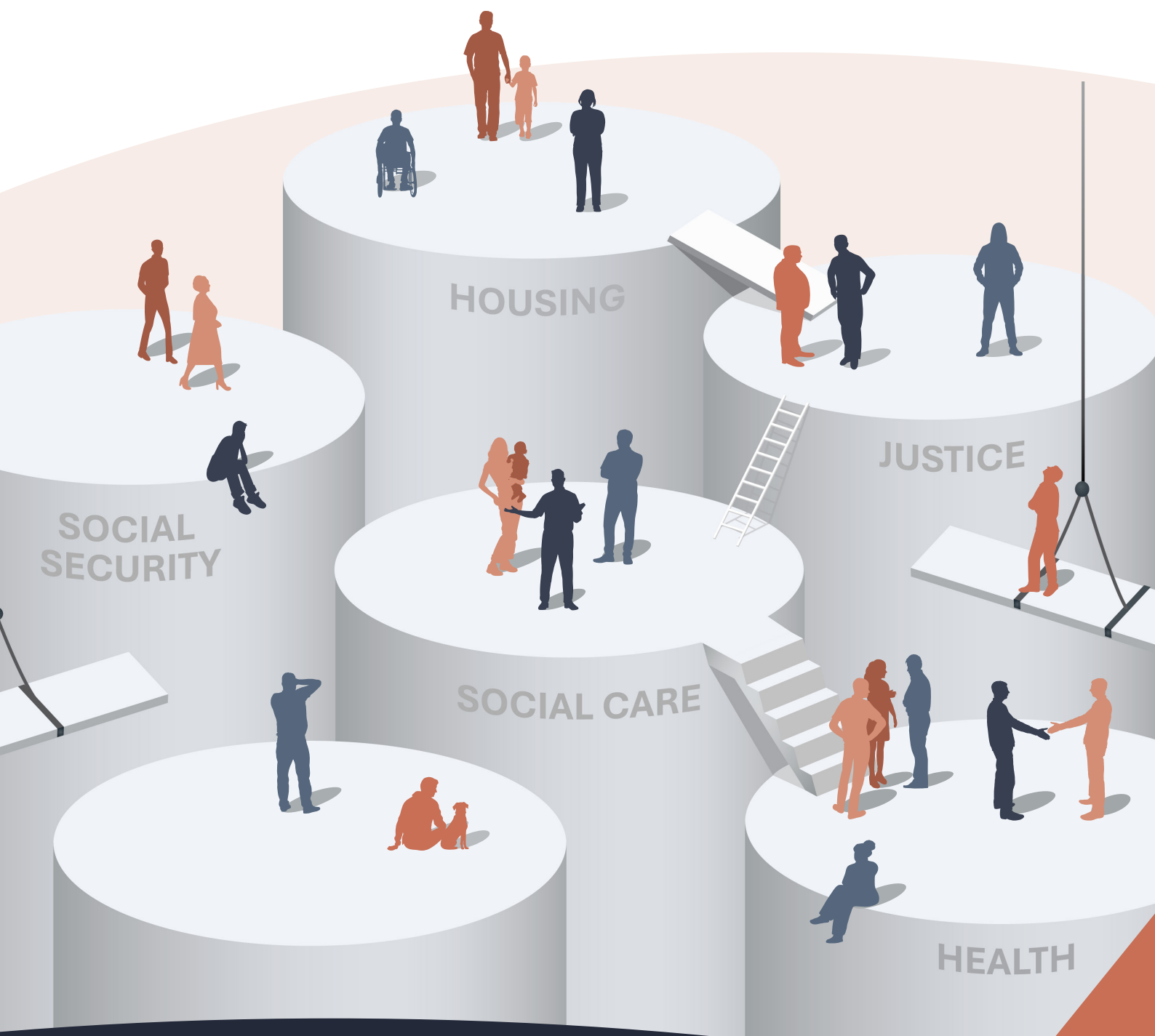


Raising the Level

from hard edges to whole lives



Scotland's Annual
Homelessness Conference 2026

6 – 7 October | Perth | Programme

EARLY BIRD!
July 26 Preview

Raising the Level

from hard edges to whole lives

**Homeless
Network
Scotland**
we are all in

Homeless Network Scotland
in partnership with
The Salvation Army



Love God
Love Others

Scotland's most ambitious gathering on transforming support for people facing severe and multiple disadvantage.

