

# Some Insights from Scotland

Lorraine McGrath

Make it easy, make it right, make it  
happen

Everyone  
deserves a  
safe place  
to live



# Let's talk about

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- Simon Community Scotland
- Homelessness in Scotland
- Looking beyond the numbers
- Doing things differently



# Simon Community Scotland



**Scotland's largest provider of specialist provision:**  
providing services since 1966



**End to end:** Prevention, crisis to settled living



**Wider programmes of impact:** harm reduction, digital connection, anti-destitution and migrant support



**Influencing Change:** locally and nationally



# Key Facts



**460**

team of staff  
& volunteers

**45**

initiatives &  
services

**170**

accommodation  
places

**23,000+**

outreach hours  
delivered

**12,000+**

people  
connected with  
annually



# Strong National Approach

Programme for Government priority

Ending Homelessness Together Action  
Plan 2018 and 2020 update

Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans

Housing First roll out

Route causes are well understood and  
national responses published



Change Team of lived and living experience

New Prevention Duties and Housing  
protections pending

# However...

## National and local “Housing Emergencies” declared in 2024



40,000 homeless

applications in  
24/25 in Scotland



17,000+

individuals and  
families in temp  
accommodation -  
record high



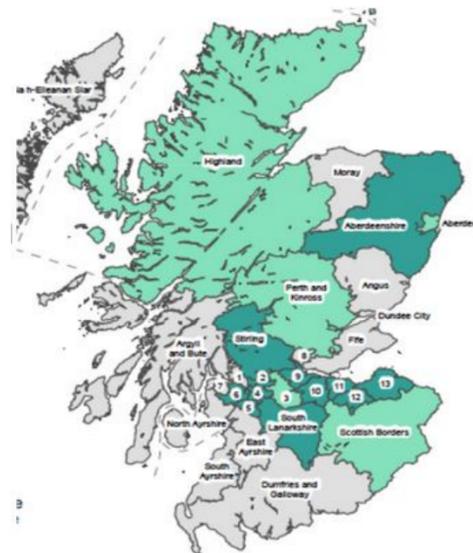
2,900+

reported rough  
sleeping -  
continues to  
climb



250,000+

are on waiting lists  
for social housing  
(affordable homes  
supply stalled)



5.4million people and declining



# Scotland's Largest City

625,000 people - 11% Scotland



Chronic Rough Sleeping was **close to zero** but not anymore

**8000 presentations last year** - 20% of demand in Scotland

**5000 in Temporary accommodation** - 30% of total in Scotland (1400 in hotels)

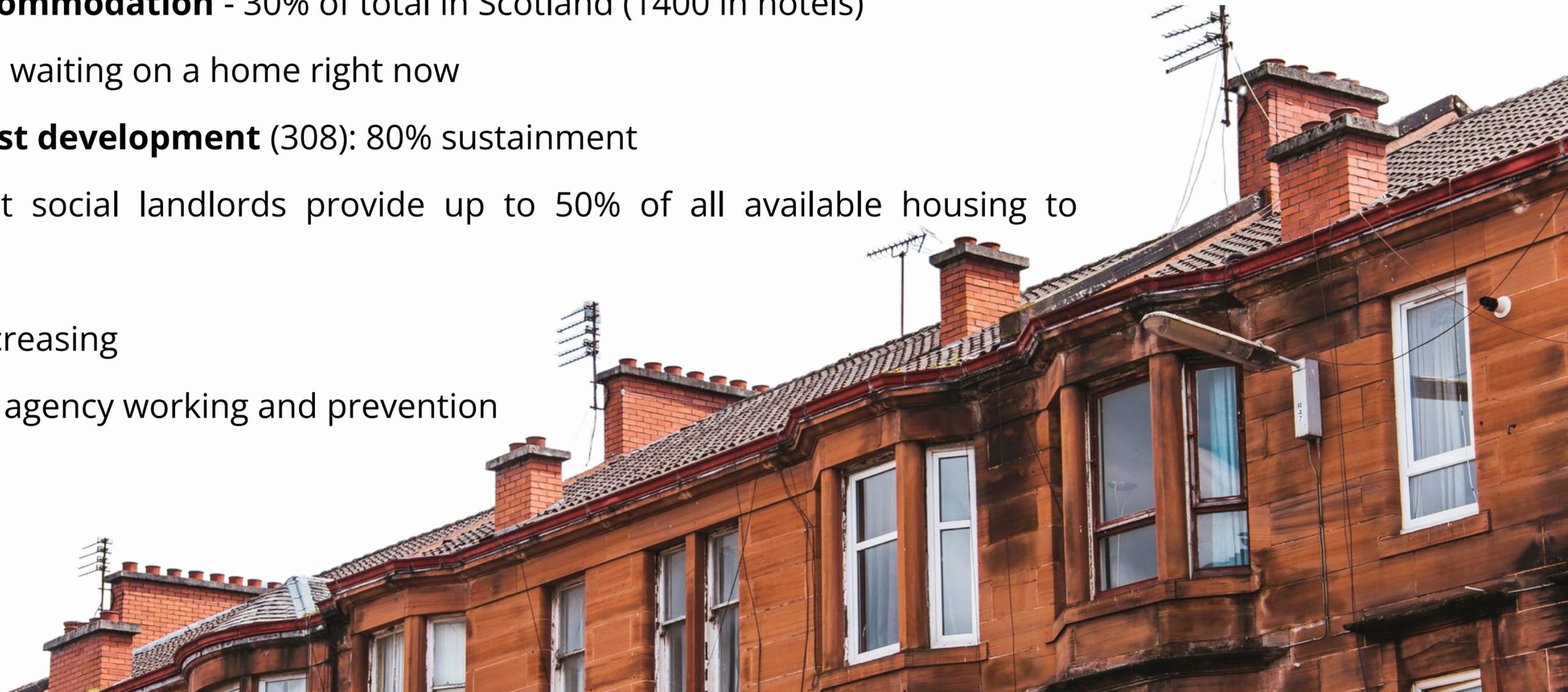
**Nearly 7000 people** are waiting on a home right now

