

Ending Rural Homelessness

**Derek Anderson Strategy and Development Officer, Dumfries
and Galloway Council**

**Irene Callander, Allocations Lettings and Voids Manager,
Dumfries and Galloway Housing Partnership**

Easterbrook Hall, 29/01/07

The Law

- **The Housing (Homeless Persons) Act 1977**
- **Part II of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987**
- **Housing (Scotland) Act 2001**
- **Homelessness etc. (Scotland) Act 2003**

- **Guidance**

- **Homelessness Task Force.**

The tests (hurdles)

- Homeless/ threatened with homelessness
 - Priority need
 - Intentionally homeless
 - Local connection
-
- But devolved Legislation gradually (?) increasing people's rights
 - Effectively by 2012 only the homelessness test will remain
 - 90% of all RSL lettings?

Duties

- **Advice & Assistance**
- **Support**
- **Temporary Accommodation**
 - B&B/ HMO
 - Hostel
 - Furnished Flat (RSL or Private)
- **Permanent Accommodation**
 - RSL Referral

Who is Homeless?

Legislation:

- without any accommodation in which they can live with their families.
- who can't gain access to their accommodation or would risk domestic violence by living there.
- whose accommodation is "unreasonable"; or is overcrowded and a danger to health.
- whose accommodation is a caravan or boat and they have nowhere to park it.

Who is Homeless?

Homelessness Task Force:

- **Roofless:** Those persons without shelter of any kind.
- **Houseless:** Those persons living in emergency and temporary accommodation provided for homeless people.
- **Households residing in accommodation, such as Bed & Breakfast premises.**
- **Those persons staying in institutions only because they have nowhere else to stay.**
- **Insecure accommodation.**
- **Unreasonable Sharing of Housing**

Where we are

ANNAN

Council Offices

High St

Annan

Tel: 01461 203311

KIRKCUDBRIGHT

Council Offices

Daar Rd

Kirkcudbright

Tel 01557 330291

DUMFRIES

Council Offices

52-60 Queensberry St

Dumfries

Tel: 01387 260000

STRANRAER

Council Offices

Sun St

Stranraer

Tel: 01776 702151

Rural Homelessness

- **Robust information difficult to get, but:**
 - Rural Private Renting Study
 - Pressured Areas Study
 - Affordable Housing study
 - SHARC Community Surveys
- **Seems to have been increasing at a faster rate in rural areas than urban.**
- **‘Hidden’ homelessness**
- **‘severe affordability/ access issues’ in some areas.**
- **‘Pressured Areas’ research – 50-60% of social stock sold in some areas.**

What are we doing about it?

- **RSL investment, expand Local Housing Strategy priorities**
- **‘Pressured Area’ status**
- **Work with Private Rented Sector**
- **Council tax discount**
- **Carry on improving homelessness services.**
- **Work with DGSCHT**

- **End Rural Homelessness, wouldn’t that be nice.**