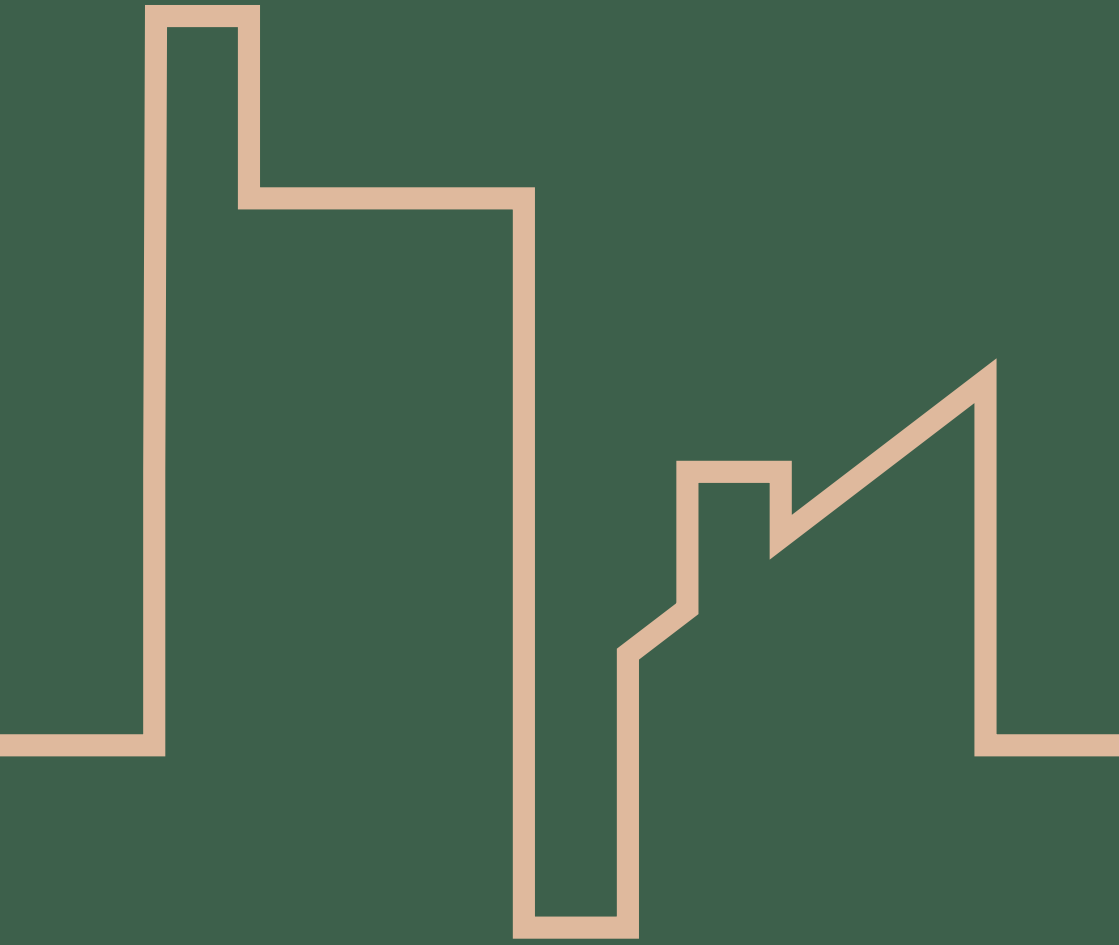


local action plan



homewards
aberdeen

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Executive summary



Homewards is...

A five-year, locally led programme, launched by Prince William and The Royal Foundation of The Prince and Princess of Wales in June 2023.

The aim of Homewards is...

To demonstrate that together, it is possible to end homelessness – making it rare, brief, and unrepeated.

Homewards was inspired by...

Successful projects from across the UK and around the world, all of which had one mission: to prevent and end homelessness.

They brought together all sectors of society and started with a focus on specific groups – to understand the help that is needed. And they showed clearly: it can be done.

The Royal Foundation has selected six flagship locations across the UK...

Working with them to form Coalitions of committed organisations and people from their public, private and voluntary sectors all committed to the shared mission of demonstrating it is possible to end homelessness:

- Aberdeen
- Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole
- Lambeth
- Newport
- Northern Ireland
- Sheffield

Each local Coalition has created their own Local Action Plan...

Detailing the support that will be given to groups of people who are experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness in that area – for example women, young people and single-parent families.

Each Local Action Plan will also set out where new groundwork will need to be laid to prevent homelessness. Encompassing a wide range of solutions – from housing to data to employment – the aim of the Local Action Plans is to make the prevention of homelessness ‘business as usual’.

