth Concert Hall
Mill Street,
Perth,
PH1 5HZ

The venue is easily reached from Perth train station and the walk should take approximately 15 minutes. There is also a taxi rank located outside the station.

The venue is 800m from Perth Bus Station on Leonard Street.

There is a multi-storey car park on Kinnoull Street. Payment is via ticket machines or through the RinGo app.

