

# Deposit Guarantee Schemes

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# What is a Deposit Guarantee Scheme?

- The concept began in the early 1990's
- Literally a DGS would cover what a landlord would normally expect to be covered by a deposit with a written guarantee.
- 28 schemes in Scotland out of 32 LA areas.
- Cyrenians operated 3 across Edinburgh, West Lothian and Falkirk.



# Edinburgh Cyrenians

- Private rented sector service – 3 SmartMoves and 1 flat sharing service.
- Support and Resettlement Service – 1 DGS for high support needs, specifically Drug misuse.
- Written Guarantee limited to 12 month period partnered with a savings agreement.
- Client agreement – visits, communication, tenancy management.
- Landlord agreement – property condition, tenancy management, letting practices.



# Tenants, Landlords, Local Authorities and DGS together

- Tenants – Choice, quality, flexibility, affordable, long term
- Landlords – Tenants, minimal void periods, good rental income, support
- Local Authorities – Accommodation resource, fast solution, cheaper than temporary accommodation and some PSL schemes, prevent homelessness



# Factors to Success

- Relationship with housing assessment officers
- Relationship with revenues departments
- Good database of landlords and properties
- Clear criteria for project and if opening up to different client groups support networks are in place.



# Future of Deposit Guarantee Schemes

- Assist in meeting the housing need in Scotland
- Affordable for tenants, employment is possible
- The model is adaptable
- Opened up to include variety of client groups
- Long term housing solution



Cyrenians

# Topics for Discussion

- What are the expectations of a deposit guarantee scheme?
- Are we looking for the accommodation provided to be for a particular length of time, what sets that time?
- What makes a prs tenancy a success/failure?
- Is the deposit important?