Through the Homewards Partnership, an unprecedented network of individuals and organisations, including top experts, and leading homelessness organisations, brought together by The Royal Foundation, have supported the Coalitions to develop the Local Action Plans. The Homewards Partnership will continue to support the organisations in the locations to deliver the Local Action Plans, galvanising national and international momentum.

Each Local Action Plan will be reviewed every six months...

To reflect on progress and capture new opportunities, activities in the Local Action Plans vary from testing new pilots that could be scaled, to fundamentally changing how people in their location work together to prevent homelessness.

These are ambitious plans and we may find some elements need to be adjusted or updated as time goes on. Work may get completed and new ambitions set, or conditions beyond the Coalitions' control might change which fundamentally impact delivery of some activity. These plans are therefore agile documents, growing with our Coalitions to ensure they remain focused on working to deliver tangible change and maximum impact towards the shared mission of demonstrating it is possible to end homelessness – making it rare, brief and unrepeated.

‘By demonstrating what is working to prevent homelessness with these groups and across these key areas, Homewards will demonstrate it is possible to end homelessness, together.’

Homewards
National Expert Panel

The Royal Foundation will support each of our six flagship locations with...

Additional Capacity

Homewards has provided each flagship location with a Local Delivery Lead, alongside project management and administrative support, to help drive the work forward and help the location to reach its goals.

Seed Funding

We have set up the Homewards Fund, which provides up to £500,000 in seed funding to support the delivery of each Local Action Plan.

Expertise

Homewards has convened the Homewards Partnership, which includes national businesses, global experts, leading sector organisations and many more. Their support includes hosting webinars that our Coalitions can join, to hear about best practice and get support.

Changing the Narrative

Homewards will be leading on national campaigns, communications moments, and events to help drive conversation that will improve understanding of homelessness, encourage empathy towards those who experience it, and inspire optimism it can be ended. We will also set up local working groups to replicate this work in the locations, with the aim to deliver campaigns that will shine a light on the work being carried out – and which will engage the community through events and activities.

Evaluation and Learning

Homewards is working with a research partner to help to share what is working, and to evaluate success. We will encourage peer to peer learning across our locations as well as prepare annual programme evaluation reports to show the impact of our Local Action Plans and a small number of thematic learning papers each year on key topics, to show what is working and help inspire other areas of the UK and beyond.

Homes

Homewards is working with leading organisations in the sector, to help our flagship locations understand the types of homes they need – and to bring together the people and organisations that can deliver them.

Funding and Finance

Using the convening power and platform of The Royal Foundation, Homewards will help the flagship locations to secure new sources of funding and investment.

Employment

Regular work is an important way to prevent homelessness, Homewards will again deploy the convening power and platform of The Royal Foundation. Bringing together employers at both local and national level, we will unlock new or improved pathways to employment and training opportunities.

Data

Homewards will convene experts; to help the flagship locations improve the way they use the data that is stored, with partners across the locations. Bringing together that different information will help the Coalitions to understand who is at risk of homelessness and when – and to understand what services are proving the most effective.

Early Intervention

Homewards is focused on prevention. To help the flagship locations pivot their approach to this, we will support them to test and deliver ideas that help people at the earliest point possible. Homewards will then look to show how other locations can deploy the approaches that are successful.

All the flagship locations have identified these as the areas where The Royal Foundation through Homewards can give the most valuable support, to help the Coalitions demonstrate that it is possible to end homelessness. The Royal Foundation is committed to this support and will continue to evaluate how we can best help our flagship locations throughout the programme.



How has The Royal Foundation supported our six locations so far

The Royal Foundation has helped to leverage a number of significant commitments from local and national partners to support our six locations. These include:

Creating more job opportunities for people with lived experience or at risk of homelessness

In September 2023, Pret A Manger committed - through Homewards - to expand their long-standing Rising Stars programme, which helps break the cycle of homelessness by providing support, training, and employment. Over the next five years it will support at least 500 people experiencing or at risk of homelessness into jobs at Pret's UK shops, including in Homewards locations where Pret has a presence.

Helping to prevent family homelessness with private landlords

In March 2024, local Sheffield landlords pledged to support Homewards with a commitment to providing an initial thirty-three homes to house families at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness in the city. They are working with Homewards to develop a package of support for both tenants and landlords to help to improve tenancy sustainment.

Recognising the tireless work of the homelessness workforce
Blue Light Card, the nation's leading discount provider for the emergency services, NHS, social care sector and armed forces, have extended its membership to include the homelessness workforce. The commitment supports an estimated 60,000 people in the UK homelessness workforce, which includes housing officers, night shelter managers, outreach workers and many more and gives them discounts to groceries, entertainment, and utilities. This partnership helps to raise awareness of the work that the workforce does and the essential role they play in supporting the social care sector.

‘Homewards has the right approach. They have brought a range of new players to the table, to focus minds on what it takes to prevent homelessness from happening in the first place.

