

Suspending Local Connection

"Making It Work"

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What is Local Connection?

Part II Housing (Scotland) Act 1987

- Final Hurdle of homelessness
- Discretionary Power applied by a Local Authority
- Currently applied in 1% of all homelessness cases across Scotland

Definition

Housing (Scotland) Act 1987

- 27.1 (a) because he is, or in the past was normally resident in it and his residence in it was of his own choice
- (b) because he is employed in it
- (c) because of family associations
- (d) because of any other special circumstances

Referrals to other Local Authorities

■ Section 33

Where client has no connection to presenting authority but does to another

■ Section 38

where a local authority requests another to assist in the discharge of their duty

Proposed Changes

Homelessness etc.(Scotland) Act 2003 gives Scottish Ministers the power to:

- modify Local Connection Provisions
- prevent referrals by or to any local authority
- limit or qualify referrals i.e restrict specified LAs and or LAs making referrals to it
- modification will be applied for as long as the order is in place

Tribal HCH

Scottish Exec research paper 2004

- Suspend the power for all Local Authorities
- Reallocate resources so as to respond to a marked increase in homelessness
- Monitor the impact of the change
- retain the option to reinstate the power selectively

Over to you !

- How should the power be modified?
- How should this be monitored?
- What should be the reversal criteria?
- What are the practical issues ?
- What are the concerns?
- Are there areas of conflict?
- How do we make it work?