

HSEU eForum

March 2026, Issue 88

Welcome to the March eForum. Read below for information on the latest HSEU networking event, an upcoming webinar on social value, and CCPS' response to the government consultation on the proposed extension of the Freedom of Information Act to care homes and care at home services.

Housing Support: Funding and Impact Event held

The Housing Support Enabling Unit held an in-person networking event on Thursday 5th March on the funding and impact of housing support. Attendees heard presentations from the Scottish Government on housing support's role in government strategies and about changes to Housing Benefit earned income disregards from the DWP. Discussions were also held on key asks for the next government.

Coming up: social value webinar

The HSEU will hold a webinar with HACT Impact Lead Heather Lawson on Wednesday 22 April on cost benefit analysis of housing support services and the HACT social value tool. Registration is now [open](#). This will be an opportunity to consider the social value measurement, methodology and financial proxies, and particular features of housing support services that may need to be acknowledged when applying the tool.

Scottish Government publishes Coming Home Action Plan

The Scottish Government has announced [£20m of funding](#) for the [Coming Home Action Plan](#) to “fund bespoke support, home adaptations, equipment and technology to enable people to return to their

communities rather than spending longer periods in hospital than necessary or living in supported accommodation far from home.” The action plan was developed by the Short Life Working Group set up to explore how to implement the outstanding recommendations in the 2022 Coming Home Implementation Report. A Coming Home Strategic Oversight Group will meet three to four times a year to support the delivery of the plan.

Homeless Deaths figures published

National Records of Scotland has published its [annual report](#) on deaths among people experiencing homelessness for the year 2024. There were an estimated 231 deaths of people experiencing homelessness, similar to the level of deaths in 2023 but significantly higher than the 164 deaths estimated in 2017. Around half of homeless deaths were people aged under 45 and of the selected specific causes of death, drug misuse was the most common at 34%.

Deaths of homeless people were identified from death registration records. A statistical method called capture-recapture modelling was used to estimate the likely number of additional deaths which NRS was unable to identify as homeless using the information available.

Housing First monitoring reports published

The Scottish Government has published [monitoring reports](#) tracking the progress and outcomes of Housing First tenancies covering the period 1 April 2025 to 30 September 2025. There were 156 new tenancies started in this period, up from 113 new tenancies in the previous 6-month period. There was an increase in the number of children living in Housing First tenancies, from 137 in the previous six months to 174 in the latest reporting period. Of the Housing First participants with a mental health support need, 6.4% were not able to access the services they needed. The analysis does not identify participants who have died while in a Housing First tenancy.

Cabinet Secretary for Housing shares details on More Homes Scotland

The Cabinet Secretary for Housing has shared an [update](#) on planning for More Homes Scotland. The update gives an overview of operating principles and delivery priorities, including affordable housing, private investment, rural and island housing, land assembly, a regional approach, and planning. It also confirms housing emergency good practice guidance has been developed and will be published post-election.

Extension of FoISA consultation response submitted

CCPS has submitted a response to the Scottish Government's Extension of Freedom of Information in (Scotland) Acts 2002 (FOISA) to private and third sector providers of care home and 'care at home' services consultation. The response opposes the extension, on the basis that the extension would likely lead to significant resource demand placed on service providers at a time when contracts do not provide full cost recovery for existing costs, without providing significant additional transparency.

Local Housing Strategy guidance update published

Refreshed [Local Housing Strategy guidance](#) has been shared by the Scottish Government. The guidance includes reference to supported housing for people facing homelessness for whom Housing First is unsuitable: "A local authority should set out in a LHS what its plans are in relation to the provision of supported accommodation, based on a local strategic assessment of support needs. This should ensure that supported accommodation is available for people who do not want, or cannot sustain, mainstream housing, including Housing First."

Anne's Law comes into effect

The regulations about care home visiting that are commonly known as Anne's Law, will come into force today, Tuesday 31 March 2026. The regulations strengthen the rights of people living in adult and older people's care homes to maintain contact with those who are important to them. They do this by introducing duties for care home providers in

relation to visiting arrangements, identification of Essential Care Supporters, and transparency where visiting is restricted for any reason.

A Code of Practice: [Anne's Law Code of Practice The Care Home Services \(Visits to and by Care Home Residents\) \(Scotland...\)](#), has been developed to provide guidance for care home providers, managers and staff on applying the legislation consistently and fairly. It will also support care home residents, families and friends to know what they should expect from care homes.