

Prevention of Homelessness

Jennifer Goldie

Senior Housing Needs Prevention Officer, Falkirk Council

Allocations update

- **Home Movers 33%** – tenants of Falkirk Council or local RSL
 - **Home Starters 33%** – all other applicants
 - Band 1 priority - awarded to applicants in most serious needs
- Band 2 priority – awarded to applicants with moderate housing needs
- Band 3 priority – awarded to applicants with lesser housing needs
- Band 4 priority – awarded to applicants with no housing needs
 - Choice Based Letting system
- **Home Seekers 45%** – applicants who are considered homeless in terms of homeless legislation. – automatic bidding

What is the cost of homelessness



It can cost over £25,000 for someone to go through the homeless service.



From when someone presents as homeless, it can take up to 2 years to be offered a mainstream property. They can be given unsuitable accommodation such as B&B which can be in or out the area, as this might be all we have due to the current housing emergency.



Homelessness is a trauma, it is an unsettled and stressful period for people.



It is evidenced that a child who is homeless will evidently become homeless in adulthood. Therefore, homelessness becomes a generational cycle.

Our focus is to reduce costs and to support people to move in a planned way. Without going through the homeless service. This allows people to have a choice in where they live and give people options.

Prevention Framework

- **Universal prevention** - preventing homelessness risk across the population as a whole.
- **Targeted prevention** - early intervention focusing on those at the highest risk of future homelessness e.g. people leaving prison, young people, people leaving care.
- **Crisis prevention** - working with people threatened with homelessness within the next 2 months.
- **Emergency prevention** - working with people at urgent risk of homelessness e.g. of sleeping rough that night.
- **Recovery prevention** - working with people who have previously been homeless to prevent the experience being repeated.



Ask and Act

- Responsibility to prevent homelessness should be a shared public responsibility and not rely primarily on the homelessness service.
- Intervention to prevent homelessness should start as early as possible. In many cases, this will be before issues have escalated to a point where homelessness appears imminent.

Services we work with

- CLD workers in High Schools – currently working directly out of St Mungo’s High School
- Go Youth Trust
- ETU
- Home First and the Hospital Discharge teams, along with rehab facilities and Bellsdyke Hospital
- In house debt and welfare services
- Conflict resolutions
- RSL’s (Registered Social Landlord) Link, Paragon, Places for people etc
- Housing Services
- Adult and Children social work services
- Private Landlord forums
- Police and Ambulance service
- CVS – the third sector interface for Falkirk
- DWP (Department of work & pensions)
- SPS (Scottish Prison Service)
- Woodlands
- Aberlour
- Falkirk College
- Community Settings, such as emergency services day and family days

Any questions?