

March 2022

News

Continued funding for the HSEU and a message from the Unit's Chair

The Scottish Government has agreed funding of the HSEU for a further year. Amanda Miller, Director of Community Services Eildon Housing Association and Chair of the Unit's Executive Committee has warmly welcomed this news.

She said: "Over the last couple of years the Unit has helped the housing support / supported housing sector to deal with many challenges faced during the pandemic. Moving forward, there is likely to be fundamental change in the way social care is planned and delivered as we continue to recover from the pandemic as well as prepare for opportunities coming through the introduction of the National Care Service. The Unit has an important role in promoting housing support as a way of achieving better outcomes for people with support needs."

The Unit is jointly hosted by the Coalition of Care and Support Providers Scotland and the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations. You can find out more about the work of the Unit [here](#).

Coming home

The Scottish Government and COSLA have responded to the Coming Home Report and have set a deadline of March 2024 for ensuring that people with learning disabilities and complex care needs are not left in inappropriate institutional care in out of area placements. This report has been eagerly awaited and sets out a framework: the Coming Home Implementation Framework. The framework sets out the need for local commissioning of multi disciplinary teams to provide tailored care and the need to plan for appropriate housing. You can find the report [here](#).

Scottish Government

Covid sustainability funding

Sustainability funding will continue to 30th June 2022. In a [letter](#) dated 13th February 2022, the SG set out expectations and has indicated further guidance will be issued on 1st April.

Routine testing for Covid set to change in April

Routine testing for asymptomatic social care staff working in supported housing and housing support where they are not providing any personal care is to end on 17th April. The Scottish Government has created a [summary table](#) setting out the current guidance and the new guidance as of 17th April. Other social care staff providing personal care will be required to use LFD tests twice a week or a weekly PCR test and care home staff will be required to undertake a PCR test weekly as well as twice weekly LFDs tests.

Guidance on providing community equipment and housing adaptations

The Scottish Government is consulting on revised guidance for the provision of community equipment and housing adaptations to replace [current guidance](#), which was first published in 2009.

The purpose of an adaptation is to modify an environment to restore or enable independent living, privacy, confidence and dignity for individuals and their families. Adaptations can also improve confidence, skills and mobility and reduce

symptoms. They can form part of a range of options available to people experiencing a disabling environment.

The aim of the guidance is to enable professionals, service users and carers to review and understand local health and social care partnerships' responsibilities, and to continue to support the aim of a more consistent approach to the provision of community equipment and housing adaptations across all areas of Scotland.

You can complete the survey, share your opinion and help shape the final version of the revised guidance [here](#). Responses must be submitted by 6 June 2022.

Consultation on a health and social care strategy for older people

The latest consultation stage for a new health and social care strategy for older people was launched on 8th March. The Scottish Government's stated ambition is to make Scotland the best place in the world to grow old: where they experience a great quality of life though safe, integrated, person-centred health and social care; where they are able to live actively, and drive the decisions about their health and wellbeing; and where their human rights are respected and their dignity protected.

Hearing the views of a wide range of people will therefore be an important part of developing the new strategy. You are [invited to comment](#) on the [consultation paper](#) – respondents are asked to submit responses before the closing date of 19 June.

Providers

Business resilience survey

A [report](#) on the findings of the annual survey of care and support providers across Scotland has just been published. It presents a snapshot of key indicators in the

sector, including levels of optimism, income and sustainability, and workforce. Optimism levels are at a historic low due to a complex range of challenges and uncertainty facing the sector, with sustainability of services an enormous challenge for many. The dramatic increase in recruitment and retention difficulties continues to reverberate, with few services immune to the impact. Around 74% of those organisations responding to this survey deliver housing support.

Better Futures

Better Futures is 11!

Better Futures celebrated its 11th birthday this month. On its launch in March 2011 a small band of provider organisations committed to trialling a new way of measuring and recording outcomes digitally. It represented an exciting opportunity to change the way housing support information was captured and shared in the digital era, catapulting Scottish providers into new 21st century ways of working.

The Housing Support Enabling Unit knew all about Better Futures' potential to make a real difference for supported people and the people and organisations working with them, but whether we would succeed in convincing providers to give it a try and to continue to use it was less certain.

We are therefore delighted that Better Futures is well and truly alive and kicking in 2022. Today around 40 provider organisations and over 1,800 support staff log into the system on a regular basis to aid their support of 50,000 people across the length and breadth of Scotland. We want to thank you for using our system to help you deliver better futures for everyone you work with. Here's to the next 11 years!

Events

Housing Benefits and Supported Housing training

7th April 2022, 10am - 12pm

Background

Some types of supported housing – specified accommodation - continue to be dealt with through the Housing Benefits system (HB) rather than through Universal Credit. Over the last 10 years there have been various plans at a UK level to change the system but to date the Department for Works and Pensions (DWP) has kept the system in place.

Topics to be covered

- which types of supported housing come under the HB system
- the DWP subsidy system and the amount of funding that local authorities can recover for HB payments to people living in supported housing
- the costs associated with supported housing and how some can be recovered through rents and service charges
- any possible changes to the system in the light of pilot projects in England set up by the Department for Work and Pensions and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

Our trainer will be Maggie Fitzsimons, Benefits Training & Consultancy

This webinar will be delivered with a mixture of PowerPoint presentation, discussion and questions. Numbers will be limited so we ask that organisations nominate one person only to take part. This course is for supported housing providers working in the voluntary sector and social rented sector.

eForum



The course is free but you must register. Further details and registration can be found [here](#). A waiting list will come into operation once all the places have been booked.

The Housing Support Enabling Unit is a partnership initiative between Coalition of Care and Support Providers Scotland (CCPS) and Scottish Federation of Housing Associations (SFHA), funded by the Scottish Government.

CCPS is a limited company, registered in Scotland under the company number of SC279913. The company's registered office is at Norton Park, 57 Albion Road, Edinburgh EH7 5QY. CCPS is a registered Scottish charity: No. SC029199.