It has been exciting, and unprecedented, to see these six coalitions come together to focus on delivering on that goal.’

Matt Downie, CEO, Crisis

Homewards in Aberdeen: Executive Summary

Each of the Coalitions in the six Homewards flagship locations have created a Local Action Plan. This plan will be reviewed every six months and will adapt and change according to the needs of the locations.

For Homewards Aberdeen, we have set out:

- 1. The initial groups of people that the local Homewards Coalition will support**
- 2. The actions to be taken by organisations in the local Coalition over the next 12 months and beyond**
- 3. How we will know what has been successful / Our success indicators**

This Local Action Plan is the beginning of a long road of work for Aberdeen – but signals an approach, with prevention and collaboration at its heart. The number of people experiencing homelessness in Aberdeen may take years to decrease, while the Coalition’s action takes effect.

These are ambitious plans and we may find some elements need to be adjusted or updated as time goes on. Work may get completed and new ambitions set, or conditions beyond the Coalitions’ control might change which fundamentally impact

delivery of some activity. These plans are therefore agile documents, growing with our Coalitions to ensure they remain focused on working to deliver tangible change and maximum impact towards the shared mission of demonstrating it is possible to end homelessness – making it rare, brief and unrepeatable.

The local Coalition will measure success in several ways – as set out in more detail in the following pages – to ensure we know what is working.

‘A focus on prevention, backed by the new partners Homewards has brought to the table, will put these locations on a path to ending homelessness.’

Professor Peter Mackie
Cardiff University

Groups where Homewards can help the most

In Aberdeen in 2022/2023, the city experienced the highest number of homeless applications since 2010/11. Groups the Coalition has identified as most in need of support include single people and young people (under the age of 25).

There are lots of reasons why these groups are struggling, including relationship breakdowns, people being asked to leave their homes and a rise in the cost of living and financial pressures.

Actions to be taken over the next 12 months and beyond

The Aberdeen Community Planning Partnership (a local partnership of the public, private and third-sector organisations, and communities, all working together to improve people's lives across Aberdeen City) is already doing a lot of work in the local area.

Homewards is focused on adding value around this existing activity. The Homewards Aberdeen Coalition recognises that there is a real opportunity to improve collaboration, and to focus on preventing homelessness. This can potentially make a real difference and a wider impact across Aberdeen.

Homewards Aberdeen plans to lay new groundwork – and make a lasting impact – in four specific ways:

1. Supporting young people (under the age of 25)
2. Preventing homelessness among single adults experiencing relationship breakdown
3. Placing people at the heart of everything we do
4. Creating more homes, and a greater variety of homes

More detail on each of these areas is set out in the following pages.

How we will know what has been successful / our success indicators

The Aberdeen Coalition has set the following indicators of success (to be assessed at yearly intervals):

- We will have brought together new and existing partners to create sustainable ways of working, which in turn have helped to (1) make more homes available; (2) create more jobs for those experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness; and (3) ensure that those at risk of, or on the brink of, homelessness got the preventative support they needed at the right time.
- We will have delivered successful projects, or tested innovative approaches, that prevented people from experiencing homelessness.
- We will have built local understanding around homelessness and encouraged empathy towards those locally who are experiencing homelessness, through local campaigns and putting lived experience at the heart of everything we do.
- By sharing what works, we will also have generated optimism that homelessness can be ended, which will be evident through greater community engagement and improved local public perceptions.
- We will have laid the groundwork needed to grow these successful projects across Aberdeen, so that they can help more people (specifically other groups who are at a higher risk of, or on the brink of, homelessness).

Against each of the Action Plans sections in the following pages, the Homewards Aberdeen Coalition has identified specific signs of success, which will tell us that our activities are leading to change.



1. Supporting young people under 25

Local context

In Aberdeen, more young people than ever are becoming homeless, with a 3.9% increase in applications from young people in 2023/24 from the previous year. Family relationship breakdown is the main reason for homelessness in the local area. Young people living in poverty are also more at risk of not going on to further education, or training, or into employment, after leaving school. This puts them at greater risk of experiencing homelessness when they leave school.

3.9%

Aberdeen
increase in young people
becoming homeless

‘Young people should never have to experience the trauma of not having a safe place to call home. More than 50% of adults who experience homelessness first did so before the age of 21. By tackling youth homelessness, we will reduce trauma in the longer term.’

CEO, Aberdeen Foyer

Homewards Aberdeen Coalition feels that a real impact can be made by focusing support on young people. This includes opening up opportunities for further education, employment and training, and teaching life skills such as managing household bills. It will not only set up young people to thrive, and support the local economy and community, but it could also have a wider impact in the city on preventing homelessness for this generation.

Homewards Aberdeen Coalition also recognises that there is a need to improve data, so that we can better understand why young people are being asked to leave their family homes – and give them the right support at the right time, to prevent them from becoming homeless in the first place.