People do not live their lives in neat, separate boxes. One day the priority is safe housing, the next it is mental health, substance use, justice involvement – or simply surviving. Yet Scotland's public services remain organised in silos. Too often, people are passed from door to door – or fall through the gaps entirely. Every day, people at the hard edges are forced to relive their deepest trauma, retelling the same painful story to a service disconnected from others.

For those facing overlapping crises of poverty, trauma, addiction, mental health, homelessness and offending, this isn't rare – it's routine. Siloed systems don't just fail them; they deepen the harm and drive devastating human and economic costs.

Grounded in the landmark Hard Edges Scotland research (2019), **Raising the Level** confronts this reality head-on. At a critical time for public service reform in Scotland, as the Scottish Government advances the No Wrong Door principle, this summit bridges policy ambition with practical, joined-up action for people facing severe and multiple disadvantage.

Despite long-standing commitments to prevention and integration, siloed systems continue to deepen harm and repeat trauma at the hard edges. This is our moment to break that cycle for good.

By building integrated services that match the complexity of whole lives, we can advance equality, prevent intergenerational trauma, strengthen community safety, improve outcomes for people – and deliver better value across health, justice, housing, social care and social security.

Summit objectives:

- Launch **The Level** – a delivery framework that elevates severe and multiple disadvantage within broader national reforms, enabling sectors to prevent escalation and harm.
- Expose the human and economic costs of system failure while demonstrating the multiplier benefits of real, cross-sector integration.
- Explore sector readiness and shared responsibility to level the playing field for people at the hard edges.
- Equip delegates with practical tools for integrated commissioning, aligned policy, workforce development and frontline practice.

Who should attend:

Decision-makers, practitioners, commissioners, policymakers from health, justice, housing, social care and social security. This event also warmly welcomes people with first-hand experience of the impact of severe and multiple disadvantage on people and communities.



Programme | Day 1

A sector ready to step up

The homelessness sector is shifting from “carrying the can” to becoming a confident, prevention-focused strategic partner across all public services. Day 1 provides a powerful space for honest reflection, clear vision and practical preparation. Through candid dialogue, power-levelling exercises and collaborative workshops, you will explore the homelessness sector’s evolving role, clarify shared responsibilities and build the relationships and tools needed for resilient, integrated services. You will leave with deeper insight, renewed energy and concrete ways to implement change.

9:00 - 10:00	Arrivals & Networking Hub Beat the rush. Register, enjoy refreshments, connect with fellow delegates and explore the exhibitor showcase.
10:00 - 10:10	Welcome from the Conference Chair Essential orientation to get the most from the conference Ishbel Smith, Heart in Mouth
10:10 - 10:20 Keynote	A Sector Ready to Step Up Moving from crisis management to prevention leadership. A vision for a pioneering homelessness sector that refuses to operate in isolation. Maggie Brunjes, Chief Executive, Homeless Network Scotland
10:20 - 10:30 Roundtable	Table Talk: Let’s Go! A fast-paced roundtable session to break the ice and spark new cross-sector connections right from the start.
10:30 - 10:45 Keynote	Ministerial Address Scotland’s next steps toward social and housing justice
10:45 - 10:50	Heart of Support: Celebrating Excellence A short video spotlighting the transformative impact of our first award recipient.
10:50 - 11:25 Keynote + roundtable interaction	Getting Ready for Ask & Act The homelessness sector successfully championed new statutory duties to prevent homelessness – but the legal responsibility to deliver now sits across health, justice, housing, social care and social security. This session outlines progress on general guidance for relevant bodies on Ask and Act, gives delegates the opportunity to provide feedback and input – and explores how the homelessness sector can continue to play a vital leadership role in supporting effective, joined-up prevention. <i>Speaker to be announced</i>
11:25 - 11:45	BREAK Refreshments, making connections and meeting the exhibitors.

