

eForum

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Please see the below updates for providers of housing support and supported housing.

The role of housing support in combating social isolation

Housing support and supported housing can play a key role in supporting people to combat social isolation and become more involved and engaged in their communities. People can be supported through a floating housing support service, where support is delivered in someone's own home in the community, or through supported housing, which may be accompanied by other care and support services.

For example, supported housing is a key part of the solution to enable people with learning disabilities to exercise their human right to live independently in a community. This has been demonstrated in Moray by a partnership between the social care provider, Enable, Hanover Scotland and the local HSCP. ENABLE was selected in a tender process run by Health and Social Care Moray to provide care in a supported living community of seven bungalows, built by Hanover Scotland. [This partnership](#) allows people with complex needs to live independently, in supported housing with on-site support.

Housing support can also play a role in combatting social isolation by supporting people to be digitally included. The Digital Inclusion Programme launched in March 2023 including £2 million of funding to support digital inclusion in mental health and housing. The [digital inclusion in housing funding](#) was awarded to several providers of housing support, including:

- Aberdeen Foyers Housing Digital Support project which works with young people in Aberdeenshire at risk of experiencing homelessness. Funding will allow them to expand current services to provide devices, connectivity and digital inclusion support to improve access to supports and services that reduce isolation.
- Blackwood Home and Care's Digital Buddies project which works with older people in supported living accommodation in rural areas in Scotland. The funding will allow them to expand the current digital inclusion model.

- Simon Community Scotland received funding for their Get Connected Housing Project, to further embed the digital inclusion approach within their Housing First and Housing Support Services in Edinburgh.

These examples of digital innovation demonstrate the potential of housing support to assist people to become more engaged in their communities by receiving the right type of support.

The Unit is eager to continue sharing good practice examples of housing support to combat social isolation, and any funding available to providers for this purpose. If you have any examples you would like to share, please contact emma.mathews@ccpscotland.org.

Scottish Budget

On the 19th of December, the Scottish Government published the proposed [Budget for 2024 to 2025](#). The Scottish Government stated that the budget is based on three missions of equality, opportunity, and community, but is presented in the context of pressured spending and the cost-of-living crisis. Relevant parts of the spending plan for housing support providers include:

- Funding for More Homes plan cut from £564.6m in 2023-24, to £375.8m in 2024-25
- Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan funding remaining at £8m for 2024-25
- Scottish Housing Regulator cut from £6.6m in 2023-24 to £5.6m in 2024-25
- Funding to uplift the hourly rate to the adult social care workforce to £12ph from April 2024.

Event Takeaway: What is the impact of the current system of funding housing support?

In November, the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations and HSEU hosted a webinar on the complex funding arrangements of preventative housing support. Discussion focused on the impact of the current funding system and how to further support independent living and the prevention of homelessness. A summary of the event and key takeaways can be found on [the HSEU website](#).

Digital Maturity in Social Care Organisations- Registration of Interest

The Scottish Government and COSLA Digital Maturity Assessment Survey is an opportunity to access a detailed digital maturity assessment designed for the Scottish context, as part of a pilot to feedback on how the question sets work for commissioned social care.

- The survey supports the shift to embed digital ways of working as a pre-requisite to improving outcomes in health and social care. The platform supports organisations to:
 - Regularly review the various sections within the survey, track progress and plot change over time;
 - Produce reports for planning and reporting purposes, including business cases;
 - Compare organisational results to national averages;
 - Inform national planning, co-ordination and priority setting.
- The survey was previously only open to NHS Boards, HSCPs, and Local Authorities, but is now **open to all social care organisations across third and independent sectors.**
- If your organisation would be interested in having access to the platform, please [register your interest](#). Registration is not a final commitment but to help Scottish Government and plan resource needs.
- You will be notified as soon as the platform is open. If you have any questions please contact marion.logan@gov.scot.

The Ending Homelessness Together Monitor

Scottish Government and COSLA's Homelessness Prevention and Strategy Group appointed the Measuring Impact Task and Finish Group to deliver an outcome focused framework to measure the impact of the Ending Homelessness Together Plan. The Ending Homelessness Together Monitor will demonstrate progress made toward ending homelessness in Scotland. The EHT Monitor intends to indicate the impact of policy and practice decisions, create a shift from reporting activity to measuring outcomes, and reduce unnecessary data and reporting burdens on local authorities. The EHT Monitor will:

- Use measurable indicators from existing data sets.
- Improve existing data sets.
- Fill data gaps through an Annual Survey of Housing and Homelessness Sector and a Peer Research Programme.

The Task and Finish Group Report recommends broad sector consultation in order to determine a core data set for the prevention duties in the Housing Bill, the feasibility of collecting sector data, and how to enable more partnership working. The Housing Support Enabling Unit will continue to share with providers any opportunities to be involved in this work and further development of the Monitor.

Homelessness Prevention Task and Finish Group: Scottish Government Response

The Scottish Government have [published a response to the Homelessness Prevention Task and Finish Group](#), considering the groundwork needed to ensure

the successful implementation of Scotland's new homelessness prevention legislation. The response contains priority short term actions and longer term actions based on the report's recommendations, including detail of legislative proposals. The Scottish Government have responded that they will clarify in guidance the links between the new homelessness prevention duties and the existing housing support duty, including the provision of wider housing support. This includes the intention that the provision of housing support becomes an integral part of responses to preventing homelessness.

Freedom of Information

At the end of November, [the Scottish Government responded](#) to the analysis of consultation responses on Access to Information Rights in Scotland. This included the decision not to introduce any new primary legislation amending the current Freedom of Information Scotland Act. The Scottish Government has also announced that after the National Care Service Bill has become law, there will be a full public consultation, including engagement and consultation on the extension of FOISA to social care services.

Homelessness Frontline Worker Survey 2024

The Frontline Worker Survey 2024 is now open. Are you a staff member supporting people experiencing homelessness? Now is the time to join hundreds of colleagues across the UK and have your say on some of the key issues you are witnessing in your work, alongside the solutions needed to ensure that suitable, secure, affordable housing is available to all.

The survey explores your insights into addressing homelessness and your experiences of frontline work. The Frontline Network gather insights to help inform policy and practice around homelessness. The deadline for the survey is Monday 5th February. [Share your insights and have your voice heard.](#)

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