

Homelessness Prevention Guidance

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The Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Purpose

- Background and Context
- Research Evidence
- Process and Progress



Background and Context

- Legislation and the Ministerial Statement;
- HMG Report 2008;
- ALACHO Report;
- Concordat;
- 2012 Target;
- Credit Crunch; and,
- Pressured housing supply.



Research Evidence

- Homelessness Task Force
- Heriot Watt Report
- Bramley and Waugh modelling
- Innovation Funded Projects
- Multiple and Complex Needs review
- English and international knowledge base
- Cost benefits analysis (SP work)



HMG and ALACHO Reports

- HMG Report
 - Improved intelligence from LOAs
 - Evidence of good practice – but,
 - Outcomes information still underdeveloped
- ALACHO Report
 - The ‘unvarnished truth’
 - Cynicism of prevention agenda
 - Demand for prescriptive guidance



Concordat

- Places responsibility on LAs and their Community Planning Partners
- Single Outcome Agreements
- Less prescriptive approach from SG
- Flexibility for innovation to flourish



2012 Target

- Interim targets in 2009
- Focus on equality in provision but local variation allowed
- Mixed results and some confusion



Credit Crunch

- Rise in repossessions;
- Falling house prices;
- Limited availability of mortgage funds;
- Rising unemployment;
- General loss of confidence.



Process and Progress

- Advisory Group
 - Voluntary Sector/Professional Bodies (SCSH, Rock Trust, Relationships Scotland, GHN, Poppy Scotland, Shelter, SFHA, CIH, SWA)
 - Statutory Agencies (SG -various, LAs - CoSLA, Scottish Housing Regulator)
- Local Authority Reference Group
 - Mix of rural and urban interests



Setting the Ground Rules

- Develop the 'Scottish' Ethos and define prevention
- Who is it for?
- What it is? And importantly.....
- **What it is not?**



Scope and Format

- Scope?
 - Encourage recognition of structural causes (Major changes in society and relationships)
 - Clearly identify homelessness risk factors (Personal factors combining with housing instability)
 - Range of 'protective' factors aids resilience
- Format?
 - Addition to Section 2 in Code of Guidance (prescriptive)
 - Good practice section on web site (permissive)



Themes

- Philosophy and principles of prevention;
- Structures and skills;
- Typology of prevention;
- Particular groups and characteristics;
- Resettlement and tenancy sustainment;
- Recording and Monitoring.



Main Aspects

- Early and integrated intervention;
- Shared responsibility (Housing, Health, Social Work, Education, Economic Devt., Finance and others);
- Effective housing management/tenancy sustainment;
- Broader range of Housing Options;
- MTR and MTSE
- Professional advice services;
- Mediation ;
- Negotiation;
- Support.



Timeline and contact details

- Code of Guidance changes (end of March)
- Good practice links (foundations by April)
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