

## Scottish Parliament Housing Debate

The first housing debate in Scotland since SNP replaced Labour as the elected government took place on the 21st of June. The new Minister for Communities and Sport, Stewart Maxwell, announced that the Scottish Executive would consult in the autumn with individuals and stakeholders as part of a new housing supply task force to seek new and improved ways to ensure housing is delivered to those with the greatest need.



Stewart Maxwell will establish and lead the housing supply task force, and during his opening speech, he also outlined proposals to create

a Scottish housing support fund which will aim to provide a £2000 grant to first time buyers. Concerns were raised from many MSPs that the housing support fund would simply create inflationary pressures in the housing market where the £2000 grant to first time buyers would lead to an increase of £2000 in house prices and do little for those in genuine housing need, a view shared by SCSH and a number of other housing organisations. Despite concerns raised, Mr Maxwell told MSPs that the housing support fund would "be an opportunity to spread low-cost house ownership" and that as a shared equity scheme, it would build on the success of the previous administrations Homestake Programme.

Throughout the debate a number of MSPs detailed in their speeches the significance of meeting the 2012 target, which ensures a permanent home to all unintentionally homeless people. Mr Maxwell offered his full support to the 2012 target and also acknowledged that there are more than 8,500 homeless households currently in temporary accommodation in Scotland.

During the Holyrood debate, Mr Maxwell told MSPs that the SNP had no plans to scrap the Right to Buy Scheme but insisted that they would "explore ways to achieving greater flexibility in the operation of the scheme". He also talked briefly about the importance of community planning and that he will endeavour to speed up the process of landlord registration.

Summing up, Mr Maxwell insisted more will be done to build more affordable housing admitting that without more affordable housing "we will not meet the 2012 target and we will not satisfy tenants and people throughout rural and urban Scotland". He also touched on the campaign which SCSH fully supports, for 30,000 new social rented homes during the next three years, but would not go as far to say how the forthcoming spending review would determine investment levels in housing after 2008.

*To discuss this issue in more detail please contact Daniel Coote, Policy Officer, on 0131 226 4382 or [daniel@scsh.org.uk](mailto:daniel@scsh.org.uk)*

## Training: Engaging Young People

6th September 2007  
9.30am-12.30pm, Edinburgh



SCSH is running a half day training session on two different ways of engaging young people. Drawing on two recent SCSH reports, 'Rewards for Learning' and 'Service User Involvement', the training will look at a range of approaches for involving service users and for recognising learning. The seminar will be an opportunity for delegates to identify what approaches will work best in their organisation. The training is suitable for anyone working with young people wishing to explore different ways of involving service users and recognising skills in young people. A copy of the two SCSH reports featured in the training are included in the price of £50.

*For further information, download a booking form at [www.scsh.org.uk](http://www.scsh.org.uk) or contact Wendy Devall, 0131 226 4382, [wendy@scsh.org.uk](mailto:wendy@scsh.org.uk)*

# What's New?

## UK Experiences of European Migrants

Three reports published at the end of May by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation examine the effects of migration to Britain. The first report looks at the effects of migration on neighbourhood relationships in Manchester and London, whilst the others focus on community cohesion and the experiences of European migrants living and working in the UK.

Key findings from the research:

- ◆ Experiences at work, including low pay and long working hours, had a significant impact on their lives beyond the workplace.
- ◆ There was evidence of a lack of practical information on arrival.
- ◆ Despite some experiencing very poor housing conditions and overcrowding most expressed satisfaction with their accommodation.
- ◆ Proficiency with the English language was a key factor in the extent of their social contact with British people and how they felt treated by them.
- ◆ Generally, those interviewed were in the UK to work and had been very successful in finding employment (although this was mostly low paid).
- ◆ There was evidence that they were well-educated but were much more likely to be in low skilled jobs.
- ◆ Their sense of belonging to the neighbourhood was positively affected by a better housing status.

For more information please visit: [www.jrf.org.uk/pressroom/releases/290507.asp](http://www.jrf.org.uk/pressroom/releases/290507.asp) or contact Daniel Coote, Policy Officer, on 0131 226 4382 or [daniel@scsh.org.uk](mailto:daniel@scsh.org.uk)

## Scottish Social Networks Launches Training Pack

On 26th June, Scottish Social Networks (SSN) launched a specialist new training pack for organisations working with those who are vulnerable and socially excluded.

The training, which will be distributed throughout Scotland, has been developed by professionals in the social care field. It will be used to train frontline staff and volunteers to encourage their clients to develop positive social networks and help them move away from dependency on services.

Specifically, it will equip staff with analytical skills and practical methods to help clients:

- ◆ Analyse their individual social networks.
- ◆ Strengthen and extend their informal social networks.
- ◆ Access further support if needed.