Achieving prevention and addressing the causes of homelessness for young people is an ambition for the city – and this is mentioned as one of Aberdeen’s Community Planning priority areas on homelessness.

What are we going to do over the next 12 months?

1.1 Secondary school years data interventions

Building on the ongoing pilot [14- to 15-year-olds] at Northfield Academy of Upstream, a preventative approach that spots young people who are at a greater risk of homelessness and gets them the support they need, Homewards Aberdeen will increase wellbeing support available for young people identified through the survey. The learnings of this pilot will help to demonstrate the impact of early intervention on young people's lives, and whether they experience homelessness, as well as encouraging further roll outs of the scheme.

Who is leading this work? Aberdeen Foyer

1.2 Life skills training for young people
A 2023 youth housing survey of young people found that only 56% knew where to get information about their housing rights, and 24% were unsure how to budget. Homewards Aberdeen will create information workshops and lesson plans covering housing rights and tenancy 'life skills' (such as managing finances and budgets, and practical skills around setting up utilities, cooking, cleaning, and looking after your home). Lessons will be held in schools in Aberdeen City with the aim of improving these survey results so that 90% of young people know where to find information about types of housing, tenancy housing rights and skills to sustain their tenancy by 2026. And thus, reducing their risk of homelessness.

Who is leading this work? Shelter Scotland

1.3 Bridging the skills gap
Skills Development Scotland has identified certain sectors (communications, management, operations, customer service) with skills and labour gaps across Aberdeen and Shire. Homewards Aberdeen will work with local employers from these sectors, to create new training and employment opportunities for young people who live in poverty (and are at greater risk of homelessness).

Who is leading this work? Burgesses of Guild and Seven Incorporated Trades, and The Royal Foundation's Homewards Local Delivery Lead for Aberdeen

1.4 'No wrong door' approach
Once we complete a review of organisations in Aberdeen, to determine which ones support young people, Homewards Aberdeen will pilot and convene a new partnership using a 'human learnings systems approach' which will help support services to deliver training for their staff. It will teach them to ask young people what support they need, and then either help or signpost them as required. This means the young person gets the help they need (for example mental health or family mediation), regardless of what support organisation they go to first. This way of working is known as a 'no wrong door' approach. The aim is to inform a national approach for 'no wrong door' that will help to redress multiple disadvantages in Scotland.

Who is leading this work? Aberdeen Foyer and Homeless Network Scotland

What are we going to do over the next four years?

1.5 Early intervention in schools
Homewards Aberdeen will support the roll out of Upstream, a preventative approach that starts with a survey that is carried out in schools, to identify young people who are at a greater risk of homelessness and get them the support they and their families need. The aim is to roll this out to at least three secondary schools across the location.

Who is leading this work? Aberdeen Foyer

Key partners

- Aberdeen Football Club Community Trust
- Aberdeen Foyer
- Shelter Scotland
- Aberdeen City Council (education, ABzWorks, Community Planning Partnership)
- Burgesses of Guild Aberdeen
- Homeless Network Scotland (HNS)
- Only a Pavement Away
- Scottish Prisons Service
- Seven Incorporated Trades Aberdeen
- Social Bite
- Station House Media Unit
- The Pret Foundation

Signs of success

These activities will contribute to the following signs of success

1.1 Secondary school years data interventions

1.2 Life skills training for young people in place

1.5 Early intervention in schools

Projects delivered in schools to prevent homelessness are tested in Aberdeen. For successful projects, Homewards identifies what is needed to roll out further.

1.3 Bridging the skills gap

More job opportunities for young people who live in poverty and are on the brink of homelessness.

1.4 'No wrong door' approach

Homewards Aberdeen enables a coordinated response, focused on prevention, by establishing a 'No Wrong Door' approach across services that support young people.



2. Single adults experiencing relationship breakdown

Local context

1,374

Aberdeen
adults connected
to being homeless

2024

Economic challenges in Aberdeen, particularly those related to fluctuations in the oil and gas industry, have affected employment and income levels. This means more households will struggle to meet housing costs. In 2023/24, 1270 households were assessed as homeless in the city and contained within these were a total of 1,374 adults.

Single adults continue to make up most homeless applications. In 2023/24, 72% of applications received were single adults, up 4% on the previous three years where levels remained the same.

The main reason for single people being pushed into homelessness is due to relationship breakdown, abuse, or harassment, and they therefore must leave their homes. Homewards Aberdeen recognises it can play a key role in supporting these people, by ensuring that services work together to prevent them from becoming homeless.

There are already a range of excellent prevention services in Aberdeen, but the Homewards Aberdeen Coalition believes there is clear potential to bring these services together, so that people on the brink of homelessness get the help they need at the right time. Other activity to support this group includes opening up more job opportunities, helping people to sustain their tenancies and laying foundations that will help services to plan.

