



Everyone should have a home

Preventing eviction of families

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Shelter

Evictions of families with children in the social rented sector

- Children live in a third of households (31%) evicted
- Children are in 2 out of every 5 households (43%) where an eviction decree is granted
- Local authorities and RSLs evicted over 3,500 tenants in 2007-2008
- The majority of these evictions were for rent arrears
- No figures for private landlords



Eviction of children in 2007-2008

Eviction decree granted

- Out of 7,966 eviction decrees granted, an estimated 3,425 cases involved a household with children
- An estimated 5,959 children were facing eviction in Scotland in 2007-08

Evictions

- Out of 3,573 evictions, following an eviction decree, an estimated 1,115 cases involved a household with children
- Nearly 2,000 children were evicted in Scotland in 2007-08

Eviction as a last resort?

- Of the 2,000 children in families evicted....
 - How many were truly a last resort?
 - How many may have been prevented?
 - How many were working in the best interests of children?
- Tenants threatened with eviction identified as a group particularly 'at risk' of homelessness
- 97% of social rented evictions in 07-08 were for non payment of rent
 - Better ways to recover rent arrears?

Why do we need to prevent evictions of families?

- At odds with councils' statutory responsibilities to safeguard the welfare of children and keep children's best interests as their primary concern - Children (Scotland) Act 1995 and Housing (Scotland) Act 1995
- Children are particularly vulnerable to effects of homelessness
- There does seem to be an appetite amongst social landlords to find alternatives to eviction
- Eviction is not an effective way of recovering rent arrears from a tenant and should be used as a last resort
- Social landlords should be looking at preventing homeless

Group discussion

- What do you think is the impact of eviction or threat of eviction on children? Is it always reasonable and acting in the best interests of children?
- What can be done before eviction is considered? What alternative courses of action would you like to see taken to ensure children's welfare stays paramount?
- Are there examples of good practice you'd like to share from either councils or housing associations? What alternatives to eviction have you come across?