

# Housing Options: developing a new model of homelessness service delivery

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# Background

- 2012 Homelessness Target/commitment
  - All unintentionally homeless households will be entitled to settled accommodation
- Scottish Government/COSLA 2012 Joint Steering Group
  - Focus on young people and prevention/housing options

# Four Key Objectives

- Corporate buy-in and joint working
- Prevention of homelessness
- Access to other stock – RSL and PRS
- Investment in housing

# Corporate buy-in and joint working

- Strategic level – SG/COSLA Joint Steering Group (SOLACE, ALACHO, SFHA)
- Practical level
  - partnership working/sharing practice through the housing options hubs
  - local context important – no “one size fits all”

# Prevention of homelessness

- Housing options:
  - Focus on early intervention/prevention  
Looking at all options available – including using the homelessness legislation
  - Outcome focused
- Mediation
- Work with landlords
- HB mitigation activity

# Access to other stock – RSL and PRS

- SFHA, GWSF and RSLs – not just about lets to homeless households – prevention
- RSLs part of some hubs – building on existing relationships
- PRS – regulations developed
- Challenges around HB and other benefit changes

# Investment

- 2008/11 – SG invested £1.7bn in affordable housing
- SG plans to deliver 30,000 houses in the life of this Parliament
- Last week – Barnett Consequentials - £10m

# What are Housing Options?

- Introduces a culture change – move from process driven to outcome focused
- Looks at all the options available – and can cover more than just housing
- Involves the household in the decisions about them
- Crucially important that it does **not** undermine legislation – safety net provision



# Impacts

- Prevention of homelessness
- Better, more sustainable, outcomes for households in need
- Reduction in homelessness assessments
- Reduction in use (and cost) of temporary accommodation

# Next steps

- Continue the culture change
- Learn from the independent evaluation
- Next statistical publication – 14 February
- Continue the momentum for the rest of the year and onwards
- Develop new models of service delivery – determined by local contexts and challenges