

# It's Personal:

The human face of the housing emergency



**Scotland's Annual Homelessness Conference**  
27 - 28 October 2025 | Perth Concert Hall



Free Wi-Fi is available  
in the building

# Welcome to Scotland's Annual Homelessness Conference 2025

Brought to you by

**Homeless  
Network  
Scotland**  
we are all in

With special thanks to our  
2025 conference partner



Love God  
Love Others

A very warm welcome to everyone gathering in Perth Concert Hall today – whether you've arrived locally, travelled from across Scotland or further afield.

And whether your insight into homelessness is professional or first-hand, we all have a shared determination to make change happen.

Housing scarcity is Scotland's defining issue, driving homelessness and undermining health, education, equality and community safety. Fixing it unlocks progress on every front.

Yet amid the strain, we see resilience, energy and ideas that work. Over these two days, we come together to listen, learn and act together – with four themes guiding our discussions:

## On day 1

- **Safe:** how do we prevent the worst harm among the worst affected by the housing emergency?
- **Well:** how do we join up housing, health and social care to improve people's health and wellbeing?

## And on day 2

- **Respected:** how do we uphold people's rights and redress the inequality and adversity confronting them?
- **In-Control:** how do we unlock solutions that uphold people's choice, agency and financial inclusion?

Expect inspiring stories, evidence-based practices and practical solutions that put people first.

Every voice strengthens the conversation – so thank you for being here. We hope you enjoy your conference.



Delegate Pack  
& Conference Page

# The Viki Fox Heart of Support Award

The Heart of Support Awards were created to spotlight frontline workers in the housing and homelessness sector – the specialised, varied and complex nature of the work, as well as the life-changing impact. All nominees embody the heart of support.

And we're thrilled to celebrate the six outstanding recipients of this year's awards at Scotland's annual homelessness conference.

Across the 2-day event, we will learn more about each recipient through a video testimonial and take the opportunity to celebrate the recipients in style at the conference dinner on Monday 27 October 2025. Meet our inspiring Heart of Support award recipients:

## On Day 1

- **David McIntosh is from Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership.**  
David's commitment to Housing First tenants ensures person-centred support, promotes positive choices and prioritises community inclusion. His tenacity is contributing to higher tenancy sustainment rates.
- **Michael Forde-Hyde is from Simon Community Scotland.**  
Michael was nominated by someone he supports for getting alongside people through addiction, housing and personal challenges. His humble, dedicated frontline work resolves issues without judgement.
- **Sean McNeill is from Queens Cross Housing Association.**  
Sean tirelessly improves young people's lives, spending extra time to inspire and motivate them. His enthusiastic, dedicated approach connects brilliantly with young people and drives the team to exceed expectations.



## On Day 2

- **Ambreen Kazim is from Social Bite.**  
Ambreen's driven, innovative approach transforms lives by increasing opportunities for employment and inclusion. Her personal approach ensures safety and respect while challenging systems with empathy and persistence.
- **Angela Vance is from Lodging House Mission.**  
Angela's strength lies in her ability to build trusting relationships. Her approach is deeply personal, and she works patiently and compassionately to support people's health, financial and emotional needs.
- **Caroline Curran is from Blue Triangle.**  
Caroline's unwavering commitment to the people she supports is life-changing for them and their families. She exemplifies exceptional service that is recognised by the people and organisations around her.



## The Viki Fox Heart of Support Award

These awards are dedicated to our cherished friend and colleague, Viki Fox, where we celebrate her impact through today's outstanding frontline colleagues.

*Proudly supported by:*

**Homeless Network Scotland:** with courage and compassion, Viki uplifted Scotland's homelessness sector to be 'All in For Change'. Her profound legacy continues to inspire and uplift us.