This links to one of Aberdeen's Community Planning priority areas on homelessness: embedding prevention across services and support for people is an ambition for the city.

‘A single adult experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness faces distinct challenges in comparison to families. By addressing the specific needs of single adults, we can create more effective interventions and support systems that not only improve their lives but also benefit society.’

CEO, Aberdeen Cyrenians

What are we going to do over the next 12 months?

2.1 Reducing evictions

Homeworks Aberdeen will develop a new shared approach aimed at reducing evictions. By improving connections between services and access to information, we will ask landlords for help in identifying when their tenants first fall into arrears and encouraging them to connect with support services at the earliest opportunity. This is a chance to take a preventative approach to address the issue that has pushed them into debt in the first place, before they lose or abandon their tenancy. This approach will be trialled with one registered social landlord and one private sector rental agent.

Who is leading this work? Citizens Advice Bureau

2.2 Guidance for landlords

At the same time as the above, Homeworks Aberdeen will target information, advice, and guidance to existing landlords on how they can best support tenants who may have experienced homelessness – or are on the brink of homelessness – to sustain their tenancy and prevent homelessness.

Who is leading this work? Citizens Advice Bureau

2.3 Finding best practice that prevents relationships from breaking down

Homeworks Aberdeen will encourage organisations to come together and develop interventions which can support the needs of people experiencing

family conflict, or at risk of, relationship breakdown.

Who is leading this work? Aberdeen Cyrenians

2.4 Promoting the Homelessness Covenant

Homeworks Aberdeen will promote Crisis' Homelessness Covenant to local businesses, to encourage them to sign up. This will improve awareness of, and support for, individuals at risk of (or already experiencing) homelessness. The Homelessness Covenant is a pledge by employers to prevent and end homelessness through inclusive and supportive employment practices.

Who is leading this work? Burgesses of Guild and Seven Incorporated Trades

2.5 Bridging the skills gap

Skills Development Scotland has identified certain sectors (communications, management, operations, customer service) with skills and labour gaps across Aberdeen and Shire. Homeworks Aberdeen will work with local employers from these sectors to create new training and employment opportunities for single adults who live in poverty and are at greater risk of homelessness.

Who is leading this work? Burgesses of Guild and Seven Incorporated Trades

2.6 Pilot: Single shared housing assessment

Homeworks Aberdeen will develop a pilot with a sample of statutory organisations, registered social landlords and third-sector homelessness support organisations, which will bring together a single housing assessment for individuals at risk of homelessness. Using a new data sharing approach (which has been agreed between organisations that include landlords, homelessness organisations and health), this pilot will produce a document that sets out what people need. This will not only stop people from having to repeat their story multiple times, which can be traumatic – it will also enable organisations to work together to support those people and prevent them from being pushed into homelessness.

Who is leading this work? The Salvation Army

What are we going to do over the next four years?

2.7 Better support for isolated communities

Some neighbourhoods in Aberdeen have high levels of deprivation and, as a result, local people can struggle to access support when they need it. Homeworks Aberdeen will work to get health, housing, digital and signposting support into more of these communities, to get local people the help they need.

Who is leading this work? Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership [and Turning Point Scotland]

Key partners

- Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership
- Aberdeen City Voluntary Organisations
- Third Sector Interface (ACVO TSI)
- Aberdeen Cyrenians
- Bethany Christian Church
- Burgesses of Guild Aberdeen
- Centre for Homelessness Impact
- Citizens Advice Bureau
- Crisis
- Department for Work and Pensions
- Grampian Women's Aid
- Only a Pavement Away
- Police Scotland
- Scottish Prisons Service
- Seven Incorporated Trades Aberdeen
- Shelter Scotland
- The Pret Foundation
- The Salvation Army
- Turning Point Scotland

