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Furnished Tenancies

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Workshop Structure

- Background
 - The HTF recommendation
- Implementation
 - What were the objectives and what were the outcomes ?
- The Future (Group discussion)
 - What is your experience ?
 - What should be changed ?
 - Recommendations to the HMG



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The HTF Recommendation

- A furniture grants scheme under which housing providers could apply for a grant if accommodation let to a homeless person...bed, curtains, floor coverings, cooker and fridge....claw-back...
- A Scottish furniture re-cycling network should be established with a national co-ordinator, support office and web-site
- Target of 1,000 additional tenancies a year for five years. CS to have overall charge...distribute resources to local authorities on the basis of assessments of need and proposals to meet need in homelessness strategies



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The Grant

- Objectives
 - the creation of a stock of furnished tenancies for homeless people based on HTF target of 1,000 a year for five years
 - an allocations policy allowing access to all homeless people identified as in need
 - the creation of permanent as well as temporary tenancies
 - the creation of partially furnished tenancies, with the aim of reducing service charges (including administration charge)
- The Guidance



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The Re-cycling Network

- Objectives
 - co-ordination of projects on a national level sharing good practice and the establishment of a national web-site
 - the promotion of services to homeless people by furniture projects
 - linking furniture projects to broad national strategies such as local authority homelessness strategies with a view to assisting local authority implementation and projects need for funding



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Implementation

- *The Grant*
 - first year under and second year above HTF target leading to a creation of over 3,000 tenancies in the first two years
 - tenancies being created for under £3,000 leading to surpassing of targets, permanent and temporary
 - LA monitoring suggests benefits to tenancy sustainment
 - service charge reductions are inconclusive, but there is good practice...LA monitoring forms...some examples...
- *The Re-cycling Co-ordinator and Network*
 - evidence of progress from Mapping Report, future plans



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Conclusions

- Initial delays in spend and confusion about guidance has largely been resolved leading to a well used resource meeting the HTF targets on tenancies created
- Furnished tenancies schemes are an important part of local authority homelessness strategies and we are able to draw lessons from this scheme when considering future policy development in this area



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Next Steps

- The scheme passes to the Homelessness Team at the Scottish Executive from Apr.06
- One year funding,06-07
- During course of year, consultation and recommendations to be put to the HMG on how schemes may look in the future (including role of re-cycling)
- Areas to be discussed include funding, structure, guidance



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Recommendations for the Future

- Group Discussion
- What is your experience ?
- What should be changed ?
- What would be your recommendations to the HMG ?

Some specific questions :

- Should future schemes and guidance be as proscriptive? (e.g., partly furnished, essential items)
- Has the service charge issue been addressed adequately, if not, what can we do?
- How can we develop the re-cycling involvement further ?