**St Martin in the Fields Charity:** as a Trustee for over 5 years, Viki was a passionate advocate for frontline workers and sharing and acting on lived experience. The Frontline Network supported by the charity provides resources and funding across Scotland and the UK to support frontline workers and advocates for change – you can find out more at [www.frontlinenetwork.org.uk](http://www.frontlinenetwork.org.uk)

# It's Personal:

## The human face of the housing emergency

### Programme Day 1 | 27 October 2025

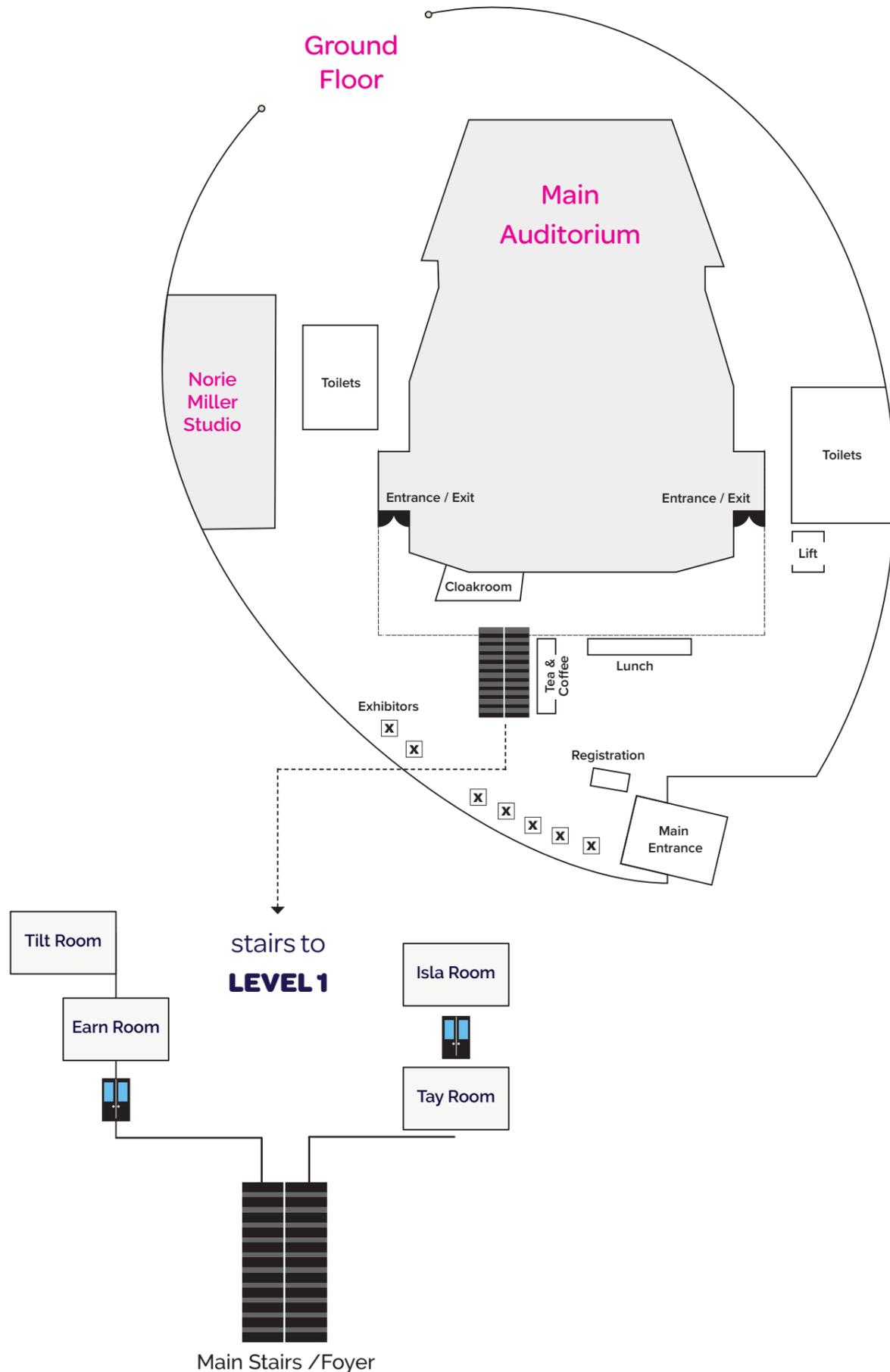
Day one will span two themes:

#### Safe.

How do we prevent the worst harm among the worst affected by the housing emergency? How can we confront the escalating risks to people's safety and peace-of-mind, particularly those staying in unsuitable and unsafe accommodation – or with none at all? Take part in focused discussions that expose emerging threats, explore innovative approaches to risk and protection and help build the strong case for more homes as an urgent community safety measure.

