

**Measuring Impact Task and Finish Group's Report (Homelessness)**

**Summary and Recommendations**

This report provides an overview of the work from the Measuring Impact Task and Finish Group that sits under the Homelessness Prevention Strategy Group co-chaired by the Housing Minister and Cllr Chalmers, COSLA Spokesperson for Community Wellbeing.

This paper invites members to:

- i. Note and consider the final report provided by the Measuring Impact Task and Finish Group co-chaired by the Homelessness Network and CIH;
- ii. Provide any comments and views on the report's recommendations, as well as the supplementary Homelessness Monitor;
- iii. Endorse the report from the Task and Finish Group; and
- iv. Agree that feedback on the Task and Finish Group's report is provided to the Homelessness Prevention Strategy Group and the COSLA Housing SIG.

**References**

Previous reports:

- N/A

**Mike Callaghan**  
**Policy Manager**  
**Communities Team**  
[mike@cosla.gov.uk](mailto:mike@cosla.gov.uk)  
Tel. 07973 981950

**February 2024**



## **Measuring Impact Task and Finish Group's Report**

### **Purpose**

1. This report provides an overview of the work from the Measuring Impact Task and Finish Group that sits under the Homelessness Prevention Strategy Group co-chaired by the Housing Minister and Cllr Chalmers, COSLA Spokesperson for Community Wellbeing.

### **Current COSLA Position**

2. Members should note a final report<sup>1</sup> has been produced by the Measuring Impact Task and Finish Group co-chaired by Margaret Ann Brunjes, Homeless Network Scotland and Gavin Smith, Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH)/Fife Council. This group is one of the four task and finish groups that sits under the Homelessness Prevention Task and Finish Group.
3. The Group's membership included homelessness sector leaders, academics, analysts, policy advisers as well as practitioners and people with actual experience of homelessness. ALACHO and officer representatives from East Renfrewshire and South Lanarkshire Councils were on the Group, along with COSLA on an occasional basis.
4. The Group's work began in November 2022 and finished at the end of last year. The final report provides the background and context to a new framework to measure the impact of the Ending Homelessness Together Plan and includes recommendations on how to implement it effectively in the short-medium term.
5. The new framework to help measure impact is called the Ending Homelessness Together (EHT) Monitor<sup>2</sup>. It is provided as a supplement to the Group's report.

### **What is Changing?**

6. The final report from the Measuring Impact Task and Finish Group includes actions that are considered a requirement to ensure the successful implementation of the prevention of homelessness duties. One of its key tasks was to identify some of the short-term steps to ensure the success of the housing legislation to be introduced in the weeks ahead.
7. The Group's report states that evidence will show how wider factors drive homelessness and help decision makers to allocate the right resources and services to maintain progress towards ending it. The short and medium term recommendations are outlined in Annex 1.

---

<sup>1</sup> [Document Title \(homelessnetwork.scot\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Ending-Homelessness-Together-Monitor-v081223-1.pdf \(homelessnetwork.scot\)](#)

8. The Ending Homelessness Together (EHT) Monitor produced by the Task and Finish Group to supplement the report is designed to report on indicators that reflect the interlinked and predictable causes of homelessness. These include poverty, inequality, labour markets and welfare levels as well as housing supply and affordability.
9. The development of the Ending Homelessness Together (EHT) Monitor was informed by 'All in For Change', which exists as a platform for people with lived experience of homelessness. As a result, this feedback identified factors that matter on the ground including how people were treated and the quality of services they used, while priorities for keyworkers included pay and caseload levels.
10. The inputs from lived experience of homelessness should enable the EHT Monitor to measure progress towards more person led services. New data sets should also allow the EHT Monitor to show the impact of the new prevention duties on public sector bodies, due to be included in the Scottish Govt's forthcoming Housing Bill.
11. Additionally, the new framework has been developed to measure progress towards commitments in the Scottish Govt and COSLA joint Ending Homelessness Together Plan. It is also intended that the EHT Monitor creates a shift from reporting activity to measuring outcomes, as well as reduces unnecessary data and reporting burdens on local authorities.
12. Strategic outcomes of the monitor include providing sufficient social and affordable homes; fewer households and children in poverty; decreasing homelessness; equality in housing outcomes; more choice and control for people in services and a more equipped and enabled workforce.
13. The key recommendation in the Measuring Impact Task and Finish Group's final report is that the Scottish Govt, COSLA and local partners adopt the monitor. As a result, members are asked to provide views and comments on the report and the accompanying EHT Monitor.

#### **Proposed COSLA Position**

14. Feedback on the Measuring Impact Task and Finish Group's final report and accompanying EHT Monitor be reflected to the Homelessness Prevention Strategy Group and COSLA Housing SIG.

#### **Next Steps**

15. COSLA will reflect the views from the Board to the Homelessness Prevention Task and Finish Group at its next meeting that is to be confirmed in March/April 2024.

**February 2024**

## **ANNEX 1 – RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE MEASURING IMPACT TASK AND FINISH GROUP**

### **Short-Term Recommendations**

The Measuring Impact Task and Finish Group recommends the following short-term actions during 2024-25:

- Scottish Govt and COSLA adopt the EHT Monitor as the outcomes framework for measuring the EHT Plan and as a structure for reporting annually from 2024.
- Scottish Govt considers options to enable a clear route-map between the commitments in the EHT Plan and the outcomes in the EHT Monitor. This is intended as a mechanism to sequence, cost, target and time the range of actions needed.
- Scottish Govt facilitate a broad sector consultation on the outlined terms and commit to sustain the agreed data and reporting infrastructure required to monitor the EHT Plan.
- A core dataset to be developed for the new prevention duties in conjunction with a review of PREVENT. This should be included in the broad sector consultation.
- The design and development of the ‘Personal Housing Plan’ approach taken forward by partners with a schedule to implement.
- An analytical project on caseloads for key support and casework roles working within the EHT Plan. Determine optimum range for best practice and financial implications.
- An annual survey of organisations be developed by Scottish Govt and/or a relevant intermediary, network or membership organisation to address the data gaps specified in the EHT Monitor.
- Support wider efforts toward data integration. The Scottish Govt strategy for data-driven care should include stronger focus on housing and homelessness.

The EHT Monitor should be updated during this period when:

- The hidden homelessness research is published to ensure key principles, definitions or recommendations are included.
- The All in For Change peer research programme has identified the outcomes and indicators specified as pending in the EHT Monitor.

### **Medium-Term Recommendations**

The Measuring Impact Task and Finish Group recommends the following medium-term actions from 2025-26 and beyond:

- Corresponding activity is scheduled following the EHT Monitor broad sector consultation, including a position on whether new systems or frameworks need scoped and developed.
- Bring forward the timetable for the Scottish Govt Homelessness statistics review of HL1 data and use experimental statistics if it so requires in the short-term. Ensure

data gaps and limitations listed at 3.1 are included in the revised version of HL1 data monitoring as part of the review.

- Scottish Govt undertake an annual national assessment of affordable housing need using the stock-flow model adopted for the CIH Scotland, SFHA and Shelter Scotland commissioned 'Affordable Housing Need in Scotland' [ref 28].

This model estimates existing housing need in Scotland, adds an estimate of future 'newly arising' need, within the existing and new population. Then deducts the supply of affordable lettings to provide a measure of affordable housing need in Scotland.