

eForum

March 2024, Issue 76

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

Tackling Homelessness- Working together to deliver great housing and support :

A free joint learning event with a practical focus from SFHA, Homeless Network Scotland and HSEU

In the face of a housing crisis and the cut to support for the Affordable Supply Programme, the need for actions against homelessness has never been more urgent. But what can we practically do to ensure that everyone has a place to call home?

On 27 March, join SFHA, Homeless Network Scotland and HSEU to:

- Consider the latest government plans to combat homelessness.
- Explore the critical role of housing and third-sector organizations in prevention.
- Gain insights from practical examples that demonstrate positive change.

This event is for any housing or support practitioners passionate about creating positive change in our communities. Tickets are free and available on the [SFHA website](#).

Housing Support Worker Briefing

In February, HSEU published a [new briefing](#) looking at the role of housing support workers in Scotland and the need to ensure significant recognition for the role.

The briefing explores the work undertaken by housing support workers, their qualifications and professional development, and the scope of the role through case studies informed by conversations with housing support workers working in different services across Scotland.

In response to the publication, Amanda Miller, Director of Community Services Eildon Housing Association and Chair of the Unit's Executive Committee says *'as health, social care and housing face unprecedented demand and pressure, it is more important than ever to understand the role that housing support workers play in helping people to live and thrive in their communities. Our ask of policy makers is to ensure sufficient recognition of the role and adequate funding is in place so that everyone has access to these services when they need them.'*

Read more on [our website](#), or share on [X](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

Learning Disability, Autism, and Neurodivergence Bill: Consultation

In December, the Scottish Government published the [Consultation for the Learning Disability, Autism and Neurodivergence Bill](#), where Section 4 focuses on Housing and Independent Living. The Scottish Government have already undertaken scoping work around the Bill, with the findings detailed in the Consultation Paper. The Consultation is open until 21st April. The Scottish Government and SCLD have encouraged responses in any form, regardless of how many questions or sections the response may cover.

SCLD have made available resources to help respond to the consultation, including a [Housing and Independent Living Briefing paper](#). Relevant proposals to housing and independent living include:

- Advice, advocacy and specialist guidance for housing and housing support.
- The development of local learning disability strategies that embed independent living principles into assessment and allocations policies.
- The introduction of mandatory awareness training for housing professionals.
- Improving data collection on the requirements and housing needs of neurodivergent people, and people with learning disabilities.
- More access to housing documents in easy read formats.

SSSC Future Proofing Programme

After consultation on qualification timescales with employers and employer representative groups including CCPS, SSSC Council members have approved a delay to introducing the three year timescale for qualifications in adult social care roles to June 2025. Workers required to gain 2 qualifications, e.g. a supervisor, will continue to be given 5 years.

As part of the Future Proofing Programme, the SSSC is reviewing Codes of Practice. This includes updated wording and tone. There is also a new model of Continuous

Professional Learning (CPL) with a focus on key skills and knowledge required at key career stages, inclusion of core learning elements for each register group, and flexibility for SSSC to revise requirements to respond to emerging skills gaps.

The structure of the register is also changing, moving to a 4 part register, with the social care workforce, including housing support, forming one part of the register. More information is available on the [SSSC website](#).

National Care Service

On the 29th of February, the National Care Service Bill passed Stage 1. The week before, the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee published the [Stage 1 Report](#) on the National Care Service Bill. The Stage 1 report highlighted concerns about a lack of clarity about the structure of the proposed NCS, and that there is still a lack of clarity about the definition of the co-design process. The report recommends the inclusion of a definition of fair work in the bill, and that the Scottish Government provides more detail on how it plans to work towards the fair work agenda. While the Committee states that more detail about strategic planning will need to emerge through amendments in Stage 2, it has commented in the Stage 1 Report on the evidence gathered about strategic plans, including that strategic plans should address the integration of homelessness and housing services.

In response to recommendations from the Stage 1 report, the Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport, Maree Todd, has [written to the Convener of the Committee](#). This letter confirms that at Stage 2, the Bill will be changed to establish a new National Care Service Board to provide oversight and governance, and that services will be planned and delivered at the local level by reformed Integration Joint Boards (IJBs), which will be accountable to the NCS Board. There will also be a new Legislative Advisory Group to help guide the co-design process and next stage of work on the Bill.

Scottish Government Response to Independent Review of Inspection, Scrutiny, and Regulation

The Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport, Maree Todd, has [written to stakeholders](#) who engaged with the Independent Review of Inspection, Scrutiny and Regulation of Social Care in Scotland. The Scottish Government had confirmed two near workstreams that will shortly commence:

- **A review of the care service types and corresponding definitions** as set out in schedule 12 of the Public Service Reform (Scotland) Act 2010, to assess if they continue to be fit for purpose. This review is intended to support a reduction in duplication, and make it easier for staff to work across different

services. The review could also consider definitions that would enable expansion of the regulatory landscape in the future.

- **A review of the Health and Social Care Standards**, to ensure the Standards are based on human rights, ethical commissioning and are outcome focused.

Homelessness Frontline Workforce Wellbeing Research

Are you a staff member supporting people experiencing homelessness in the UK?

[Sign up here](#) to take part in a research pilot project being delivered by St Martin-in-the-Fields Charity in collaboration with the Centre for Homelessness Impact, and the London School of Economics. The research is looking at how to support frontline worker wellbeing and better understand wellbeing needs.