#### Well.

The housing crisis is a public health emergency, with homelessness severely impacting on people's health and wellbeing. But fragmented health and social care services often operate in silos, creating barriers that lock people out of the services they need - or trap them into ones they don't. This theme will explore what it will take to fully integrate housing, health and social care to deliver human-centred services.



# Programme Day 1 | 27 October 2025

09.00 - 10.00	<b>ARRIVALS &amp; NETWORKING HUB</b> [Foyer] Join us for registration, grab a refreshing drink, connect with other delegates and explore the exhibitor showcase.
10.00 - 10.10	<b>Welcome from the Conference Chair</b> [main auditorium] <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Ishbel Smith</b> <i>Heart in Mouth</i></li></ul>
10.10 - 10.20	<b>It's Personal:</b> <b>Prioritising safety and wellbeing in a housing emergency</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Maggie Brünjes</b> <i>Chief Executive, Homeless Network Scotland</i></li></ul>
10.20 - 10.30	<b>Table Talk</b> Let's go! 10-minute roundtable session to spark early ideas and make new connections.
10.30 - 10.35	<b>Video Profile: Recipient of the Viki Fox Heart of Support Award</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>David McIntosh</b>, <i>Inverclyde HSCP</i></li></ul>
10.35 - 10.45	 <b>Inspiration from the Nordic Homelessness Alliance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Juha Kahila</b>, <i>Head Of International Affairs, Y-Säätiö and Coordinator of the Nordic Homelessness Alliance</i></li></ul> <p>Be inspired by the Alliance, which brings together key organisations from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. The network aims to deepen cooperation between the Nordic countries with the aim of eradicating homelessness in the Nordic Region.</p>
10.45 - 10.55	<b>Housing at the Heart of Government</b> <b>Address from the Cabinet Secretary for Housing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Màiri McAllan MSP</b> <i>Cabinet Secretary for Housing, Scottish Government</i></li></ul>
10.55 - 11.35	 <b>Breakthrough on Homelessness in Scotland</b> <p>A dynamic panel discussion that brings together a unique set of perspectives – political leadership, international perspective, academic knowledge, lived experience and local government. Together they tackle the critical question – what will bring a breakthrough on homelessness in Scotland?</p> <p><i>Hosted by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Prof Suzanne Fitzpatrick</b>, <i>Director of I-SPHERE, Heriot-Watt University</i></li></ul> <p><i>With Guests:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Màiri McAllan MSP</b>, <i>Cabinet Secretary for Housing</i></li><li>• <b>Juha Kahila</b>, <i>Y-Säätiö</i></li><li>• <b>Shea Moran</b>, <i>Change Lead, All in for Change</i></li><li>• <b>Elaine Ritchie</b>, <i>Strategic Lead, Perth &amp; Kinross Council</i></li></ul>

11.35 - 12.00	<b>BREAK</b> [Foyer] Refreshments, making connections and meeting the exhibitors
12.00 - 12.05	<b>A Word from our Partner</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Nicola McQuiston</b> <i>Head of Housing, Loretto Housing Association (Wheatley Group)</i></li></ul>
12.05 - 12.25	<b>Strength in Service</b> <p>Insights from frontline services in the third sector on how they are tackling rising challenges and new threats, innovating to ensure people are safe and well.</p> <p>And the public sector pulse: insights from local authority service managers on how the housing crisis impacts their duties to ensure care and housing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Tony Cain</b>, <i>Policy Manager, ALACHO</i></li><li>• <b>Helen Murdoch</b>, <i>Assistant Director of Strategic Operations and Development, The Salvation Army</i></li></ul>
12.25 - 12.55	<b>Table Talk</b> <p>Join colleagues at your roundtable to share solutions for keeping people affected by homelessness <b>safe</b> and <b>well</b> in our communities.</p> <p>We will invite each table to agree on (i) one practical and short-term action to commit to and (ii) one major advocacy goal for the whole conference to champion together</p>
12.55 - 13.00	<b>Video Profile: Recipient of the Viki Fox Heart of Support Award</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Michael Forde-Hyde</b>, <i>Simon Community Scotland</i></li></ul>
13.00 - 13.45	<b>LUNCH &amp; EXHIBITIONS</b> [Foyer] Enjoy lunch, make connections and visit the vibrant exhibitions. Homeless Network Scotland members are also warmly invited to HNS AGM 2025. [Tay Room]
13.45 - 15.00	<b>BREAKOUT SESSIONS 1-5</b> For a deeper dive on topics related to the day's two themes – safe and well.
15.00 - 15.15	 <b>Eireann's Story</b> <p>Having experienced multiple challenges in her young life, including parental drug use and homelessness, Eireann has gone on to become a teacher, one of Scotland's youngest trade union officials devoted to justice and equality – and a "30 under 30" in the Young Women's Movement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Eireann McAuley</b></li></ul>

