

## May 2023 Issue 71

### Launch of Report and Opportunity for Feedback: Cost Benefits of Housing Support

Commissioned by the Housing Support Enabling Unit, the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations (SFHA), the Scottish Commission for People with Learning Disabilities (SCLD), Hanover Scotland, and Blackwood Homes and Care, a [new report from CaCHE](#) suggests that Housing Support has strong economic and social benefits, particularly in relation to preventative public finance savings.



The report suggests that there is a broad range of qualitative and practice evidence supporting the role of Housing Support in securing, accommodation, care and other services. This evidence frames Housing Support as an enabler to facilitate positive health & wellbeing, and social outcomes for people, preventing recourse to more intense interventions. The report also examines the wide range of Housing Support activities and suggests that Housing Support is funded by multiple sources of funding, which are not always visible. The diversity of funding arrangements and activities within Housing Support mean that more needs to be done to quantify these benefits. This will aid in highlighting the important role of Housing Support and the need for secure funding to sustain and extend capacity.

The report and an easy-read summary of the report can be viewed [here](#). The authors of the report, Prof Ken Gibb and Dr Vikki McCall have also produced [a video](#) discussing the report. The research partners, HSEU, SFHA, SCLD, Hanover Scotland, and Blackwood Homes and Care, are eager that the report is used as a basis for further discussion about the economic and social benefits of Housing Support. The partners are keen to continue engagement with commissioners, funders, and providers of Housing Support so please share with your networks and get in touch with any feedback or contributions at [hs.unit@ccpscotland.org](mailto:hs.unit@ccpscotland.org). The Unit would also appreciate any feedback on the report through this [short feedback form](#).

## Have Your Say: Future Webinar Topics for HSEU

The Housing Support Enabling Unit is currently planning its programme of events for this year. The Unit is eager to organise events that address issues of common interest or concern for providers of housing support and supported housing. The Unit is interested to hear from providers about what topics you would like to see reflected in future events through [this very short survey](#). If you have any further ideas or feedback, please email the Unit at [hs.unit@ccpscotland.org](mailto:hs.unit@ccpscotland.org).

## Extended Deadline: DLUHC and DWP Provider of Supported Housing Survey

As part of research commissioned by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), a **survey for providers of supported housing in Scotland is now live**. As shared in an April newsflash, this survey is part of research commissioned from the Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research (at Sheffield Hallam University) to assess **the size, cost and demand of the supported housing sector**, across England, Scotland and Wales. The research will take a mixed method approach and includes an analysis of secondary data as well as surveys of local authority Housing Benefit teams, supported housing commissioners, and supported housing providers.

Providers of supported housing should have already received a link to the survey to complete. If not, please see the [editable PDF version of the questionnaire on the HSEU website](#) or contact the research team at [d.leather@shu.ac.uk](mailto:d.leather@shu.ac.uk). Full instructions are available on the front page of the questionnaire. Please return completed surveys direct to David Leather who is part of the Sheffield Hallam University Research team at [d.leather@shu.ac.uk](mailto:d.leather@shu.ac.uk). Please also contact David if you have any questions about the questionnaire, want to know more about the study, or need any assistance. The research team has **extended the deadline for the survey to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June**.

## National Outcomes Review

A consultation is now open to inform the [National Outcomes Review](#). The Scottish Government is required to undertake a review of the National Outcomes every five years. There is currently not a National Outcome specifically on social care or housing, and housing support is not referenced through the indicators. The consultation closes on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June.

The Housing Support Enabling Unit is currently consulting with stakeholders to draft a response to the [Call for Evidence](#). Please get in touch at [hs.unit@ccpscotland.org](mailto:hs.unit@ccpscotland.org) if you or your organisation are planning to submit a response to the consultation, or if you would be interested in offering feedback on a draft response.

## **Social Housing Fuel Support Fund**

A fourth round of Social Housing Fuel Support Fund has been announced by the Scottish Government. £7.25 million of funding has been allocated to the SFHA to support housing associations to tackle fuel insecurity with advice, energy saving items and crisis intervention. The funding will run into March 2024. More information about the funding and how to apply will be available shortly, through the [SFHA](#).

