

eForum

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Call for Case Studies:

Non-residential charging- What impact does the charging regime have on the people you support and on your services?

Although the Scottish Government previously committed to abolishing charges within the term of this parliament, it is now less clear how this will happen. In the recent Programme for Government, the Scottish Government has committed to 'continue to work with COSLA to identify options for the removal of non-residential care charges as part of wider work with partners on social care improvement'.

The Scottish Government is interested in hearing more about the impact charging has on supported people and on organisations providing care and support in response to concerns raised recently. Now that personal care is free across all age groups, where charges are applied it is more likely they relate to housing support services. It is down to each local authority / HSCP to decide their own policies on charging in accordance with guidance produced every year by COSLA. That guidance is currently being reviewed for 2025/26 and there is an opportunity to put forward changes. An issue that has already been raised with the COSLA charging working group is the scope to dissuade authorities from insisting that their providers collect charges for care and support or at the very least agree rules about recovering the shortfall when supported people are unable to pay the charges. Please do get in touch with the Unit if you have further suggestions about changes to the [current COSLA charging guidance](#).

If you would be interested in submitting a case study example about the currently charging regime or in suggesting changes to the COSLA charging guidance please contact Yvette Burgess at yvette.burgess@ccpscotland.org

Health and Social Care Standards and Review of Care Service Types

Two Short Life Working Groups are currently undertaking work to review the Health and Social Care Standards and the Care Service types and definitions. This work is

based on the findings of the Independent Review of Inspection, Scrutiny and Regulation.

The work so far to review the care definitions has focused on testing the assumptions of what is already known about the care definitions and the current challenges including outdated language that does not support human rights-based terminology. The group has also discussed challenges of duplication that can arise from the current service types for providers who deliver different kinds of services.

The group considering the review of Health and Social Care Standards has acknowledged the strength of the current standards that they are person-centred, rights-based, and outcomes-focused. The group has recognised that the awareness and accessibility of the standards could be improved, and that in order to support the review, there should be alignment with other policy and learning.

If you have feedback that you would like to feed into the groups, please email Emma at emma.mathews@ccpscotland.org.

Supported Housing Research Published

Last year, the Unit shared with providers information about a survey to inform research into the supported housing sector. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, and the Department for Work and Pensions have now published the research, [Supported Housing Review 2023](#). The research, completed by Sheffield Hallam University aims to provide an up-to-date understanding of the supported housing sector in England, Scotland and Wales in 2023. Research was undertaken through a series of scoping interviews and engagement exercises with stakeholders and organisations, in addition to interviews with providers, housing benefit teams, and commissioners of supported housing.

In commissioning the research, the government has stated its commitment to 'ensuring a sustainable supported housing sector' and a 'system that delivers value for money'. While housing is a devolved matter, any changes to the Housing Benefit system will have implications for Scotland. The Housing Support Enabling Unit will continue to engage with the DWP to inform Scottish supported housing providers of any proposed policy changes. [A briefing outlining the research findings is available on the HSEU website.](#)

Scottish Housing Day report launch calls for national conversation on homes for life

The importance of accessible housing and supporting people to live well in their homes throughout their lives was the focus for 2024 Scottish Housing Day in September. To mark the day, the Chartered Institute of Housing and other Housing Day partners launched [a report, 'Homes for Life'](#). The report includes recommendations for the Scottish Government and the housing sector to ensure that there are a range of housing options available to meet different needs within mainstream housing, but that specialist housing is also available for people who need additional support.

Homelessness Statistics show continued need for housing support

The [homelessness statistics](#) covering the period from April 2023 to March 2024, demonstrate a significant and continued need for housing support services in Scotland. All local authorities have a duty to conduct a housing support assessment for households who are assessed as homeless, where it has reason to believe that support would be beneficial. As in 2022-23, the most recent statistics show that in 22% of cases where there was a duty to assess, no assessment took place, and no support was provided. Furthermore, support was not provided for 5% of cases where a support need was identified.

Overall, housing support was provided in 38% of all cases. It is disappointing that the provision of housing support has not improved, given the significant number of people with identified support needs. The most recent homelessness statistics show that action must be taken to ensure that everyone in Scotland who needs it, is supported to live as independently as possible. [Read more on the HSEU website.](#)

Stage 1 Report on Housing Bill Part 5 (Homelessness Prevention) and Part 6 (Other Housing Matters)

The Social Justice and Social Security Committee has [published the Stage 1 Report](#) on the homelessness prevention measures outlined in the Housing Bill. The report notes that while there has been broad support for the prevention measures, there are significant concerns about the capacity of local authorities and relevant bodies to bring about the change needed. The Committee has requested details of how the Scottish Government would monitor the resources devoted to compliance with statutory duties by each relevant body, in addition to details of the training that would be provided to relevant bodies and how 'threatened with homelessness' would be defined. The Committee has recommended that the Scottish Government undertakes further consultation and updates the Financial Memorandum ahead of the Stage 1 Debate on the Bill. Stage 1 of the Bill is due to be completed on the 29th

November. The Unit will continue to engage with the Bill as it progresses through parliament, emphasising the importance of housing support in preventing homelessness.