

## Helping workers help young people

SCSH's latest resource is an innovative Workers Toolkit, designed for workers supporting young people in sustaining their tenancies, and based upon the successful *My Space, My Place* guide designed to meet the needs of young people.

The Workers Toolkit builds on the *My Space, My Place* guide with an additional magazine and a CD-ROM. It provides time-saving practical ideas, session plans and information for workers. The material also supports the advice and information provided in the young persons' version of *My Space, My Place*.

At the core of the Workers Toolkit is

a unique CD-ROM resource which includes:

- fifteen session plans for working with young people, five specifically designed for young people leaving care
- warm-up exercises
- group and one-to-one activities
- standard letters and templates
- sample policy documents
- useful numbers and information
- video clips featuring young people discussing the challenges of sustaining a tenancy

The workers magazine, like those for young people in the *My Space, My Place* pack, is accessible and enjoyable to read. It includes young people's personal stories as well as



practical advice designed to help them sustain their tenancies, make best use of their own *My Space, My Place* pack and a guide to the CD-ROM. As one worker has commented, reading the magazine is 'like sitting down with colleagues having a coffee and sharing the tales of the day'.

The Workers Toolkit, priced £30, is available now from the Youth Unit at SCSH, please contact Sharon Dickens on 0131 226 4382 or at [sharon@scssh.org.uk](mailto:sharon@scssh.org.uk).

Friday 12 May

**homingin**

**Scottish Youth  
Housing Network  
Annual Conference**

Stirling – This year's conference addresses issues for everyone concerned with young people's housing and prevention of homelessness. Full details available from [www.syhn.org.uk](http://www.syhn.org.uk) or contact Wendy on 0131 226 4382 - [wendy@scssh.org.uk](mailto:wendy@scssh.org.uk).

### Survey on Homeless Migrant Workers

#### Research Update

SCSH will shortly be publishing findings from the survey in which 28 local authorities took part. The high response rate ensures the findings represent a collective view of the issue across Scotland. Initial findings suggest that local authorities have seen a substantial increase in homeless applications from the A8 countries over the last few years and that those applying tend to be singles or couples, but rarely with children.

The majority of respondents have

have, however, faced problems in providing their services to A8 homeless migrant workers and believe that the current Scottish Executive Code of Guidance on Homelessness requires amendment.

By the end of May it is hoped that a final report will be published.

For more information on the survey please contact Daniel Coote, Policy Officer, on 0131 226 4382 or by email at [daniel@scssh.org.uk](mailto:daniel@scssh.org.uk)

## Consultation



### Risk and Proportionality : Refocusing the regulation and inspection framework

Communities Scotland is consulting on its approach to the regulation and inspection of social housing.

Whilst recognising the important benefits of regulation and inspection, including the service improvements it can prompt, the agency is keen to ensure that it uses its resources effectively and avoids over-regulation.

The key proposals include the introduction of a risk based approach to regulation and the development of a more flexible and selective approach to inspection.

On starting the consultation Karen Watt, Communities Scotland's Director of Regulation & Inspection, said:

*'We want to achieve real change in the way we operate and to design as simple a framework of regulation and inspection as possible, with the aim of being a real driver for improvement and providing the right kind of assurance, in a way that allows landlords to concentrate on the thing that matters most – providing good quality services to tenants.'*

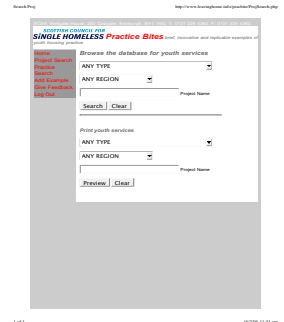
The consultation can be accessed from the Communities Scotland web site at [www.communitiesscotland.gov.uk](http://www.communitiesscotland.gov.uk).

The consultation closes on Wednesday 7 June, allowing the final paper to inform the review of the Regulatory Code which is due towards the end of 2006.

## Resources

### Practice Bites

SCSH Youth Unit's searchable database of brief, innovative and replicable examples of youth housing practice has proved popular since its formal launch in last month's newsletter, averaging just under 50 hits a week. The site, at [www.scsch.org.uk/bites](http://www.scsch.org.uk/bites) - will continue to be developed over the coming months as new examples are added. To include your project email Wendy Stewart at [wendy@scsch.org.uk](mailto:wendy@scsch.org.uk).



### Briefing Paper on Housing (Scotland) Act 2006

SCSH has produced a detailed briefing paper on the above Act.

The paper provides both a commentary on the key implications for homelessness in Scotland and a summary of the main provisions which set out a framework for improving the quality and standard of private sector housing.

The full briefing is available to download from the SCSH website at [www.scsch.org](http://www.scsch.org).



The **Young Scot Info Line** offers a wide range of advice and information for young people. Based around a web site – [www.youngscot.org.uk](http://www.youngscot.org.uk) – the service is also available over the 'phone at 0808 801 0338 between 12.00am and 8.00pm seven days a week. The service is free from landlines and most mobile networks. A 'callback' service, where the young person can text and ask to be contacted at a time convenient to them, is also available - details on the web site.

The Info Line includes advice on money & benefits, health, work & training and housing. Information is provided through web pages, FAQs and factsheets that can be printed off. Links to other sites offering related information and support are also included. Importantly it also offers a searchable list of advice and helplines that can be contacted for support on specific topics.

The site is integrated into the main Young Scot site - itself a useful source of general information for young people, and those working with them.