## **SSSC Codes of Practice Consultation**

The SSSC is currently consulting on the revised Codes of Practice for Social Service Workers and Employers. They are looking to hear view from the social workforce, employers, and people who use services. The main changes to the Codes are:

- Updated language
- Strengthening and reflecting developments in current practice
- Rights and Relationships
- De-cluttering and streamlining

[The consultation](#) closes at 5pm on the 7th of July.

## **NCS Extension**

The debate around the National Care Service that was expected to happen in March, has been delayed until June. A ministerial letter clarified that the extension to the timetable does not affect the commitment to deliver the NCS legislation within the lifetime of the current Parliament. Since this letter, new First Minister Humza Yousaf has chosen his cabinet including Michael Matheson as Scotland's Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care, and Maree Todd as Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport. Michael Matheson has stated that the government's plan for the NCS '[will deliver consistency and quality of care.](#)' On the 17<sup>th</sup> of April, [Maree Todd wrote](#) to the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee to seek an extension of the stage 1 deadline beyond June, to allow more time for co-design.

[Maree Todd has confirmed](#) that there will not be an update to the financial memorandum until after the summer, at least four weeks before the Stage 1 debate by the whole parliament.

## **Digital Pioneers Fund Launch**

The Digital Pioneers Housing Fund is now open, offering funding of up to £50k to support existing impactful digital inclusion activity in a housing context. The fund is part of the Digital Inclusion in mental Health and Housing Programme, provided by the Digital Health and Care Directorate, Scottish Government and managed by SCVO. Organisations that are eligible to

apply include housing associations, social enterprises, local authorities, community interest companies, and charities. The closing date is 26/5/2023. More information is available on the [SCVO website](#).

## **Scottish Government Research: Supporting people through the transfer of their disability benefit**

The **Scottish Government** are conducting research **with third sector organisation staff** to help us gain a better insight into individuals' experiences of having their benefits transferred and of their first review under Social Security Scotland. Findings will have a **direct impact on the policy and practice underpinning the transfer of benefits**. We are hoping to speak to third sector organisation staff who have had **direct experience** in supporting individuals through the **transfer of their benefits** and/or their **first review under Social Security Scotland**. If you or your organisation is interested in participating, please email [Stefania.Pagani@gov.scot](mailto:Stefania.Pagani@gov.scot).

## **Removal of COVID related use of face masks from 16th May**

Following a review, the Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care and the Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport have agreed to withdraw the 'Coronavirus (COVID-19): use of face coverings in social care settings including adult care homes' guidance and the 'coronavirus (COVID-19): extended use of face masks and face coverings in hospitals, primary care and community healthcare settings' guidance. The guidance will be withdrawn on 16 May 2023.

In the absence of the extended use of face mask/face covering guidance; health and social care services are advised to follow the infection prevention and control (IPC) guidance on the appropriate use of personal protective equipment (PPE) for standard infection control precautions and transmission based precautions as detailed in the [National Infection Prevention and Control Manual \(NIPCM\)](#) and the [Care Home National Infection Prevention and Control Manual \(CHIPCM\)](#). For further advice please engage with local health protection and IPC teams.

## **Better Futures**

### **Reports functionality**

The Housing Support Enabling Unit's very own outcomes monitoring and case management tool, Better Futures, is unique. It is the only system of its kind dedicated to collating and tracking activities, impacts and outcomes for individuals in receipt of housing support in Scotland.

Over recent months the Unit has formed a reporting sub-group with representatives of Better Future subscriber organisations, with the aim of ensuring all organisations using Better Futures make the most of the system's reporting tool through peer-to-peer discussion and

# eForum



review. The Unit is keen to hear from anyone currently using the reporting tool, or who may wish to in future, and anyone who would like to feed into the conversation and help more providers use existing functionality to demonstrate outcomes and impacts. If you would like to contribute, please email [hs.unit@ccpscotland.org](mailto:hs.unit@ccpscotland.org).