See  
p12-14  
for more  
details

15.15 - 15.20

**Video Profile: Recipient of the Viki Fox Heart of Support Award**

- **Sean McNeill**, *Queens Cross HA*

15.20 - 16.15

**Housing First at 15: The Teenage Years**

This session marks 15 years of Housing First in Scotland with a dual focus. First, the annual check-up delivers a ‘state of the nation’ report. Then join a panel of Housing First experts to explore impact, challenges and future aspirations – celebrating Scotland’s milestone in an international context.

Hosted by:

- **Grant Campbell**  
*Homeless Network Scotland*

Special contribution from:

- **Kate Polson**  
*Chief Executive, Rock Trust*

With Guests:

- **Nicky Miller**  
*Head of Homelessness & Prevention, Turning Point Scotland*
- **Prof Sarah Johnsen**  
*Director of the Centre for Homelessness and Inclusion Health, The University of Edinburgh*
- **Samara Jones**  
*Coordinator, Housing First Europe*
- **Janine Kellet**  
*Head of Homelessness, Scottish Government*
- **John Mills**  
*Chair of ALACHO and Head of Housing, Fife Council*

16.15 - 16.25

**That’s a Wrap!**

A little light relief...

Viv Gee takes the stage to sum up the day in her typical poetic and humorous style.



16.30

**Conference Day One Close**

16.30 - 18.00

**Departures And Networking Hub** [Foyer]

Make use of the many meeting and open spaces to continue conversations and visit the exhibitions.

19.00

**Evening Dinner** [Main Auditorium]

The conference dinner will take place in the Main Auditorium starting at 7.00pm.

The **Viki Fox Heart of Support Awards** will be presented on the evening, and entertainment will be provided by award winning comedian **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.



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.



## Ending homelessness in Scotland, one person at a time.



### Let’s work together. Get in touch today.

☎ 0131 561 8930 🏠 65 Bonnington Road, Edinburgh, EH6 5JQ

🌐 [www.bethanychristiantrust.com](http://www.bethanychristiantrust.com) ✉ [info@bethanychristiantrust.com](mailto:info@bethanychristiantrust.com)



## Breakout Session 1 | Isla Room

### Storytelling in Safety

Guest Speakers:

- **Viv Gee**, *Writer, Comedian and Poet*
- **Shea Moran**, *Change Lead, All in for Change*
- **Amanda Rutherford**, *Change Lead, All in for Change*

Secretariat:

- **Michelle Major**, *Equality and Involvement Advisor, Homeless Network Scotland*

#### Session Outline:

All in for Change is Scotland's platform for people with personal and frontline insight of homelessness to influence the big decisions that matter to us.

Using experience to influence decision making often asks people to share parts of themselves and their experiences that can feel daunting – and done badly can leave people feeling vulnerable.

Join Viv Gee and All in for Change to explore how to identify the parts of the story that matter to different audiences. And how to share parts of yourself, professionally or personally, while keeping yourself and others safe and well.

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by

Right  
There

## Breakout Session 2 | Earn Room

### Developing interventions to reduce 'missingness' in healthcare

Guest Speakers:

- **Andrea Williamson**  
*Professor of General Practice and Inclusion Health, University of Glasgow*
- **Jeremy Wylie**, *Associate, Homeless Network Scotland*
- **Martin Boyle**, *Associate, Homeless Network Scotland*

Secretariat:

- **David Ramsay**, *Impact Lead, Homeless Network Scotland*

#### Session Outline:

'Missingness' in healthcare has been defined by researchers as the 'repeated tendency not to take up offers of care such that it has a negative impact on the person and their life chances'. Based on research, a suite of interventions for primary care and the wider NHS is now actively being championed. This breakout session will cover the background to this and hear from Martin and Jeremy HNS Associates who contributed to the research. In small groups you will then explore the contribution your work makes already to address missingness and what could be done in the future.

