

Everyone should have a home

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**Ending Rural Homelessness  
by 2012**

Shelter

## **Shelter, SHARC and rural housing**

- Shelter's main services
- Campaigns and policy
- Shelter Housing Action with Rural Communities
- Our work in rural Scotland

## **The 2012 target: background**

Scotland has committed to ensuring that every homeless person is entitled to a home by 2012.

- What does that mean?
- Where does it come from?
- How can it be achieved?
- What is the challenge in rural areas?

## What does the 2012 target mean?

- Priority need
- Intentional homelessness & Local connection
- Entitlements are not the same as houses

## Where does the homelessness target come from?

- Homelessness Task Force report
- Homelessness Act 2003
- Legal change is only part of the picture

## How can it be made to work?

### *Prevention*

Support

Advice

Private renting

Benefits reform

Housing management

### *Supply*

New homes

Right to Buy reform

Planning

Empty Homes

Other landlords

## Rural Challenges

- Absolute shortages more acute
- New build is costlier and more time-consuming
- Access to serviced sites
- Temporary accommodation
- Providing support

## Rural responses?

- Private sector as temporary accommodation
- Supporting people
- Advice and prevention
- Dumfries and Galloway Small Communities Housing Trust
- Infrastructure
- Investment
- Challenging attitudes



## **In conclusion**

- The 2012 homelessness target is something Scotland should be really proud of.

It gives us unique leverage to address the acute shortage of affordable housing.

The test of this will be in September's spending review

Meeting the homelessness challenge is demanding but also do-able.