

Protect, Scale, Shift:

**Expert Advice on Homelessness to the new
Scottish Government and Parliament**

From the
Everyone Home Collective



The Everyone Home Collective

The Everyone Home collective brings together over 40 third sector and academic organisations dedicated to increasing housing and reducing homelessness in Scotland.

Born in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, sector leaders continue to collaborate, influence and act decisively against the interconnected crises driving homelessness – the housing emergency, cost of living pressures and the local impact of international conflict.

Through evidence, lived experience and shared priorities – we push for housing justice and the resources needed to achieve it.

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Expert advice on Homelessness to the new Scottish Government and Parliament

The new Scottish Government and Parliament have both the responsibility and the opportunity to make substantial progress on homelessness – one of Scotland’s most urgent and preventable social challenges.

Scotland has some of the most progressive homelessness legislation and policy in Europe. Yet there remains a significant gap between ambitious policy and delivery on the ground. As of September 2025, 18,092 households – including 10,480 children – were in temporary accommodation, the highest numbers on record.

Systemic pressures on councils, chronic shortages of social housing and patchy prevention mean the system is too often managing crisis rather than resolving it. Far too many people remain trapped in damaging and expensive temporary solutions.

This advice from the Everyone Home collective sets out the must-haves to close the gap between policy and reality. It calls on the new Scottish Government to:

- **Protect** what matters most
- **Scale** what works
- **Shift** resources away from what doesn’t

These actions must be built on four interdependent cornerstones:





1. **Housing Supply** – the pre-condition
2. **Prevention** – the primary intervention
3. **Rapid Rehousing** – the implementation method
4. **Joined-Up Services** – the integrated support for people

We can’t end the housing emergency without these.

Prevention, rapid rehousing and joined-up services, when properly underpinned by sufficient housing supply, deliver strong outcomes: quicker exits from homelessness, higher tenancy sustainment rates and the chance for people to build and live their lives.

However, Scotland’s deepening housing emergency is reversing hard-won progress. Instead of reducing the scale and duration of temporary accommodation as intended, some local authorities are expanding their temporary stock. At the sharpest end, the promise of Housing First and settled supported housing is being undermined by a lack of move-on options.

In this challenging context, some interim bridging solutions are necessary. However, they must represent a genuine improvement on the current status quo. Any new short-term provision must be high-quality and dignified, uphold people’s existing legal rights, and actively support rapid moves into settled housing – rather than entrenching another form of poor-quality, long-term temporary accommodation.

<p>Protect what matters most</p> <p>Safeguard people’s rights, effective practice and immediate wellbeing while stabilising the system.</p>	<p>Scale what works</p> <p>Ambitiously expand proven, high-impact interventions and address root causes.</p>	<p>Shift away from what isn’t working</p> <p>Make the difficult but necessary decisions to free up resources and improve outcomes.</p>	
<p>Housing Supply</p> 	<p>Ensure More Homes Scotland has explicit targets and accountability to deliver social and affordable homes that reduce housing inequality.</p> <p>Address systemic failures in meeting legal homelessness duties by providing targeted capacity support to the most pressured councils.</p>	<p>Housing Supply: adopt the latest joint research from Shelter Scotland, CIH and SFHA, which identifies a requirement for at least 15,693 new affordable homes per year over this parliamentary term. Back this with multi-year funding, planning reform and tax levers.</p> <p>Increase the percentage of social lets to homeless households.</p>	<p>Support the most pressured local authorities with funded plans to reduce reliance on unsuitable, unsafe, high-cost and profit-driven temporary accommodation, with clear reduction or replacement targets.</p> <p>End the inaction on planning and reform barriers that keep delivery well below targets – including excessive planning delays, insufficient land supply and underutilisation of sites that already have planning permission.</p>
<p>Prevention</p> 	<p>Protect the Housing Options approach and cross-authority structure that has delivered improvements to local homelessness services.</p>	<p>Fully resource the new prevention duties and integrate a public health approach to prevention.</p> <p>Scale cash-first approaches and preventative Housing Options.</p> <p>Link homelessness strategy explicitly to poverty reduction, especially child poverty.</p>	<p>To prevent destitution and reduce costly downstream crises, move towards universal service principles, regardless of immigration status.</p>
<p>Rapid Rehousing</p> 	<p>Invest in Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans as the default method for local authorities to shift from managing to resolving homelessness.</p> <p>Address rough sleeping: in Glasgow and Edinburgh, replace unsuitable hotels and B&Bs with high-quality, self-contained short-term accommodation with integrated trauma-informed support. This acts as a necessary temporary bridge until prevention and housing supply improvements allow faster moves into settled housing or settled supported housing.</p>	<p>Branch out Housing First nationally and rapidly as the default model for people with severe and multiple disadvantage.</p> <p>Develop settled supported housing as a clear housing option for people with ongoing significant health and social care needs.</p>	<p>Resist reintroducing dated and ineffective models such as large-scale hostels or communal ‘shared air’ night shelters as primary responses.</p> <p>Reduce reliance on temporary pathways. Evidence consistently shows housing-led approaches (Rapid Rehousing and Housing First) deliver far better tenancy sustainment rates and are more cost-effective.</p>
<p>Joined-Up Services</p> 	<p>Re-establish cross ministerial oversight group in parliament, mirrored by a cross-portfolio oversight group in Government to drive joined-up action.</p>	<p>Deliver a national framework to increase case coordination and resolve the profound mismatch between people’s overlapping needs and the siloed nature of public services.</p>	<p>Reduce over-reliance on temporary models without sustained, integrated support which drives high mortality rates and repeat homelessness.</p> <p>Tackle the deep gaps in proactive referrals, data sharing and joint accountability across housing, health, social care and justice services that perpetuate siloed working and poor outcomes for people with complex needs.</p>

First 100 days

The priorities above are mutually reinforcing – weakness in any one undermines the rest. The new Scottish Government should integrate **Protect, Scale, Shift** into a refreshed Ending Homeless Together Action Plan within the first 100 days.

This plan must include clear milestones, ministerial accountability, budget alignment and independent oversight. Fully review the [Ending Homelessness Together Monitor](#), then align and strengthen it to deliver transparent, outcome-focused reporting on progress.

Focusing relentlessly on these priorities will deliver measurable reductions in temporary accommodation numbers, repeat homelessness and rough sleeping – while securing better value for public money and improved outcomes for people.

The Everyone Home collective, drawing on decades of frontline experience and academic expertise, stands ready to support detailed delivery.

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