## Breakout Session 3 | Norie-Miller Studio

### In their Own Words

Guest Speakers:

- **Gordon MacRae**,  
*Head of Communications and Engagement, Shelter Scotland*

Secretariat:

- **Ginny Cooper**, *Creative Lead, Homeless Network Scotland*

#### Session Outline:

"You don't really feel safe" – how can we tackle the generation of children trapped in temporary accommodation?

We have a duty to act on what children told us In Their Own Words about their experience in temporary accommodation. Join this session to discuss how we deliver the radical, progressive social changes we need to tackle the housing emergency and protect thousands of Scotland's children from further harm.

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## Breakout Session 4 | Tilt Room

### Breaking Barriers to Eye Care Access for People Experiencing Homelessness in Scotland

Guest Speakers:

- **Sven Jonuscheit**, *Research Centre for Health, Glasgow Caledonian University*
- **Anna Sierka**, *Research Centre for Health, Glasgow Caledonian University*

Secretariat:

- **Grant Campbell**, *Head of Partnerships and Consulting, Homeless Network Scotland*

#### Session Outline:

Accessing eye care is a significant challenge for people experiencing homelessness in Scotland because of complex and deep rooted factors such as health inequality, social exclusion, and service design. This interactive session, led by Anna Higgins and Sven Jonuscheit from Glasgow Caledonian University's Department of Vision Sciences, will draw on findings from the REVISION study to explore how eye health services can be made more accessible, inclusive and responsive to the needs of people facing homelessness.

## Breakout Session 5 | Main Auditorium

### Building a fairer future for people seeking sanctuary or settlement in Scotland

#### Guest Speakers:

- **Emily Edwards**, *Scottish Refugee Council*
- **Laura Keith**, *Turning Point Scotland*
- **Kerry Shaw**, *Scottish Government*
- **Stefan Smith**, *COSLA*
- **Professor Beth Watts-Cobbe**, *Heriot-Watt university*

#### Secretariat:

- **Jamie Milne**, *Policy and Communications Advisor, Homeless Network Scotland*

#### Session Outline:

The UK's restrictive immigration policies continue to create destitution for those with No Recourse to Public Funds. How can Scotland respond? This breakout session will:

- Unveil key learning from this year's consultation shaping the joint Scottish Government-COSLA Ending Destitution Together strategy.
- Present exclusive pre-publication research from the Fair Way Scotland evaluation, unpacking how community-based housing, legal advice, cash support, and trauma-informed care provide a scalable model for change. Explore an instructive policy roadmap, leveraging Scotland's devolved powers to create inclusive local policies that reduce destitution and the need for interventions like Fair Way Scotland.
- Share solutions to the challenges being experienced by people directly affected and the services supporting and advising them.

Join us to share innovative solutions, influence policy, and help forge a fairer, more inclusive Scotland for people seeking sanctuary or settlement.

# It's Personal:

## The human face of the housing emergency

### Programme Day 2 | 28 October 2025

Day two will span two themes:

#### Respected.

To respect people navigating homelessness means to uphold rights, redress inequality and acknowledge the acute adversity that people are confronted with. Take part in discussions that will explore how we break down barriers to create dignity, stop discrimination and ensure that people feel respected and valued in every service.

#### In-control.

Housing supply will reduce homelessness, while new duties aim to prevent it – but what other levers do people navigating the housing emergency need? Join us to unlock solutions to financial inclusion, explore the importance of agency and choice – and highlight the importance of electoral participation ahead of the 2026 Scottish Parliament elections.