It has been developed for SSN by The Rock Trust in collaboration with partners from Scottish Mentoring

*“It really brought home to me how progress has to stem from self belief and the importance of working to build confidence to take on new challenges - to build social networks and move forward.”*

Network, Befriending Network (Scotland) Ltd, Family Mediation Scotland, SAMH, Scottish Council for Single Homeless and Edinburgh City Council. The training pack has been funded by The Scottish Executive.

It will be used by a broad range of organisations working with a variety of client groups including elderly, young people, ethnic minorities, homeless and disabled. It is especially important when working to improve mental health and wellbeing.

For more information or to order the training pack, please contact: Lesley Stenhouse 0131 524 9869 [info@scottishsocialnetworks.org](mailto:info@scottishsocialnetworks.org)

If you would like to commission SCSH to deliver social network training with a focus on young people, contact Matt Elton, on 0131 226 4382 or [matt@scsh.org.uk](mailto:matt@scsh.org.uk)



## Measuring the Impact of Support

Finding ways to measure the impact of support work is a major challenge for any service. Success cannot simply be equated with moving clients quickly from a state of chaos to a state of independence. For some clients simply 'standing still', as opposed to 'sliding backwards' can be a major achievement and, on the part of the support service, a valuable outcome.

Ideally, outcomes data can provide valuable information to projects to assist in tracking individual client progress and in monitoring and developing the service. The data can also be collected across a range of projects to assist strategic planning at a local authority or a national level. Choosing the right indicators to monitor – for the client, the project, strategic planners and funders – as well as ensuring that collecting information does not get in the way of client work is a difficult balancing act. A useful document from the Charities Evaluation Service, 'Managing outcomes: a guide for homelessness organisations'

recognises this and provides advice, along with practice examples. It can be downloaded from: [www.ces-vol.org.uk](http://www.ces-vol.org.uk)

Rather than creating a whole extra layer of record keeping, some approaches to outcome tracking combine recording information with a support plan that can be shared with the client. One example of this is Outcomes Star (see illustration), a tool developed for the London Housing Federation. The tool, along with lots of helpful supporting materials can be found at: [www.homelessoutcomes.org.uk](http://www.homelessoutcomes.org.uk)

In Scotland, the Executive is showing an increasing interest in monitoring outcomes. It is currently looking at the possibility of introducing a national scheme for monitoring outcomes for Supporting People funded projects. The first step has been to develop a draft Outcomes Distance Travelled Framework which allows projects to record where clients start from – by grading them on a range of categories – and then track changes across time. Importantly, the framework also allows projects to estimate how clients would score if the support

had not been in place. The Executive is now beginning a pilot of the new framework to see how it can be used by projects in practice. SCSH is interested to hear views on any aspects of outcomes reporting and especially from projects involved in the supporting people pilots. Contact Matt Elton, on 0131 226 4382 or [matt@scsh.org.uk](mailto:matt@scsh.org.uk)

*The Supporting People Outcomes Framework report is available on the Scottish Executive website at: [www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Housing/Housing/supportpeople/DTZPiedareport](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Housing/Housing/supportpeople/DTZPiedareport)*

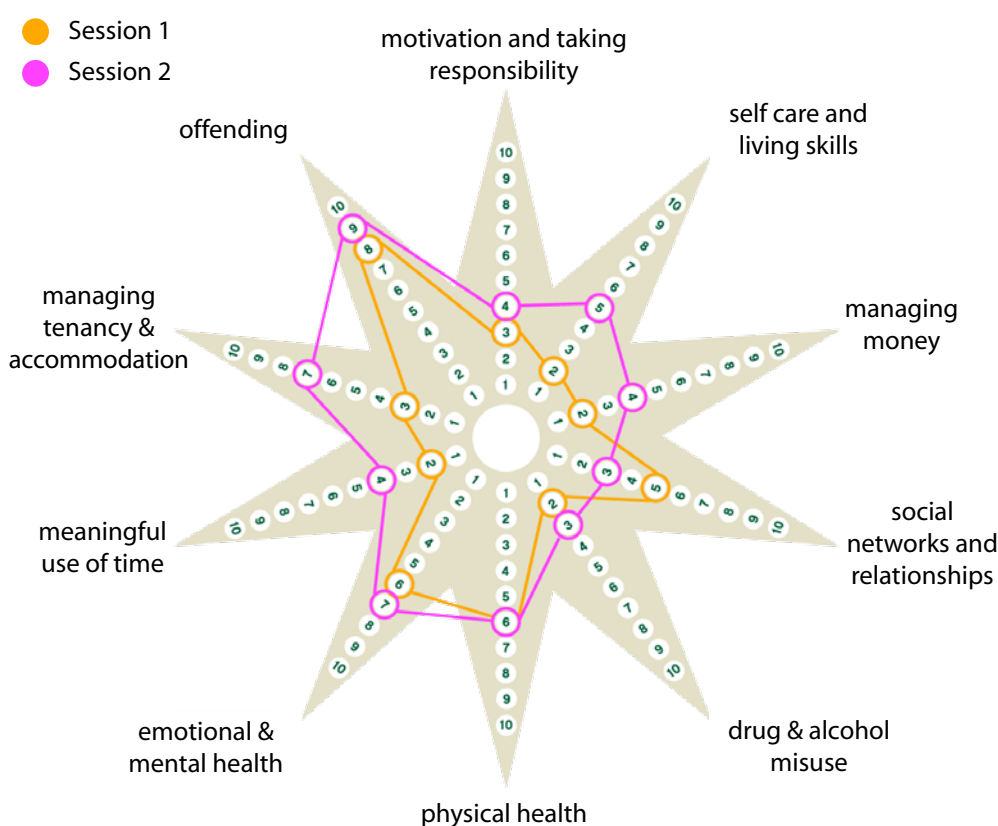
*For more on monitoring and evaluation in a Scottish Context see also: [www.evaluationsupportscotland.org.uk](http://www.evaluationsupportscotland.org.uk)*

