

Half-way to 2012: Scotland and Beyond

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OUTLINE

- **Introduction – the 2012 target**
- **Progress in Scotland: 2002-2007**
- **2007 – a year of change?**
- **Beyond Scotland**
- **Conclusions**

HTF Final report (2002)

- 59 Recommendations – all accepted by Government
 - Promote empowerment/participation of homeless people
 - Abolish ‘non-priority’ homelessness by 2012
 - Suspend local connection requirement
 - Replace ‘intentionality’ duty
 - ‘Liaison’ with Westminster re benefits
- Effectively a ‘right to housing’ by 2012?

Implementation 2002-2007

- Homelessness Monitoring Group
 - Civil service led
 - Multi-stakeholder representatives
 - Reports annually
- Homelessness etc (Scotland) Act 2003
 - Framework for implementation by 2012
- Unsuitable Accommodation Order, 2004

Midway to 2012 – progress in Scotland

- Local authority led – some successes
 - Embracing strategic approach
 - Responding to new duties
 - Improved joint working
- Homelessness Monitoring Group (2006 report)
 - 8/59 objectives implemented
 - 1/59 no progress (Westminster Power)
 - 50/59 ‘in progress’

Progress to 2012 – some concerns

- Empowerment – no discernible activity
- Abolition of Priority need – differential implementation & lack of clarity/progress
- Local connection suspension – research ignored, implementation delayed
- Intentionality/Support – research inconclusive, no real progress
- Ultimately depends on supply of housing and support services
- Challenge of implementation, compared to policy review

Meeting 2012?

- Ongoing political/Ministerial commitment?
- Effectiveness of Homelessness Monitoring Group
- Commitment of local authorities?
 - resources available?
- Transparency in evaluation?
- High international profile?

2007 – A year of change?

- SNP administration
- Constraints of minority government
- Streamlined cabinet – ‘Communities and Sport’
- Local elections change to proportional representation
- Commitment to 2012 target – focus on delivery

Learning from Scottish Model?

- More incremental than rational?
 - 30 years prior research and debate
 - Readiness to take advantage of political change
- ‘Social’ housing led solution – capacity to deliver/enforce?
- 10 year programme – medium/long term commitment?
- Strong political and sector consensus?
- Can Scotland learn from other countries (federalism, coalition/consensus politics)?

Beyond Scotland

- Some issues in making international comparisons
- Some examples
 - England
 - Austria
 - Netherlands
 - Germany
 - France

Conclusions

- Importance of wider policies
 - future role of social housing, economy, welfare policy
- National level – meeting 2012
 - delivery/implementation critical
 - monitoring and evaluation must be transparent
- International level – is Scotland a model?
 - ‘big picture’ – right to housing?
 - Important learning opportunities
 - Scotland is in the spotlight.....