Day two is kindly sponsored by **The Housing Network**

# Programme Day 2 | 28 October 2025

09.00 - 10.00	<b>ARRIVALS &amp; NETWORKING HUB</b> [Foyer] Join us for registration, grab a refreshing drink, connect with other delegates and explore the exhibitor showcase
10.00 - 10.10	<b>Welcome from the Conference Chair</b> [main auditorium] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ishbel Smith</b>, <i>Heart in Mouth</i></li> </ul>
10.10 - 10.20	<b>It's Personal:</b> Ensuring people feel respected and in-control. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Maggie Brünjes</b>, <i>Chief Executive, Homeless Network Scotland</i></li> </ul>
10.20 - 10.30	<b>Table Talk</b> Let's go! 10-minute roundtable session to spark early ideas and make new connections.
10.30 - 10.35	<b>Video Profile: Recipient of the Viki Fox Heart of Support Award</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ambreen Kazim</b>, <i>Social Bite</i></li> </ul>
10.35 - 11.20	<b>Childhood Lasts a Lifetime</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Baroness Floella Benjamin</b></li> </ul> <p>Floella shares her childhood journey to the UK as a ten-year-old girl, how she overcame many adversities and obstacles by having a positive attitude and learning to face them with a smile and her philosophy of life – her 3 C's.</p> <p>Now, she champions a vital mission in the UK Parliament: ensuring childhood wellbeing is prioritised, as it lasts a lifetime. A message that will resonate deeply with delegates, as childhood poverty is the strongest predictor of later homelessness, while growing numbers of children are living in temporary accommodation in Scotland. A powerful story and a vision for change.</p>
11.20 - 11.45	<b>BREAK</b> [Foyer] Refreshments, making connections and meeting the exhibitors
11.45 - 12.05	<b>In Control of the Narrative</b> Hear vital insights from the UK's largest survey of homelessness frontline workers in a special 5-minute video by Duncan from St Martin-in-the-Fields Charity. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Duncan Shrubsole</b>, <i>CEO, St-Martin-in-the-Fields Charity</i></li> </ul> <p>Michelle and James unveil peer research findings tracing people's homelessness journeys, revealing the exhausting maze of system navigation – and the bright spots along the way. And share their insights on how to get involved in fixing system failures, without sacrificing personal identity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Michelle Major</b>, <i>Equality &amp; Involvement Advisor, Homeless Network Scotland</i></li> <li>• <b>James Stampfer</b>, <i>Associate, Homeless Network Scotland</i></li> </ul>



12.05 - 12.40	<b>Table Talk</b> Join colleagues at your roundtable to share solutions for keeping people affected by homelessness <b>respected</b> and <b>in-control</b> . We will invite each table to agree on (i) one practical and short-term action to commit to; and (ii) one major advocacy goal for the whole conference to champion together.
12.40 - 12.45	<b>Video Profile: Recipient of the Viki Fox Heart of Support Award</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Angela Vance</b>, <i>Lodging House Mission</i></li> </ul>
12.45 - 13.30	<b>Lunch &amp; Exhibitions</b> [Foyer] Enjoy lunch, make connections and visit the vibrant exhibitions.
13.30 - 14.45	<b>BREAKOUT SESSIONS 1-5</b> For a deeper dive on topics related to the day's two themes.
14.45 - 15.00	<b>Urgent Disruption in Scotland's Housing Policy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Professor Duncan MacLennan</b> <i>The University of Glasgow</i></li> </ul> <p>Rising housing costs are deepening income and wealth inequality across Scotland, yet strategic investment in housing can drive inclusive, sustainable growth. Professor Duncan MacLennan, drawing on insights from his authoritative 2025 David Hume Institute report, <i>Prosperity Begins at Home</i>, will unpack the pressing challenges and opportunities reshaping Scotland's housing future.</p>
15.00 - 15.05	<b>Video Profile: Recipient of the Viki Fox Heart of Support Award</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Caroline Curran</b>, <i>Blue Triangle</i></li> </ul>



15.05 - 15.55



### Hustings on the Housing Emergency

Bringing Scotland’s major parties face-to-face with the human impact of the housing emergency. Delivering to them the sector’s priorities – and inviting interventions from the floor – Alison will challenge candidates to commit to transformative solutions that tackle homelessness and the housing emergency head-on.

Chaired by:

- **Alison Watson**  
*Director, Shelter Scotland*

With representatives from the major political parties contesting the 2026 Scottish Parliament elections:

- **Scottish Greens**  
**Mags Hall**
- **Scottish Labour**  
**Mark Griffin MSP**  
*Spokesperson for Local Government and Housing*
- **Scottish Liberal Democrats**  
**Paul McGarry**  
*Homelessness and Housing Spokesperson*
- **Reform UK**  
**Councillor Thomas Kerr**
- **Scottish National Party**  
*Representative to be confirmed*
- **Scottish Conservatives**  
*Representative to be confirmed*

15.55 - 16.00

### CONFERENCE CLOSE

- **Ishbel Smith**  
*Heart in Mouth, Conference Chair*

16.00

### Playing us out

Enjoy the sound of the **Joyous Choir** who will take the stage and remind us that even in the darkest times we can all find hope.



