

March 2023 Issue 70

Events

Workforce Policy and Practice for Housing Support Providers

Thursday 23rd March, 14:30-15:30

At this virtual session, there will be an update on the progress of Fair Work in social care, including pay, terms and conditions, and the effective voice project.

There will also be an update on the SSSC Future Proofing Programme and what this might mean for employers and the workforce as well as an opportunity to hear more about the Leading to Change Programme and how this could benefit your organisation.

CCPS will also provide an overview of their workforce groups and how you can get involved to share your expertise and influence change.

Register on [Eventbrite](#).

Best Practice in Cyber Security for Providers of Housing and Support

Join SFHA and CCPS as we host Cyber and Fraud Centre Scotland who will be running through strategic level cyber decisions, and running an exercise on practical application. This is a virtual session that has been created especially for housing associations, co-operatives, and third sector care and support providers to share insights on what you and your organisation must do to increase your preventative measures against cyber-attacks.

Exercise in a Box is a 90-minute non-technical workshop which helps organisations find out how resilient they are to cyber attacks and practise their response in a safe environment. This webinar is targeted at a wide range of people working within social housing or third sector care provider organisations. The session will cater to people with different roles and at different levels, no matter your level of knowledge on cyber. This session is designed to increase knowledge and offer takeaways that can be implemented at different levels across an organisation. [Register on the SFHA website](#).

CCPS March Digital Seminar

The monthly CCPS Digital Seminar is on Monday 20th March from 3:30-5pm. The session will be of interest to colleagues with strategic digital and data remit, as well as service design and information governance responsibilities. In the session you will hear from:

Trish Quinn (Scottish Government), who is Programme Director (Digital) leading on data and digital services for the National Care Service. She will provide an overview of work towards an integrated social care and health record, information standards and information sharing.

Cat Macaulay (Scottish Government), who is the Chief Design Officer, ensuring that the voices of people with lived experience are part of the co-design process of the National Care Service. She will provide further insight into how co-design will be approached.

And David Webster (Scottish Government), who is Communications and Engagement Manager at the National Information Governance Programme. He will discuss the importance of information governance for the benefit of citizens.

[Register on Eventbrite.](#)

NES Equality and Human Rights Community of Interest

Hosted by NHS Education for Scotland, the Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights (CRER) is leading a learning session on anti-racism. CRER has been commissioned by the Scottish Government to develop anti-racism resources for health and social care staff. This session is open to all staff working in health and social care to increase understanding about what an anti-racist approach is, and about the resources being developed to support staff in the workplace. This event is on Wednesday 29th March, 12noon- 1pm. Contact nes.equalityteam@nhs.scot for any queries.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 362 264 558 058

Passcode: ac3UjJ

Download Teams | Join on the web

Policy Updates

Benefit Cap Mitigation

At the end of February, the Scottish Government announced [increased funding for discretionary housing payments \(DHPs\)](#). £8.6 million is being provided to mitigate the UK benefit cap. Similarly to the 'bedroom tax', anyone who is affected by the benefit cap should be awarded a DHP. DHPs are administered by Local Authorities and people affected by the benefit cap must apply to their Local Authority and ask for a backdate to the beginning of the year.

The [Child Poverty Action Group \(CPAG\)](#) has monitored the impact of the benefit cap since its introduction, encouraging the Scottish Government to use DHPs. CPAG has drawn attention to the problems that can emerge because of the benefit cap through their [Early Warning System](#). This includes families not meeting the cap exemption criteria because of fluctuating earnings, or because they are waiting for assessments for disability benefits. CPAG also has demonstrated that there has been a 'postcode lottery' of support because local authorities have previously taken different approaches to mitigating the cap through DHPs.

Access to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

During the COVID-19 pandemic the Scottish Government made PPE available to providers of social care when their normal suppliers were unable to do so. This was arranged through Local Authority PPE Hubs and through the NHS Triage system. PPE was provided free of charge. These arrangements are coming to an end at the end of March 2023 because the demand for and supply of PPE have re-balanced and therefore social care providers are able to obtain the PPE they need through their own suppliers.

If you are interested in finding out more about access to PPE or sharing your views on this topic please get in touch with yvette.burgess@ccpscotland.org

Energy Bill Alternative Funding Support

Energy bill support is now available to those who were previously not eligible or deemed non-domestic consumers. Those who have not previously received discount automatically through the Energy Bills Support Scheme may be eligible to apply for support on the government website. This includes if your main home is in one of the following categories, particularly relevant for supported housing:

- Part of a heat network without an electricity meter
- In social or private rented accommodation which has a business energy connection or a communal electricity supply
- Off the mains electricity or gas grid
- In a care home or assisted living facility and you pay for some or all of your care (directly or through loss of pension or other benefits).

More information is available through [Utility Aid's latest blog](#), and you can apply for the support through the [gov.uk website](#).

Data Strategy for Health and Social Care

The [Data Strategy for Health and Social Care](#) was published on 22 February, after consultation from May until August last year. The strategy sets out vision and ambitions for the use of data in the health and social care sector. These include improving the access of everyone to their health and social care data. The data strategy recognises the benefit of providing access to health and social care data across wider public sector services including housing. The Data Strategy also outlines the commitment from Scottish Government and COSLA to develop a consistent, integrated, and accessible electronic social care and health record. This is driven by the ambition that people will not have to tell their story more than once. A key vision of the Data Strategy is that the health and social care workforce will have access and the skills to use data to improve outcomes.

Better Futures

Better Futures: 12 years measuring housing support outcomes and making a difference

eForum



This month marks the 12th anniversary of the launch of Better Futures. Back then a small group of ambitious housing support providers were keen to explore new ways of working to enable outcomes to be monitored and recorded digitally.

Today Better Futures is an outcomes-monitoring and case management tool used by housing support providers throughout Scotland, supporting the work of a host of local authorities, voluntary sector and independent providers of housing support across the country.

The Better Futures framework balances consistency and standardisation with the recognition that all individuals receiving housing support have unique circumstances and needs. Thirty-six provider organisations and almost 2,000 support staff now log into the system on a regular basis, supporting 50,000 people across the nation.

Better Futures uses innovative approaches on information sharing – including direct service user and advocate access – to keep individuals at the heart of decision-making and in control of their lives. Today, as Scotland grapples with matters of regulation and data in the digital era, Better Futures is proud to continue to deliver sector-leading solutions for housing support providers and service nationwide.

To find out more or register an interest, [visit the Better Futures website](#) or email hs.unit@ccpscotland.org