11:45 - 12:20 Keynote	Systems Change and How to Do it Why do most attempts to battle the status quo fail? This session reveals how to approach change from the outset in a way much more likely to succeed. <i>Speaker to be announced.</i>
12:20 - 12:55 Roundtable	Table Talk: Radical Self-Reflection We know the system is failing people at the hard edges – but which specific models, approaches and habits are keeping us stuck? Following the systems change keynote, this practical roundtable asks delegates to examine real interventions and services. Roundtables will identify outdated or counterproductive practices, highlight what’s showing promise – and surface the biggest opportunities to break old patterns.
12:55 - 13:00	Heart of Support: Celebrating Excellence A short video showcasing the resilience and dedication of our second award recipient
13:00 - 13:45	LUNCH & EXHIBITIONS Enjoy lunch, connect across sectors and visit the vibrant exhibitions. Note: Homeless Network Scotland members are warmly invited to HNS AGM 2026.
13:45 - 15:00 Breakout	DEEP DIVE BREAKOUT SESSIONS Scottish Anti-Racism in Housing Network Overcoming systemic inequalities in housing provision. Delivered by Shelter Scotland Going Upstream to Prevent Homelessness Key takeaways from housing associations intervening early to prevent homelessness. Delivered by SFHA and Upstream Prevention Pilots Hope and Healing Moving beyond clinical settings into relational, community-led support that nurtures hope and healing for people – and sustains frontline wellbeing. Delivered by Plattform Wales Breaking Free: Moving Away from Path Dependency in Services Why do ineffective or institutional models persist – even when better evidence exists? Delivered by ISPHERE at Heriot-Watt University Reaching People at the Hard Edges Frontline strategies for navigating severe and multiple disadvantage. <i>Speaker to be announced</i>

15:00 - 15:20
Keynote

Growing Together: Power, Participation and Nature as a Leveller

Nature offers a natural, non-hierarchical setting that levels power and enables authentic connection. In this candid keynote, colleagues from The Salvation Army share how they intentionally level power through nature-based recovery.

Drawing on their partnership with the University of Stirling, they demonstrate what becomes possible when lived experience genuinely shapes research and practice. Discover how nature supports trust, connection and healing – and how moving from consultation to true co-production creates friction-free, whole-life solutions for people at the hard edges.

- **Helen Murdoch, Assistant Director, The Salvation Army**

15:20 - 16:00
Roundtable

Table Talk – Power Levelling in Practice

Real integration only happens when power is genuinely shared – and the settings we create, along with the relational approaches we use, play a vital role in levelling power. Building directly from the keynote, this session explores how thoughtful settings and relationships can help level power in practice.

At your roundtable, each person will share in one sentence: *What is the single most important reality about your role, perspective, or the settings you work in that others often miss or misunderstand?*

As a multi-agency group, you will spot the common threads, select one core theme, and co-create one practical change that can help level power and improved joined-up support.

16:00 - 16:05

Heart of Support: Celebrating Excellence

A final inspiring look at our third award recipient's work on the ground.

16:05 - 16:15

Conference Day 1: Close

Reflections and looking ahead to Day 2.



View the world from a different perspective

These photographs taken by people using our services turn challenge into pride by capturing powerful images that celebrate growth, hope and the beauty of change.



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 2

A system ready to connect

This is the moment we move from Hard Edges to Whole Lives.

Day 2 delivers the national launch of **The Level** – Scotland’s new delivery framework for joined-up support for people facing severe and multiple disadvantage. Designed specifically for three pivotal roles – practitioners, commissioners and policy makers – this practical blueprint provides shared definitions, service design principles and practical tools to deliver preventative, joined-up support across health, housing, justice and social care. Expect powerful lived experience voices, hard economic truths, real-world examples of The Level in practice and concrete commitments to action. Day 2 turns ambition into implementation.

9:00 - 10:00	Arrivals & Networking Hub Beat the rush. Register, enjoy refreshments, connect with fellow delegates and explore the exhibitor showcase.
10:00 - 10:10	Welcome from the Conference Chair Essential orientation to get the most from the conference Ishbel Smith, Heart in Mouth
10:10 - 10:40 Keynote	No Wrong Door Guy Felicella is a harm reduction advocate and addiction educator who has spent three decades in the grips of addiction and surviving many life-threatening infections. Guy spends his time educating youth and consulting with political leaders and policymakers on the importance of alcohol and drug prevention.
10:40 - 10:55 Keynote	The Silo Tax New economic analysis revealing the enormous public cost of managing crisis through disconnected services in Scotland – and the substantial savings possible through a No Wrong Door approach. <i>Speaker to be announced</i>
10:55 - 11:05 Roundtable	Table Talk: Let’s Go! A fast-paced roundtable session to break the ice and spark new cross-sector connections right from the start.
11:05 - 11:20 Keynote	Ministerial Address Scotland’s vision for public service reform.
11:20 - 11:25	Heart of Support: Celebrating Excellence A short video displaying the unwavering commitment of our fourth award recipient.