Photo: Kick Out Stigma by Neil, Strathmore Lodge



# 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](https://salvationarmy.org.uk/homelessness)

## Breakout Session 1 | Isla Room

### Using cash grants to give people control

#### Guest Speakers:

- **Graeme Gardner**, *Head of Programmes, Centre for Homelessness Impact*
- **Hugh Hill**, *Deputy Chief Executive, Simon Community Scotland*

#### Secretariat:

- **Michelle Major**, *Equality and Involvement Advisor, Homeless Network Scotland*

#### Session Outline:

Is direct financial support a way to keep people who experience homelessness safe, well, respected and in control during a housing emergency?

The Centre for Homelessness Impact and Simon Community Scotland launched the UK's first randomised controlled trial to evaluate the impact of giving cash transfers to people affected by homelessness. Find out what we have learnt so far.



## Breakout Session 2 | Norie-Miller Studio

### Breaking the Cycle: Why Poverty Fuels Homelessness

#### Guest Speakers:

- **Emma Jackson**, *Head of Social Justice, Citizens Advice Scotland*

#### Secretariat:

- **David Ramsay**, *Impact Lead, Homeless Network Scotland*

#### Session Outline:

Explore poverty as the primary driver of homelessness, unpacking how insufficient incomes and social security gaps push people toward housing instability. Through data and frontline insights, this breakout session will examine the systemic issue – low incomes, social security cuts, and rising costs – that trap people in poverty and homelessness. Join Citizens Advice Scotland to explore the situation and discuss real solutions, from stronger social safety nets to fairer economic policies and toward a future where we end poverty and homelessness.

## Breakout Session 3 | Main Auditorium

### Changing the Narrative on Homelessness

#### Guest Speakers:

- **Mike Findlay-Agnew**, *Chief Executive, International Network of Street Papers (INSP)*
- **Jordan Methven**
- **James Stampfer**, *Associate, Homeless Network Scotland*

#### Secretariat:

- **Jamie Milne**, *Policy & Communications Advisor, Homeless Network Scotland*

#### Session Outline:

It's well evidenced that people experiencing homelessness and poverty are often misrepresented in the media and wider public narrative. Stigmatising language and labelling persists to this day and creates an unhelpful narrative about what the real issues are.

Join for this interactive and engaging workshop which will challenge all our thinking about how homelessness is portrayed. The session will be led by Mike Findlay-Agnew, CEO at the International Network of Street Papers (INSP), a Glasgow-based charity and enterprise that represents newspapers and magazines, like The Big Issue. INSP recently launched a groundbreaking Journalism Training Academy, which is providing skills training in news and storytelling for people experiencing homelessness and poverty.

## Breakout Session 4 | Tilt Room

### Race, Ethnicity and Homelessness

#### Guest Speakers:

- **Dr Nadia Ayed**, *Research Associate Institute for Social Policy, Housing, Equalities Research (I-SPHERE, at Heriot-Watt University)*

#### Secretariat:

- **Grant Campbell**, *Head of Partnerships and Consulting, Homeless Network Scotland*

#### Session Outline:

In July this year, Heriot Watt published groundbreaking research which found significant evidence of racism in the homelessness system in England.

The research revealed that Black families accepted as statutorily homeless are less than half as likely to gain social housing as their White counterparts. Black and other minoritised people facing homelessness are also feeling forced to change their names, alter their accents and even cut their hair in an attempt to avoid discrimination, according to the devastating new research that exposes systemic failures across England's housing and homelessness system.

This breakout session will share the findings and explore the stark warnings this research gives for homelessness services in Scotland.

## Breakout Session 5 | Earn Room

### Rights in Reach: Enabling Legal Literacy

#### Guest Speakers:

- **Aaliya Seyal**, Chief Executive, Legal Services Agency
- **Taranveer Kaur**, Legal Services Agency

#### Secretariat:

- **Ginny Cooper**, Creative Lead, Homeless Network Scotland

#### Session Outline:

This masterclass explores the vital role of understanding and exercising rights to combat homelessness and inequality. It will uncover how legal literacy enables people navigating services – and the organisations supporting them – to challenge barriers and delays to exercising their rights.