**Significant Housing First development** (308): 80% sustainment

**No public housing** but social landlords provide up to 50% of all available housing to homeless

**Migration** pressures increasing

**Improvements** in multi agency working and prevention



# Doing Things Differently at SCS! It is possible!

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Make it easy

Make it right

Make it happen



# Make it

## The Access Hub: Story so far...

- **Multi-Agency Advice & Information service**, open 7 days a week
- Opened on 30th September 2020
- Over **70,000 supports** have taken place so far, supporting
- 13,400 unique individuals
- **30+ agencies** provide support with accommodation, benefits, welfare rights, legal advice, health & wellbeing, personal development, veterinary care etc.





# Make it

## Connecting People



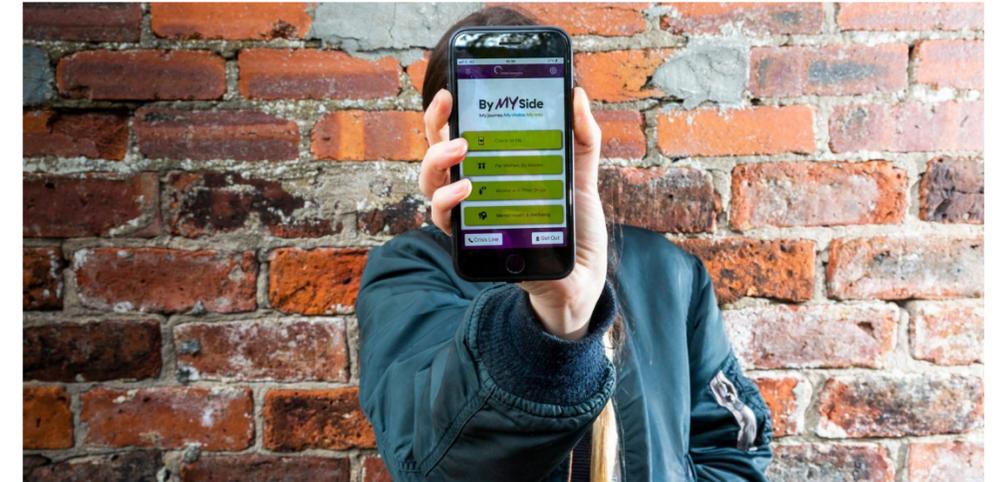
We See You  
Connect

## Psychological Safety



Clinical  
Inputs

## Digital Connection



Get  
Connected



# Make it

## Alternative Housing



SCS Homes  
Housing  
First

## Putting Health at the Centre



Pharmacy  
Outreach  
Harm Reduction

## Street Lifecycles



Street Change  
Begging  
Strategy





# KEY TAKEAWAYS

We have not solved anything.....yet! But we believe we can

Doing better with what we have



## National Leadership

Consistent planning and monitoring across all Rapid Rehousing Plans



## Targeted Investment

Invest in what makes it easy, right and happen



## Data

**Collection** & adapt. Value and use relational data,



## Connection

Focus on areas of greatest connection



## Empower

The people who know - delivery staff - put the power in their hands to connect, to act and to intervene at pace



# Thank you

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