



**Glasgow Homelessness Network works to end homelessness in Glasgow, and ensure that outcomes for people affected by homelessness meet their needs, interests and aspirations**

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**Glasgow Homelessness Network (GHN)** brings together a wide range of service users, voluntary organisations and others with an interest in homelessness. GHN is pleased to offer this response to:

**GHP Draft Homelessness Input  
to the Joint Community Care Plan 2008-11**

14 December 2007

**1 General Comments**

Overall, we believe the document to provide a positive outline of Glasgow's intended provision for the prevention and alleviation of homelessness for the period 2008-11.

While we appreciate the necessity for integrating the homelessness strategy with the Joint Community Care Plan, we are pleased that the Glasgow Homelessness Partnership will also be producing a stand-alone Homelessness Strategy for 2008-11. Our key reason for this is due to the Community Care Strategic Objectives being service focused, whereas the provision of permanent accommodation as per the terms of housing and homelessness legislation is clearly a duty on the local authority, rather than a service provided by it. Therefore, the statutory housing element of homelessness becomes less explicit in this version.

We specifically regard the narrative and descriptions as detailed in Section 6: 'local context' as a factual and comprehensive illustration of the current homelessness situation in Glasgow. However, we suggest that negative/lack of social networks and social isolation has both a higher incidence among the homeless population, and would also be a significant resultant factor.

As a smaller point, we would suggest that the term 'education' throughout the document is replaced by the more inclusive and accepted term of 'learning', especially when used in relation to adult learners.

## 2 Specific Comments by Section

We would like to offer more specific comment, by section:

- **Section 2: Strategic Objectives**  
We believe this section might benefit from explicit recognition of and reference to the role of the voluntary sector in contributing to, and realigning to support, the current change agenda.
- **Section 2 (ii): Prevent Homelessness**  
We suggest that the role of homelessness prevention in contributing to the 2009 target is articulated in this section.
- **Section 5: Policy & Legislation**  
Please note that the second bullet should read that Local Authorities currently have a *duty* to investigate intentionality, which is changing to *discretion/power*, and not as is currently written.
- **Section 14: Implement the Abolition of Priority Need by 2012**  
You indicate that around 23% of lets across social landlords in the city are accessed by homeless households, but that the requirement to meet the 2012 target is 48%. We note that 23% of lets houses only 31% of people assessed as being unintentionally homeless and in priority need (based on 06/07 HL1 stats). Therefore the reference to the 23% of social lets assumes that this is adequate, which perhaps questions the validity of the 48% required?
- **Section 14: Integration with CHCPs**  
It would be useful to set out the complimentary roles and responsibilities of both GHN and GHP in the planning and evaluation of the Scottish Government's Health & Homelessness Standards across the Greater Glasgow & Clyde NHS Board area.
- **Section 14: Information & Advice**  
From presentation point onwards, the Local Authority and partners view homelessness as wider than a housing issue and so it seems inconsistent that a strategic approach to the provision of Information & Advice in homelessness prevention remains housing focused. We would suggest that a wider intervention through advice and information (e.g. health; employability) is strategically planned and implemented.

- **Section 14: Interface with Addiction Services**

It is worth noting that the Scottish Government's Advisory Group on Substance Misuse and Homelessness clearly identified that problematic drug use does not inevitably lead to homelessness. Therefore, this section could usefully incorporate an outline of performance measures in relation to the described operational protocols, which might include:

  - Demonstrable efforts to measure all homelessness among the client population;
  - Demonstrable efforts to reduce homelessness among the client population;
  - Recorded regular and routine review of clients' housing situation;
  - Where issues are apparent - the engagement of appropriate service;
  - Where homelessness is anticipated, a quick resolution of it.
  
- **Section 15: Performance Measurement Considerations**

We would strongly recommend that Housing outcomes are included as both a performance indicator and measure.