



Everyone's business: Preventing homelessness through legal duties

Grant Campbell, Director, Crisis in Scotland

Tuesday 25 February 2020

Ending Homelessness Together Action Plan:

“We will work with public bodies, housing providers and other partners to develop a new duty on local authorities, wider public bodies and delivery partners for the prevention of homelessness.”

Scottish Government / CoSLA, 2018

Prevention Review Group: The task

“The working group will:

- develop recommendations to the Scottish Government for a legal duty or duties on Scottish local authorities and wider public bodies to prevent homelessness.
- provide advice on how to ensure the recommendations are successfully implemented in the context of wider reforms to homelessness provision in Scotland”

A new typology of homelessness prevention

Universal prevention – across the population at large

Targeted prevention – upstream prevention focussed on high risk groups

Crisis prevention – preventing homelessness likely to occur within 56 days
(in line with legislation on ‘threatened with homelessness’)

Emergency prevention – those at immediate risk, especially sleeping rough

Recovery prevention – prevention of repeat homelessness

A new typology of homelessness prevention

Universal prevention – across the population at large

Targeted prevention – upstream prevention focussed on high risk groups

Crisis prevention – preventing homelessness likely to occur within 56 days
(in line with legislation on ‘threatened with homelessness’)

Emergency prevention – those at immediate risk, especially sleeping rough

Recovery prevention – prevention of repeat homelessness

Membership

- Chair: Professor Suzanne Fitzpatrick, Heriot-Watt University
- Cllr Elena Whitham, East Ayrshire Council / Convention of Scottish Local Authorities
- John Mills, Fife Council / Association of Local Authority Chief Housing Officers
- Susanne Millar, Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership
- Kathy Cameron, Convention of Scottish Local Authorities
- Ruth Whatling, Scottish Government
- Professor Tom Mullen, University of Glasgow
- Sally Thomas, Scottish Federation of Housing Associations
- Callum Chomczuk, Chartered Institute of Housing
- Matthew Downie, Crisis
- Gordon MacRae, Shelter Scotland
- Maggie-Ann Brunjes, Homeless Network Scotland

Prevention Commission
(Lived & frontline experience)

Joint meeting with review group
(date TBC)

Joint meeting with review group
(date TBC)

Stakeholder consultation:
Housing & homelessness

Stakeholder consultation:
Health & social care

Stakeholder consultation:
Criminal justice and prison leavers

Stakeholder consultation:
Domestic abuse

Stakeholder consultation:
Children, young people & families

Draft final report

Review group meeting

Review group meeting

Review group meeting

Review group meeting

Review group meeting

Review group meeting

Review group meeting

Publish final report

November

December

January

February

March

April

May

June

Something to bear in mind...

HOMELESSNESS

~~**HOMELESSNESS**~~

Home at risk

Unstable housing

Transitioning between accommodation

Where have we got to so far?

Local authorities

- Clear up current legal confusion on what homelessness prevented looks like
- Local authorities to prevent homelessness much earlier (before the current 56 days requirement, possibly six months before lose housing?)
- Clear set of steps local authority might take to prevent homelessness
- Rehouse people into a wide range of housing options (not just social or private tenancy)

Where have we got to so far? Other public bodies – in development

Health and social care

- No discharge from hospital into homelessness
- Health services to ask about housing situation from the outset
- Making sure health and social care services are accessible to people with complex needs

Criminal justice

- Duty on prisons and police to “ask and act” about housing need
- Requirement for housing advice connected to prisons and courts

What's next?

- Consulting with stakeholders on domestic abuse (early March)
- Consulting on duties around children, young people and families
- Further conversations with health and social care
- Bringing together all the recommendations and considering what legislation might look like in reality
- Final report June

Over to you!

- What do you think of where we've got to?
- What would be needed from health and social care services to make sure that people at risk of homelessness get the support they need? e.g.
 - People with mental health issues
 - People with substance misuse issues
 - People leaving hospital
- How could legal duties make a difference?
- What could other public bodies do to help prevent homelessness, e.g. police, housing associations, youth services?

Thank you

prg@crisis.org.uk

<https://www.crisis.org.uk/ending-homelessness/scotland-prevention-review-group/>