Participants will engage in practical examples, learning to assert rights in housing, social security and social care contexts. And explore systemic changes needed to make rights accessible, ensuring people facing homelessness are respected and in control.

Join Legal Services Agency to build skills and advocate for justice, shaping a future where rights drive equal solutions to the housing emergency.

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blue triangle

## Voices that matter Stories that inspire

A Voice in the Dark is a podcast by award-winning charity Blue Triangle, sharing real stories of life beyond homelessness.

Discover journeys shaped by trauma, recovery and hope - and why anything is possible with the right support.

Listen now: Search 'A Voice in the Dark Blue Triangle' on Spotify, Amazon Music or Apple Podcasts, or visit [bluetriangle.org.uk](http://bluetriangle.org.uk)



A Voice  
in the  
Dark  
A PODCAST BY BLUE TRIANGLE



## Assuring Outcomes

### Together

The Housing Network provides 'More Than a Roof' to over 5,500 single people and families across the UK, helping them to rebuild their lives and move positively from homelessness.

**Active Opportunities Pathway:** Seamless step-up/step-down supported housing model, providing trauma-informed and strength-based support within psychologically informed environment homes.

**Proven outcomes:** Working with residents to co-produce outcome-focused support plans and risk management strategies that assure improved long-term housing, health and wellbeing outcomes.

**Value for money:** Working with over 100 Local Authority partners and the Ministry of Justice to design innovative solutions that address identified local need, reducing TA subsidy loss by up to 70% in some areas.

Call our Supported Housing to partner with The Housing Network

Tel: 01582 320 645

[www.thehousingnetwork.co.uk](http://www.thehousingnetwork.co.uk)

The Housing Network

## 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.

## 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](mailto: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.



 Centre for Homelessness Impact.

Better evidence for a world without homelessness

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[www.homelessnessimpact.org](http://www.homelessnessimpact.org)

**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](http://www.allin.scot)  
0141 420 7272 | [allin@homelessnetwork.scot](mailto: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



## Evaluation

We hope you enjoyed your time with us, and we'd be very grateful for your feedback

### Conference Content

Overall, was the conference worthwhile for you?  Yes  No

Did attending give you new ideas?  Yes  No

Did topics increase your knowledge and understanding?  Yes  No

Did you make connections with people who you plan to follow up with?  Yes  No

What was your conference highlight?

**Speakers** (please rate 1=poor to 5=excellent)

**How would you rate the keynote speakers overall?**

How clearly was the information presented to you? 1  2  3  4  5

How would you rate the panel discussions and guests? 1  2  3  4  5

Please share any comments you have about the speakers: 1  2  3  4  5

### Breakout Sessions

**Day 1 | Which breakout session(s) did you attend?**

- Storytelling in safety
- Developing interventions to reduce 'missingness' in healthcare
- In their own words
- Breaking barriers to eye care access for people experiencing homelessness in Scotland
- Building a fairer future for people seeking sanctuary or settlement in Scotland

**How useful did you find the breakout session?** 1  2  3  4  5

**How clearly was the information presented to you?** 1  2  3  4  5

## Breakout Sessions

### Day 2 | Which breakout session(s) did you attend?

- Using cash grants to give people control
- Breaking the cycle: Why poverty fuels homelessness
- Changing the narrative on homelessness
- Race, ethnicity and homelessness
- Rights in reach: enabling legal literacy

How useful did you find the breakout session? 1  2  3  4  5

How clearly was the information presented to you? 1  2  3  4  5

## Venue and conference organisation

How well organised was the conference? 1  2  3  4  5

How well balanced was time to discuss ideas compared to listening to speakers? 1  2  3  4  5

Please share any other comments, feedback and suggestions:

### Why did you attend the conference?

(please tick all that apply)

- Content
- Networking
- Speakers
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

### Are you?

- Using services
- A service or project manager
- A frontline worker
- Policy, strategy or research
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

### Why did you attend the conference?

(please tick all that apply)

- Third or social enterprise sector
- Public sector
- Private sector
- Independent sector
- Registered social landlord
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Not on our mailing list? Add your email address if you would like to receive our monthly network briefing, information on membership, training and consultancy and more.

Name:

Email:

Organisation:

Thank you for your time and we wish you a safe journey home.