

UNLOCKING POTENTIAL
TRANSFORMING LIVES



**A SOCIAL JUSTICE CHALLENGE FOR 21ST
CENTURY SCOTLAND: MEETING THE HOUSING
NEEDS OF PEOPLE IN AND LEAVING PRISON**

**HEALTH AND HOMELESSNESS CONFERENCE
29 MARCH 2018**

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WHAT I WILL COVER TODAY

- What is prison for?
- Strategic context
- Evidence, including costs – economic and social
- Our partnership working with the housing sector
- SHORE Standards
- Next steps



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CONTEXT: SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT'S VISION AND PRIORITIES FOR JUSTICE

What prison is for:

“We will use prisons only where necessary to address offending or to protect public safety, focusing on recovery and reintegration”

The commentary on some of our shared challenges:

“Justice organisations will work with others e.g. housing, health, employability and social security – to improve support for those coming out of custody and reduce the risk of re-offending”

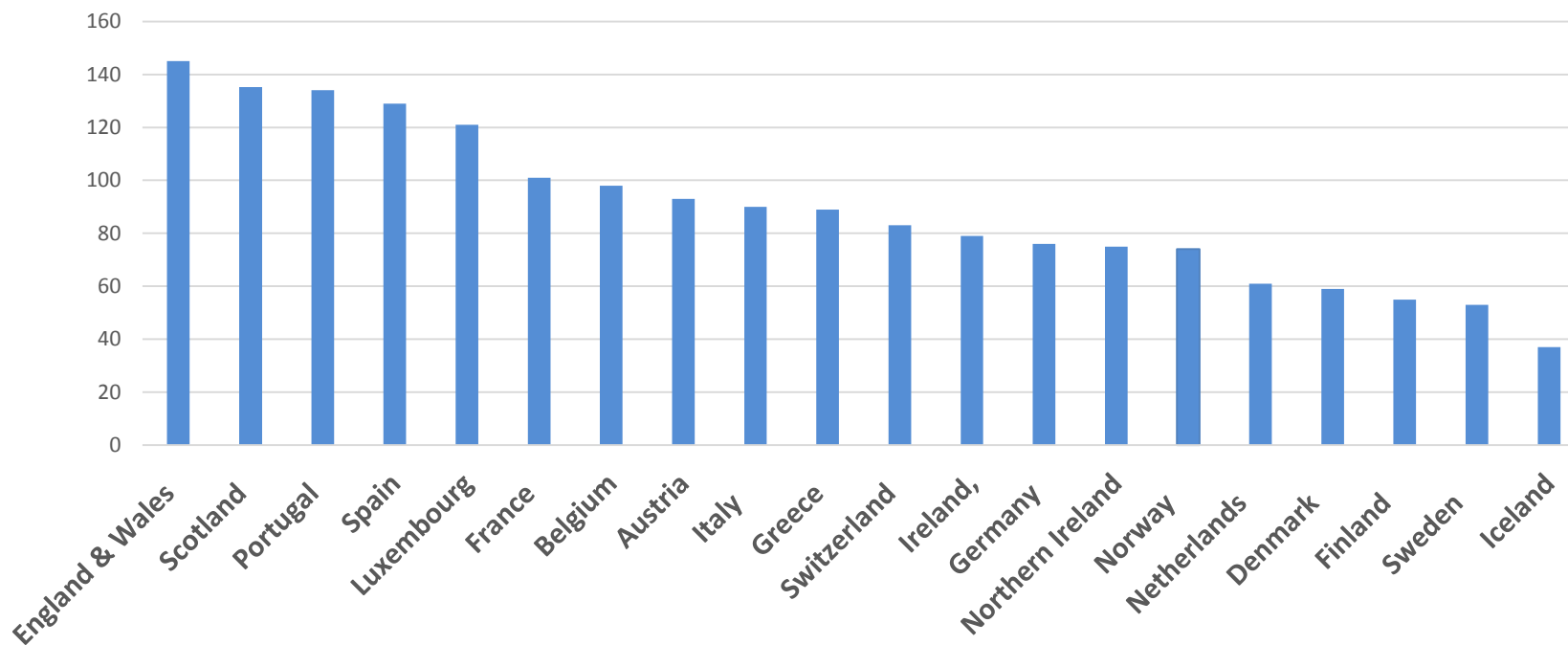
“We will work with others to improve health and wellbeing in justice settings, focusing on mental health and substance use”

“Justice and Health partners will take forward necessary actions to improve the delivery of health and social care services for people in prison and for those returning from prison to their communities”

“Justice organisations and partners will continue to develop trauma-informed practice across the sector, in part to address some of the challenges presented by childhood adversity”

