

# Lesson 1

## Shelter Scotland: what we do

Third and fourth level

SOCs: 3-15A, 3-16A, 4-15A, 4-16A, 4-16B

Learning Intention: To understand what Shelter Scotland does, and begin to understand homelessness in Scotland.

Success Criteria:

- I can explain what Shelter Scotland do, and who they help.
- I can explain situations which might lead to a person losing their home.
- I can explain situations which might help a person keep their home.

## Teachers' Notes

Please note that the statistics in this lesson are correct as of October 2017.

**If possible, open the lesson fact slides on a whiteboard in your classroom.**

### Who are Shelter Scotland?

- Shelter Scotland are a national charity helping people with bad housing and homelessness in Scotland.
- Shelter Scotland believe that everyone should have a safe, secure and affordable home.
- Shelter Scotland were formed in 1968.
- Shelter Scotland have a national free helpline for anyone in Scotland to call.
- We also have dedicated advisors who work to support people with homelessness, renting, money and debt, and benefits.
- We also have a team of solicitors, who represent our clients in court to fight for their right to a safe home.
- We have community hubs across Scotland from which these services are ran from: Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Paisley, Dumfries, and South Lanarkshire.
- Shelter Scotland campaign for better housing and homeless rights across Scotland by working with politicians. We have achieved big wins in rental reform, house building commitments, and homelessness.

### How we help

- We help over 800,000 people a year in Scotland.
- Our staff offer people housing advice in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Paisley, South Lanarkshire, Dumfries and East Lothian (map to accompany this).
- Our housing advisors answered over 17,000 calls in Scotland last year (2015/16).
- And opened over 13,000 cases last year, helping people to keep, find and improve a home.

- We can help people with
  - Homelessness
  - Money and benefits advice
  - Renting problems
  - Bad landlords
  - Repairs and damp

### **Higher or lower game**

- Next, go through the PDF game – higher or lower. Answers will be revealed after the question, as you click through the pages.
- The aim of this game is to get the class to think about numbers, in relation to Scotland's size.
- Work through the higher or lower game with the class as a group activity.
- If the class are shy about getting it wrong – why not as them to close their eyes when they raise their hands?