The Veterans Agency has launched an information resource on its web site about **homelessness amongst veterans**. The site will contain information on both existing projects to tackle homelessness and new initiatives. It will include a directory of services that specialise in working with homeless veterans as well as services designed for the wider population.

The Veterans Agency is keen to develop the site as a resource for homeless veterans and would be happy to publish contact details of organisations able to offer immediate help. If you wish to be listed contact the Agency via [jon.porter@veteransagency.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:jon.porter@veteransagency.gsi.gov.uk).

## Research



The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has recently published a number of reports of interest.

**Mixed communities : success and sustainability** looks at the experience of mixed income communities, drawing on over 20 case studies. Findings indicate that mixed communities are seen as overwhelmingly successful by residents and offer a sustainable model for development, particularly in inner cities where they can attract young families.

In a related study - **Developer and purchaser attitudes to new build mixed tenure housing** - the anecdotal evidence that such developments are difficult to deliver, and unpopular with developers and purchasers, is examined in detail and rebutted. The research suggests that, whilst there can be a need for longer term management of mixed tenure developments to ensure sustainability, they can be delivered successfully. A key finding is the need for RSLs and developers to understand each others priorities and seek to balance these.

**Decent Homes Standards and accessibility** looks at the extent to which six housing associations in England took account of accessibility issues during refurbishment of properties following transfer of former council stock. The study concludes that, whilst there was a willingness to meet the needs of individual tenants involved in refurbishment programmes, there was no strategic approach to improve accessibility in the stock overall.

All three reports can be obtained from the web site at [www.jrf.org.uk](http://www.jrf.org.uk).

## Helping Homeless People

The Homelessness Monitoring Group [HMG], appointed in 2002, has just released its third report – *Helping Homeless People* – reviewing progress in delivering the recommendations of the Homelessness Task Force and setting out arrangements that have been put into place to monitor the effects of implementation of these recommendations. The Report is accompanied by a detailed Appendix outlining progress towards all 59 recommendations made by the Homelessness Task Force.

The Report highlights a number of key developments in the year to April 2006:

- the Ministerial Statement on the abolition of priority need in December 2005
- local authority assessments of their current position with regard to their capacity to meet the 2012 targets, and the identification of the indicators that will be used to measure progress
- publication by the Scottish Executive of a revised Code of Guidance on Homelessness
- publication by Communities Scotland of a report on their five Pathfinder inspections highlighting the key themes that emerged on services for homeless people, and from the inspections of twenty-two registered social landlords on their contribution to alleviating homelessness
- revision of the data collection system and piloting of a revised HL1 proforma.

However, the Report expresses some concerns regarding the capacity available to meet the 2012 commitments. In particular it cites the increasing use of temporary accommodation – one of the primary indicators identified in the Ministerial Statement as determining capacity to meet the 2012 target. The HMG's Planning

Subgroup will continue to monitor capacity during 2006/2007, taking account of new data as it becomes available. This will include work being undertaken by Communities Scotland to develop a wider local affordable housing needs proforma. The HMG's view of capacity will be reported on in greater depth in next year's report.

For 2006/2007 the Report identifies a wide range of priorities for the HMG including:

- development and dissemination of guidance in support of the Ministerial Statement, including research into allocations policies
- consideration of further action which can help prevent homelessness, particularly where it is the result of rent arrears
- study of the use of temporary accommodation using evidence from the implementation of the Homeless Persons (Unsuitable Temporary Accommodation) Order 2004, Communities Scotland and local authorities
- developing a greater understanding of local authorities' readiness and capacity to achieve the 2012 target by building on information gathered in preparation for the Ministerial Statement, resolving data quality issues and developing a standard format for reporting progress against homelessness strategies
- focus on benefits and employability issues in the context of the proposed reform of the benefits system and the launch of the Employability Framework
- considering the outcomes of the *One Year On* survey of NHS Boards and the future monitoring of the Health & Homelessness Standards.

Report and Appendix available at [www.scotland.gov.uk/](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/).

# Diary

SCOTTISH COUNCIL FOR  
**SiNGLE HOMELESS**

Tuesday 9 May - Edinburgh

## **Practical Steps** the training tour on sustaining tenancies

SCSH's training tour is designed to complement resources designed specifically to assist young people in sustaining their tenancies and, thereby, help to prevent youth homelessness.

Details and booking information from 0131 226 4382

Friday 12 May - Stirling

## **homingin** Scottish Youth Housing Network Annual Conference Booking details on front page

Tuesday 16 May - Edinburgh



## **Social Networks Evidence and Potential**

A one-day national conference to present evidence on how positive social networks can prevent and resolve homelessness and share best practice from across Scotland and Europe. Speakers include Malcolm Chisholm MSP.

Further details from 0131 524 9869

Tuesday 30 May - Edinburgh



## **Implementing the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006**

One day seminar for professionals in the private rented sector. Details from 0131 255 4544

Tuesday 27 & Wednesday 28 June - Aviemore



## **Sheltered Housing Staff Conference**

Full details from CIHS, 0131 255 4544 or email [training.scotland@cih.org](mailto:training.scotland@cih.org)

**Thursday 9 & Friday 10 November 2006**

This year's **SCSH National Homelessness Conference** will be held at the Apex International Hotel in Edinburgh. Further details will be published in later issues and on our website

SCSH has a centrally located meeting room available for hire at its offices in Edinburgh. Charges range from £12 (£10 for members) per hour to £90 (£60 for members) for a full day. For full details please contact 0131 226 4382.

SSH is the membership body for organisations and individuals working to tackle homelessness in Scotland.

Full membership details are available from 0131 226 4382 or on our web site.

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