## Stakeholder Questionnaire

SCSH is developing its strategic plans for the medium term. As part of the process we are seeking views from stakeholder and supporters of SCSH to help shape our views. In addition to sending the questionnaire to stakeholders electronically, we have decided to also seek views in a written format in order to maximise the number of comments received.

SCSH would very much welcome your views and appreciates your involvement in helping develop our strategic direction for the medium term. The questionnaire form can be found as an insert to this newsletter. If you have already filled out the stakeholder questionnaire electronically there is no need to respond again.

Please FAX BACK to 0131 225 4382 by 30th July or return by post at the address found on the back page of this newsletter.



### Web Links

Links to all documents referred to in this issue of *inhouse*, and to back copies, can be found at [www.scsh.org.uk](http://www.scsh.org.uk)



## Homeless Link National Conference

**11-12 July, Birmingham**

See [www.homeless.org.uk](http://www.homeless.org.uk) for details.



## CIH Getting Attitudes Right - Joining Up Services for Homeless People

**Wednesday 8th August, Aberdeen  
& Wednesday 22nd August, Inverness**

Details at: [www.cih.org/scotland/training/](http://www.cih.org/scotland/training/)



## Leaving Home and Housing Education Conference Friday 31st August

Second national conference on leaving home and housing education. Details and booking form at [www.scsch.org.uk](http://www.scsch.org.uk)



## Training Seminar - Rewards for Learning and Service User Involvement

**Thursday 6th September, 9.30am-12.30pm, Edinburgh**

Details and a booking form at [www.scsch.org.uk](http://www.scsch.org.uk)



## Scottish Youth Housing Network Consultation

**Tuesday 25th September, Dundee**

SYHN talk to young parents about their housing issues. Details to follow or check in at [www.syhn.org.uk](http://www.syhn.org.uk)



## SCSH Health and Homelessness

**SCSH with Health Scotland**

**Wednesday 26th September, Apex, Edinburgh**

Details and a booking form at [www.scsch.org.uk](http://www.scsch.org.uk)



## Scottish Housing & Support Conference

**Thursday 4th & Friday 5th October, Dunblane Hydro Hotel**

[www.joa.co.uk/shasc.html](http://www.joa.co.uk/shasc.html) or [mailshasc-conf@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mailshasc-conf@yahoo.co.uk)



## CIH Getting Attitudes Right - Joining Up Services for Homeless People

**Thursday 18th October, Edinburgh**

Details at: [www.cih.org/scotland/training/](http://www.cih.org/scotland/training/)



## SCSH National Homelessness Conference

**Thursday 8th & Friday 9th November, Apex, Edinburgh**

Get the dates in your diary.

## National Conference on Leaving Home and Housing Education 31st August 2007, Radisson Hotel, Edinburgh

The second National Conference on Leaving Home and Housing Education will take place on 31st August 2007 at the Radisson SAS Hotel in Edinburgh. This year's event will feature a range of workshops, presentations and stalls highlighting new developments and projects.

The conference is for anyone interested in or working in the area of leaving home and housing education and offers delegates the opportunity to network, discuss challenges, and discover new initiatives and ways of working together.

For further information or to book a place on the conference please contact SCSH. Email [enquiries@scsch.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@scsch.org.uk) or call us on 0131 226 4382.

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

Full membership details are available on 0131 226 4382 or on our web site: [www.scsch.org.uk](http://www.scsch.org.uk)

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