11:25 - 11:45	BREAK Refreshments, making connections and meeting the exhibitors
11:45 - 12:40 Panel	Panel: Launch of The Level The national launch of The Level – Scotland’s new national framework for preventing and responding to severe and multiple disadvantage. The Level provides the architecture for more effective public service reform and greater social justice. It sets out how we create a system where there are no wrong doors, no silos and no cracks for people to fall through. Designed as both a national standard and practical local delivery framework, The Level is built on the No Wrong Door principle. It aims to raise the floor of support across Scotland with tailored integrated responses. By embedding continuous feedback loops from frontline practice into policy and commissioning, The Level helps bridge current realities with tomorrow’s ambitions – driving deep, adaptive and self-correcting system change. <i>Panel to be announced.</i>
12:40 - 12:45	Heart of Support: Celebrating Excellence A short video highlighting the frontline creativity of our fifth award recipient.
12:45 - 13:30	LUNCH & EXHIBITIONS Enjoy lunch, make connections and visit the vibrant exhibitions.
13:30 - 14:45 Breakout	BREAKOUT SESSIONS: The Level in Action Real-world examples of integrated support and commissioning in action. The Level in Action Context: Aberdeen, in a young people setting From: Aberdeen Foyer The Level in Action Context: Dundee, in a mental health setting From: Penumbra The Level in Action Context: Edinburgh, in a secondary health setting From: Cyrenians The Level in Action Context: Fife, in a housing support setting From: Turning Point Scotland The Level in Action Context: National and local commissioning setting

14:45 - 15:15	Windows of Opportunity
Keynote	Hear powerful testimonies and the latest peer research from All in For Change, focusing on life transitions – the critical moments when people move between services, systems or life stages. These transitions are often points of intense challenge and uncertainty, but they also offer important windows of opportunity and growth. This session highlights how well-timed, coordinated support during these moments can prevent escalation of disadvantage and create meaningful turning points. <i>Speaker to be announced</i>
15:20 - 16:00	Table Talk – A Shared Responsibility
	No single role can embed this framework alone. In this interactive session, policymakers, commissioners and practitioners will map out how our responsibilities interconnect and make collective commitments to drive The Level forward.
16:00 - 16:05	Heart of Support: Celebrating Excellence
	An inspiring look at our final award recipient's work on the ground.
16:05 - 16:15	Conference Day 2: Close
	Key reflections and next steps

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.

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.



Free Wi-Fi is available in the building

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

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.



Conference Options

Book online at www.homelessnetwork.scot/upcoming-events-2026
or call 0141 420 7272

Residential Packages

come for the content,
stay for the experience

		Residential Delegate All in	Residential Delegate Day 1	Residential Delegate Day 2
Day 1	Tue 6 October 2026			
	Conference Day 1 ticket	✓	✓	
	Buffet Lunch	✓	✓	
	Dinner and entertainment From 7.30pm	✓	✓	✓
	Hotel Room Premier Inn check-in 4pm	✓	✓	✓
Day 2	Wed 7 October 2026			
	Conference day 2 ticket	✓		✓
	Breakfast	✓	✓	✓
	Buffet Lunch	✓		✓
EARLY BIRDS! Catch your 20% discount				
Early Bird Rate	Early Bird Member Rate Special rate for valued members of HNS	£440	£320	£320
	Early Bird Standard Rate Welcoming all other conference bookings	£550	£425	£425
General Rate	Member Rate Special rate for valued members of HNS	£530	£385	£385
	Standard Rate Welcoming all other conference bookings	£660	£510	£510

Non-residential Packages

Day-delegate access –
see you in the morning!

2-Day Delegate (with dinner and entertainment)	2-Day Delegate	Day Delegate (with dinner and entertainment)	Day Delegate Day 1 Tue 6 October	Day Delegate Day 2 Wed 7 October
✓	✓	✓	✓	
✓	✓	✓	✓	
✓		✓		
✓	✓			✓
✓	✓			✓
If you know you're coming, then do yourself a favour and book before 7 August 2026 to take advantage of our early bird rates and a full 20% off all tickets.				
£295	£265	£215	£185	£185
£365	£335	£285	£250	£250
£355	£320	£260	£225	£225
£440	£400	£340	£300	£300

Get in touch with us at:

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Call 0141 420 7272 | Mob 07834 437185 | E-mail hello@homelessnetwork.scot

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