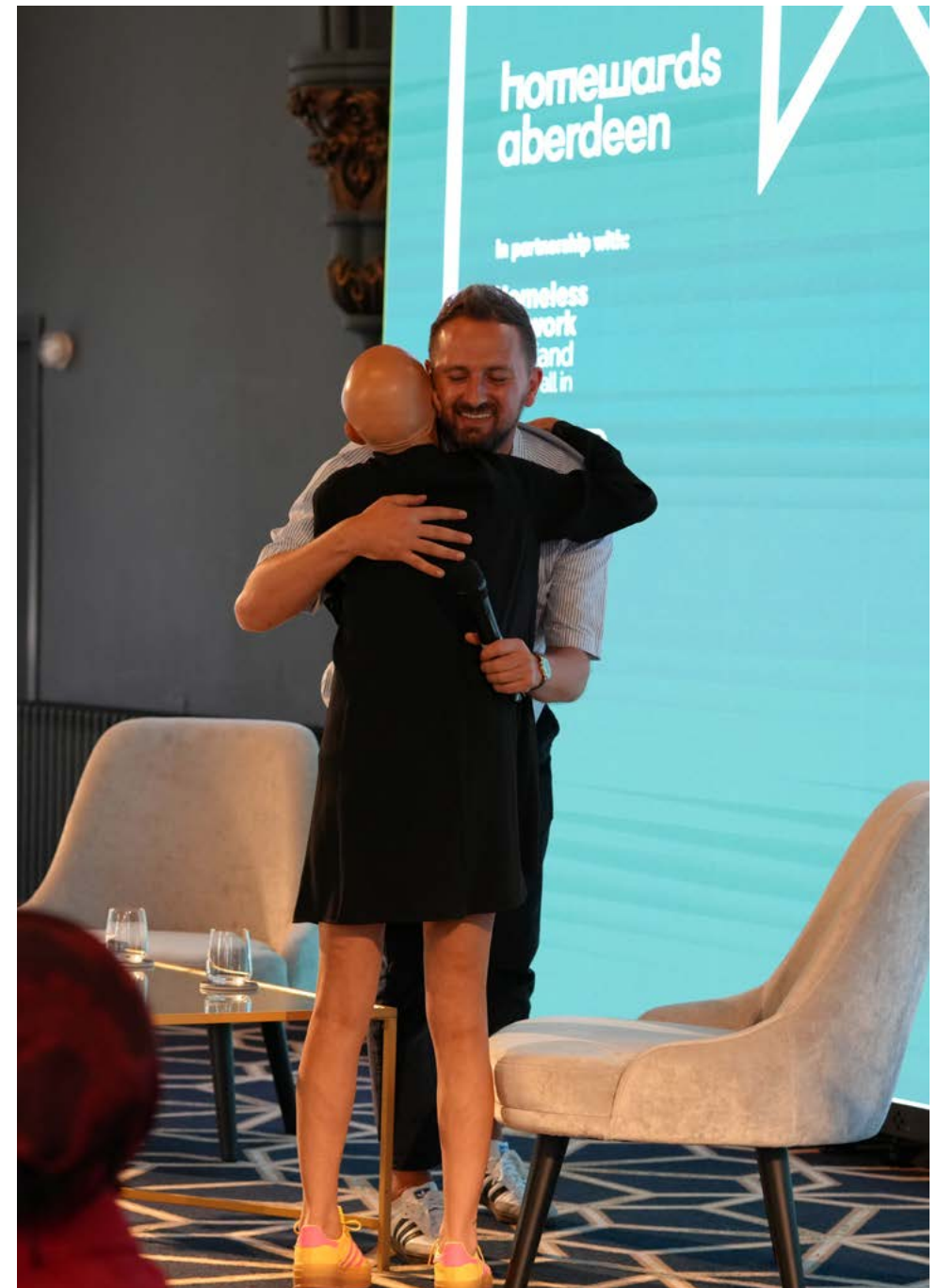
Signs of success

These activities will contribute to the following signs of success

-
- 2.1 Reducing evictions
 - 2.2 Guidance for landlords
 - 2.3 Finding best practice
 - 2.6 Pilot: single housing assessment
 - 2.7 Better support for isolated communities

Homewards Aberdeen enables a coordinated response, focused on prevention, by (1) developing interventions to reduce family conflict and relationship breakdown; (2) connecting more landlords to support services that will help tenants who are in rent arrears; (3) improving access to health, housing, and digital services for people in deprived communities.

-
- 2.4 Promoting the Homelessness Covenant
 - 2.5 Bridging the skills gap
- More job opportunities for people experiencing or on the brink of homelessness.



3.

Placing people at the heart of everything we do

Local context

‘Decisions about services are often made without sufficient lived experience of people who need and use them. We have a great opportunity, here in Aberdeen during the Homewards project, to adopt good practice around meaningful collaboration with lived experience voices, as equals. So, we can all contribute our lived and learned skills and ideas, to arrive at better decisions and services – and to move towards ensuring that homelessness is rare, brief, and unrepeated.’

Grampian Regional
Equalities Council

Across Aberdeen and Scotland there is a wealth of data, held across statutory and non-statutory organisations, which could help to identify those on the brink of homelessness.

This data is not brought together. So, although there are some great services across Aberdeen, there is not a clear picture of who needs help and why, until they are in crisis. Aberdeen is also not working closely enough with people in the area who are experiencing (or have experienced) homelessness, to understand what may have helped them and where there were gaps.

Homewards Aberdeen's Coalition recognises that there is a real opportunity to make a long-lasting impact in this space. Through better collaboration and putting those with lived experience at the heart of trying to understand what works, we can lay the foundations for systems change and prevent homelessness in the future.