WHAT THE EVIDENCE TELLS US (1) – PRISON RATES

Western European Prison rate per 100,000 of population



SOURCE: International Centre for Prison Studies

WHAT THE EVIDENCE TELLS US.....(2) THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COSTS

- The Scottish Government estimates that the total economic and social costs of reoffending are around £3billion a year

According to our Prisoner Survey (2017):

- 38% reported being under the influence of drugs and 39% under the influence of alcohol when they committed their offence
- Over 40% had experienced adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)
- 34% had been seen by mental health staff and 73% had attended a GP
- 49% said they had lost their accommodation when in prison

Of those engaging with TSOs

- 44% present as homeless on the day of liberation
- 19% are not registered with a doctor at the end of their liberation day



WHERE WE ARE

- Many people leaving prison in Scotland do not currently receive the housing-related services they need especially those who serve short-term prison sentences (MGOR commissioned report)
 - There is a lack of a consistent pattern or level of housing-related service provision with no overall strategic approach (MGOR commissioned report)
 - Ensuring that every person gets access to the appropriate service is a key challenge for SPS and partners
 - We are working hard to develop relationships and understanding of our shared challenges between housing and prison leaders (strategic engagement, knowledge exchange with SPS, CIH, ALACHO, SFHA and Shelter, task and finish groups)
 - Homelessness prevention is a shared challenge
 - Joint housing/justice launch of a set of national standards in December 2017
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WHERE WE WANT TO GET TO

- A shared understanding of the issues
 - Consistent and equitable provision of housing and homelessness advice services in prisons across Scotland
 - Person centred, holistic approach – one plan, one pathway
 - Successful reintegration into the community from prison
 - Enable community partners to unlock resources that are currently absorbed by repeat homelessness and repeat offending
 - More joined up working across community justice, housing, welfare, social care and health
 - “Sustainable Housing On Release for Everyone ” (SHORE)
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QUALITY STANDARDS FOR SUSTAINABLE HOUSING ON RELEASE FOR EVERYONE (SHORE)

- To do what?
 - Promote the role of SPS in homelessness prevention and promote the role of housing in preventing offending and reducing re-offending

 - Scope and process
 - On Imprisonment
 - During Sentence
 - Prior to Release
 - Following Release
 - Future development
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VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

- Early intervention
 - Individuals treated with dignity and respect
 - Fair access to housing and housing services
 - Services have a positive attitude and challenge those who reinforce stigma and negative attitude towards those with a history of offending
 - Services recognize and provide support for vulnerabilities
 - Raise awareness of psychologically informed principles
 - Strive for continuous improvement
 - Shared approaches to shared problems
 - Maximise opportunities to provide stable settled accommodation from the start (tenure neutral)
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KEY PROCESSES

On imprisonment

- Early screening at the prison
- Encourage attendance at Induction
- Contact with landlord/Local Authority to understand housing circumstances
- Identify & implement actions to prevent loss of accommodation if possible
- Early agreement on how case should progress during and to end of sentence



During Sentence

- Progress the plan made following initial screening
- Link with other prison and community based services as required
- Partners work collaboratively throughout an individual's stay in prison (case management/conference approach)
- Identify lead support worker in prison and the community if needed
- Housing options approach at an early stage
- Promote all throughcare services
- Life skills training including how to manage a tenancy
- Amend plan if required





Prior to Release

- Progress the plan made following initial assessment (may have changed during sentence)
- Where required homeless applications made no later than 8 weeks before liberation date
- Appropriate accommodation identified before release (need an address!)
- Required health and care services should have been linked in during sentence and in place for return to the community
- Advance welfare and benefit applications made where possible

Following Release

- Develop the agreed plan in the community
- Partners committed to sustaining the person in their accommodation in the community
- Partners work together to ensure support in place for as long as required - **STICKABILITY**



NEXT STEPS

- Implementation within prisons and housing organisations
 - Wider communication and securing buy in
 - Work with Community Justice Partnerships, including Integrated Joint Boards and third sector, to embed SHORE principles in service design and delivery
 - Proportionate measurement and monitoring -review progress regularly through Housing Options Hubs and Head of Offender outcomes meetings and reporting directly to the Minister for Local Government and Housing and the Cabinet Secretary for Justice
 - Develop an action plan for future improvement
 - Appraise options for the delivery of housing advice and support across the Prison Estate in collaboration with ALACHO and SOLACE
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IN CONCLUSION...SOME POTENTIAL AREAS TO EXPLORE

- What is the distinctive role and contribution of health to preventing people become homeless on leaving prison?
 - Do the SHORE standards and processes provide a potential prototype for prevention of homelessness by other types of institutions?
 - How can we improve GP registration on release?
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Link to standards:

<http://www.sps.gov.uk/corporate/publications/Publication-5363.aspx>