This links to one of Aberdeen's Community Planning priority areas on homelessness: improving use of data, evidence and the voice and stories of lived experience to create solutions.

What are we going to do over the next 12 months?

3.1 Lived experience panel

Homewards Aberdeen will develop a new panel of individuals with lived experience of homelessness. We will provide training and support for this group so that they feel empowered to share their thoughts and recommendations on how we can help tackle homelessness in Aberdeen.

Who is leading this work? Grampian Regional Equality Council and Homeless Network Scotland

3.2 Data insight project

Homewards Aberdeen will work with Aberdeen City Council to identify, prioritise, and design a data insight project. This work will support the delivery of homelessness prevention activities for young people and/or single adults in Aberdeen.

Who is leading this work? Aberdeen City Council

3.3 Insight-sharing sessions

Homewards Aberdeen will convene data sharing and storytelling sessions, which will include a range of organisations from different sectors and the voices of people with lived experience from across the Aberdeen Coalition. We will invite attendees to bring data, insight, stories, and trends from their areas of work to share with other partners within the Coalition. This will improve the way organisations in Aberdeen collectively understand how best to tackle homelessness.

Who is leading this work? The Royal Foundation's Homewards Local Delivery Lead for Aberdeen

3.4 Review of current support

There is a range of support for people who have experienced, or are currently experiencing, homelessness in Aberdeen, delivered by a range of public-service partners. Homewards Aberdeen will review what support currently exists and then spot the key trigger points, where societal pressures are pushing people to the brink of homelessness, and where additional resource is most needed. This will help to encourage more joined-up working across Aberdeen.

Who is leading this work? Aberdeen Foyer and Aberdeen City Council

3.5 Review of community-led services

Building on the above, Homewards Aberdeen will also identify which community-led services already exist in Aberdeen to support people who are on the brink of homelessness. We know that there is a lot of great work taking place, and we want to bring this together alongside the work being delivered by public-service partners. Then we can understand where there are gaps, as well as what is already working and preventing people in Aberdeen from being pushed into homelessness – and explore where these programmes have the potential to be scaled.

Who is leading this work?

The Royal Foundation's Homewards Local Delivery Lead for Aberdeen

3.6 Good practice toolkit for landlords

Homewards Aberdeen will bring organisations together to develop a good practice toolkit for landlords, to help share what measures are most successful in reducing eviction rates and sustaining rental tenancies. Homewards Aberdeen will then make this best practice available to all.

Who is leading this work? Citizens Advice Bureau and The Royal Foundation's Homewards Local Delivery Lead for Aberdeen

What are we going to do over the next four years?

3.7 Trauma-informed training

Homewards Aberdeen will offer new trauma-informed training to senior leaders and essential workers who have never accessed it before. Aberdeen will become a Trauma-Informed City, where staff at all levels understand and deliver their work in a trauma-informed way.

Who is leading this work? The Salvation Army and SHMU

3.8 'Ask and Act' toolkit

Homewards Aberdeen will build on the developing principles behind the incoming 'Ask and Act' legislation to develop a good

practice toolkit, which aims to improve the connection between services across Aberdeen. The aim is to make it easier to access information, advice and guidance that can help individuals understand their rights, access housing support, and connect to services that address financial, legal, and personal challenges before they escalate – all of which can help prevent homelessness.

Who is leading this work? Aberdeen City Council

3.9 Co-production framework

Homewards Aberdeen will co-develop a new shared co-production framework for the city to ensure that those with lived experience are involved in and (where possible) co-producing the support system around them. We will develop a shared framework for organisations across Aberdeen, which will ensure that those with lived experience have a consistent, inclusive experience across Aberdeen where their expertise is listened to, valued, and applied across services so that it makes a wider impact.

Who is leading this work? Aberdeen City Council and GREC

Signs of success

These activities will contribute to the following signs of success

Key partners

- Aberdeen City Council
- Aberdeen Foyer
- Aberdeen Health Determinants Research Centre (HDRC)
- ACVO TSI
- Centre for Homelessness Impact
- Citizens Advice Bureau
- Grampian Regional Equality Council (GREC)
- Homeless Network Scotland (HNS)
- Homewards Aberdeen Steering Group
- NHS Grampian
- Police Scotland
- Scottish Prisons Service
- Salvation Army
- Station House Media Unit (SHMU)

3.1 Lived experience panel

3.9 Co-production framework

Decisions about how to prevent homelessness in Aberdeen are taken in partnership with people who have experienced homelessness.

3.2 Data insight project

3.3 Insight-sharing sessions

New approaches to using data to prevent homelessness developed and tested in Aberdeen.

3.4 Review of current support

3.5 Review of community-led services

3.8 Ask and Act' toolkit

Homewards Aberdeen enables a co-ordinated response, focussed on prevention, by mapping support provided by public-sector and community organisations – and by identifying opportunities to collaborate or scale.

3.6 Good practice toolkit for landlords

More landlords adopt best practice to reduce evictions.

3.7 Trauma-informed training

Trauma-informed practice embedded across services that support people who are experiencing, or on the brink of, homelessness.



4. More homes, and a greater variety of homes

Local context

Aberdeen has a need for approximately 27,560 new homes over the period to 2040, and, as with most areas, a substantial number of more affordable homes are required as part of that.

Aberdeen
new homes needed

27,560



‘The need for the right type of homes in the right locations is paramount to ending homelessness, making it rare, brief and unrepeated.’

Director of Housing,
Langstane Housing
Association



There is also a mismatch between what homes are needed for those experiencing or on the brink of homelessness, and what homes are available. For example, around 70% of those with a housing need only need a one-bedroom property – but only 38% of Local Authority homes available in Aberdeen are bedsit or one-bedroom.

However, Homewards Aberdeen is building on an existing and exciting opportunity to work on empty buildings. The city has a high volume of vacant and derelict buildings and long-term empty homes – thought to be due to the downturn in the oil market – with 2,615 privately owned homes empty for longer than 12 months (Scottish Government 2023/2024).

The Homewards Aberdeen Coalition believes that through the right collaboration, these vacant, empty, and derelict homes and buildings could be brought back into use, alongside other opportunities that are identified through support from partners.

What are we going to do over the next 12 months?

4.1 Innovative housing project

Each location is developing an innovative housing project, which will test new ways to unlock homes at scale and sustain tenancies. Homewards Aberdeen's innovative housing project is focused on single adults and young people experiencing relationship breakdown.

Who is leading this work? The Royal Foundation

4.2 Identifying sites for new homes

Homewards Aberdeen will access the knowledge of real estate experts Knight Frank, who have created a bespoke and interactive database and web portal to support local strategies and help identify sites, including existing buildings and land for new development, that could be developed into homes that people can afford.

Who is leading this work? Homewards Activator Knight Frank & Creating8Places

4.3 Bringing empty spaces back into use

Homewards Aberdeen will bring more empty spaces (empty homes, publicly owned non-residential properties and commercial spaces) back into use, to increase the supply of affordable housing.

Who is leading this work? Aberdeen City Council

4.4 Funding for homes

Using the convening power of The Royal Foundation, Homewards Aberdeen will bring together a range of local and national funders and investors who may be interested in funding the delivery of more homes in Aberdeen.

Who is leading this work? The Royal Foundation

4.5 Delivering new homes

Using the convening power of The Royal Foundation, Homewards Aberdeen will bring together building and development experts with the aim of creating new partnerships that will deliver more homes in Aberdeen.

Who is leading this work? The Royal Foundation

Key partners

- Aberdeen City Council
- Aberdeen Cyrenians
- Aberdeen Foyer
- Creating8Places
- Freshfields
- Grampian Housing Association
- Knight Frank
- Langstane Housing Association
- Scottish Prisons Service
- Scottish Empty Homes Partnership
- The Construction Liveries Group
- Worshipful Company of Chartered Architects

Signs of success

These activities will contribute to the following signs of success

4.1 Innovative housing project

4.3 Bringing empty spaces back into use

More homes for people who are experiencing, or on the brink of, homelessness due to relationship breakdown in Aberdeen.

4.2 Identifying sites for new homes

4.4 Funding for homes

4.5 Delivering new homes

New partnerships unlock funding and land for more homes in Aberdeen.

Get in touch

If you are a business or organisation that wants to find out more about working with Homewards, please contact homewards@royalfoundation.com and one of the team will be in touch.

For more information on homelessness across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, please visit the following link: homewards.org.uk/help-resources/

Source list

Information in this Action Plan is based on data collected by Aberdeen City Council about people who are experiencing or on the brink of homelessness, as well as the following sources:

Scottish Government, Homelessness in Scotland, September 2024
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/homelessness-in-scotland-full-statistical-time-series/>

Aberdeen City Council, Early Intervention & Community Empowerment Services Risk Register, 2021
<https://communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Community-Planning-Board-Agenda-291123.pdf>

Strategic Development Planning Authority, Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan, August 2020
<https://aberdeenshirestorage.blob.core.windows.net/acblobstorage/aaae3f3f-ca28-4c63-b01b-7787867711c7/abdnandshirestrategicdevplanfinal2020.pdf>

Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council, Housing Need & Demand Assessment 3: 2023 - 2028, January 2024
<https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-01/HNDA%20Final%20-%20Jan%2024.pdf>

Scottish Empty Homes Partnership, Aberdeen City Local Authority, September 2024
https://emptyhomespartnership.scot/local_authorities/aberdeen-city-local-authority/



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